

# Multiculturalism in Europe

Dr. E. Soler

## **Course Description:**

This course aims to introduce students with historical and contemporary issues of multiculturalism in Europe from an interdisciplinary perspective. In recent years, the territorial frontiers towards the outside and the internal political frontiers between the community and its members states have been changed significantly. Throughout the course, we will analyze how the controversial process of Europeanization is trying to guarantee the coexistence of different ethnic, religious and political forms across national borders based on the principle of cultural diversity and cosmopolitan tolerance. One of the main goals is to rethink Europe as an idea, a project and a reality. European integration will be analyzed as a highly complex, dynamic and open process future-oriented. Besides the theoretical framework and conceptualization of different topics, ethnographic cases studies, among other literature, documentaries and films will be analysed and discussed in class.

## **Course Requirements:**

-Attendance: Students are required to attend class. Excused medical absences require a written document the day of return to class. Tardiness of more than 15 -20 minutes equals 1/3 absence. More than 20 minutes will count as an absence.

-Class preparation and participation: This may be the element most crucial to the student's interest and therefore the success of the class. Students need to read the assigned material prior to each class and complete any assignment given. Active participation in discussions is also expected.

## **Assessment and final grade:**

Compositions: Throughout the semester students will be given writing assignments, a mid-term exam and a final research paper.

Participation/daily preparation: 20%

Mid-term exam: 40%

Final research essay and oral presentation:40%

## **Recommended Reading:**

Anderson, B (1991) *Imagined communities*. Verso

Beck, U, Grande, E. (2007) *Cosmopolitanism in Europe*. Polity Press

Padgen, A (ed) (2002) *The idea of Europe. From Antiquity to the European Union*. Cambridge University Press.

Parekh, B (2000) *Rethinking Multiculturalism. Cultural diversity and political theory*. Harvard University Press.

Shore Cris (2000) *Building Europe. The cultural politics of European integration*. London. Routledge

**(A mandatory course reader organized by weeks will be prepared for the class. Any suggestion or additional material (articles, current exhibitions, films...) that could enrich the program and the student's interest, will be given throughout the course)**

## Weekly program

### **Week 1**

Introduction to the course, theoretical framework and terminology. Rethinking multicultural and cosmopolitan Europe.

### **Week 2**

The expansion of the European community and the alteration of its territorial and cultural shape. Where does Europe end?

### **Week 3**

Identities and cultural diversity. What distinguishes trans and multinational European identities from national identity/ies? Rethinking heritage and history of Europe.

### **Week 4**

Forms of discriminations. The construction of minorities and differing policies within the EU.

### **Week 5**

The Roma in Europe. Why the Roma have occupied the bottom of social, economic and political hierarchies over the last centuries and in different geographical locations?

### **Week 6**

Language as a source of identity and as a medium of overcoming boundaries of intercultural communication and multiple belonging.

### **Week 7**

Mid-term exam

### **Week 8**

(Mon 25-Fri 29: Mid-term break)

### **Week 9**

Religion and politics. Islam among other religions in the new construction of Europe, enrichment or "threat"?

### **Week 10**

The Europeanization of educational curriculums and educational mobility. How European historical narratives try to coexist with the national and local narratives.

### **Week 11**

Multiculturalism and the new "hybrid" spaces.

### **Week 12**

Migration and the transnational family. New European frontiers and global networks.

### **Week 13**

The transnationalization of the labour market. On the dialectic of globalization and Europeanization.

### **Week 14**

Equality and human rights in a multicultural society.

### **Week 15:**

Deadline for research project  
Oral presentations