

# EUROPEAN FORUM RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES



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2018Spring Semester

# OPENING CLASS- PLAN

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- ? Guiding themes for the course.
- ? Objectives and Format
- ? Course Plan
- ? Text books and Course Requirements
- ? Why and What is European Studies ?
- ? Study case: Migration.

# :GUIDING THEMES

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- ? Europe as an object of research.
- ? Focusing on ‘burning’ topics that will probably be in the center of your current or future research, e.g. Migration, Islam in Europe, Globalization, Glocalization, Nationalism etc.
- ? The meaning of Science and Research.
- ? Within and Between the Humanities and the Social Sciences  
But Mainly Historical, Sociological and Cultural emphasis.

# OBJECTIVES

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- Expanding your knowledge of various research methodologies and ideologies.
- Developing research tools – or preparing the path towards your Research Question

# FORMAT

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**The course will be divided into two main parts:**

- ? 1) Methods and Research Ideologies**
- ? 2) 'Doing Research'**

# COURSE PLAN

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1. Why European Studies? (19.3. 18)
2. History-Science or Art? (26.3. 18)
3. The Meaning of Science (9.4.18)
4. Contingency and Determinism (16.4.18)
5. Positivism and its Critics (23.4.18)
6. *Annales* (30.4.18)
7. Cultural Turn and Postmodernism (7.5.18)
8. Rafael Y. Lewis, One for all and all for one: History, Archaeology, Environment and the Battle of Arsuf (28.5.18)
9. The Research Question (4.6.18)
0. The Creative Mind (11.6.18)
1. Finding the Source (18.6.18 )
2. Concluding Session (25.6.18)

# SOME TEXT BOOKS AND SOURCES

- ? *Sage Handbook of European Studies* , Sage, 2009.
- ? *The Crafts of Research* , Chicago UP, 2003.
- ? *European Review* (Journal), 26 volumes,  
Cambridge University Press, 1993,.

# REQUIREMENTS

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- Two Semester Assignments – Article/Book Review and Biographical Summary (30%)
- Participation/Reading – Based on Core Questions (10%)
- Attendance – (10%)
- Concluding Assignment – (50%)



# QUESTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

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**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
ASK  
QUESTIONS**

# QUESTIONS CONCERNING EUROPEAN STUDIES

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1. How can we best study Europe?  
(Methodologies, Ideologies, Meanings.)
1. What is included (excluded) in European Studies?
1. What is our time-frame?

# EUROPEAN STUDIES VS. EU ? INTEGRATION STUDIES

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- ? Integration Studies [IS] is focused on the study of EU institutions, EU Policy Making and Law (Bureaucracy and Treaties)
- ? Mainly dominated by scholars of International Relations and Political Science

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**‘If I could start again I  
would start with  
Culture’  
(Jean Monnet)**



# EUROPEAN STUDIES [ES]

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1. A **dominant Multidisciplinary aspect**. Concerned also but not only with the study of Identities; Nationalism; Cultural and Social factors. Europe includes more states/spheres than the EU- Different geographical, cultural and national sphere
1. ES is at least as important (if not more) as IS- Exploring the current and past transformations of Europe. **Delving into meanings**.
1. **Different Literature** – ES Literature is far more ‘rich’
1. The **global** aspect – different from the inward look
1. Not only institutions but also the transformation of other entities – **the study of the processes**.

# AN EXAMPLE – WHAT IS THE ‘PROBLEM’ WITH INTEGRATION STUDIES AND GLOBALIZATION

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1. Economic focus (ignoring other facets e.g. culture).
2. Recent phenomena, despite its long history.
3. Concerned with states while disregarding NGOs and other non-State entities.

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It has never been simply the study of a region , but always complexly interwoven with ideas about modernity , the West , Christendom , democracy , and civilization itself (Calhoun, 2003)

# THE REFUGEE 'CRISIS' – THE NEED FOR AN EUROPEAN STUDIES APPROACH

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- ? Europe, especially, with the current migration 'waves' is linked to other, various and sometimes distant geographical and cultural spheres.
- ? How many of you are focusing or intend to focus on the migration to Europe?
- ? Migration as one of the main themes of present and future research in European Studies.



# WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT

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? <http://worldhappiness.report/ed/2018/>



CHANNEX-WHR-web.pdf

This year, for the first time, **countries are ranked not just for the happiness of their overall populations** (as measured by the average life satisfaction of their residents), but also by the **happiness of their foreign-born populations**, people who have been born in countries other than where they now live.

# RESPONSE TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS

Writers' respond to the migration to Europe

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/sep/12/the-turmoil-of-todays-world-leading-writers-respond-to-the-refugee-crisis>



# IDEOLOGY AND METHODOLOGY

- ? Definitions; How and if are they different?
- ? The nomothetic/positivistic vs. the hermeneutic modes of inquiring about the world
- ? regimes of truth” (Foucault)- Any word has an ideological meaning

# QUESTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK

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- ? Should we consider History as a Science or an Art? Bring opinions/examples from the readings. Think on your response.
- ? Is the study of history really needed for European Studies?
- ? The watershed of 1945--Only post-1945 material or maybe pre-1945?