

**The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Geography**

**GEOGRAPHY 2050B**  
(The Geography of Western Europe)  
2015

Dr. M. Folch-Serra  
Office: 2420 SSC  
Email: [folch@uwo.ca](mailto:folch@uwo.ca)

Lecture:	Tuesday	11:30 to 1:30	SSC3022
Tutorial:	Thursday	11:30 to 12:30	SSC3022
Office Hours:	Wednesday	2:30 to 4:00	SSC 2420

According to the Calendar description, Geography 2050B consists of an “Investigation in detail of geographical factors in the economic and social patterns of Western Europe; **selected themes and case studies.**” In this syllabus you will find detailed information about the course’s contents, organization and requirements.

Europe is once again undergoing change. Change has occurred in Europe since the onset of classical civilizations and it continues to date. While its physical configuration remains unaltered, a process of political disintegration and reintegration has changed the map in response to social, cultural, political and economic pressures. We will look at territorial and political transformations from the times of the Holy Roman Empire, to the creation of the European Community (later hailed as European Union). Large political organizations (Holy Roman Empire, European Union) have been considered a reasonable way to manage European affairs. But large political entities foster the need for smaller units. At present, regions and cultural-linguistic minorities are reclaiming a role in the decision-making process; thus to understand the changes in political organization we need to analyze **three geographical scales: 1) supranational (EU); 2) national (states/countries); and 3) sub-national (regions).**

We will ponder the following questions: Will Europe evolve into a federation of states, or will disintegrate? Will the European Union make a leap back to world leadership or will fade into irrelevance? What type of political and economic linkages are taking place between European regions? What is being done about the aspirations of cultural-linguistic minorities?

The course is designed to acquaint you with subjects such as frontiers and boundaries, historical claims, cultural and linguistic differences, European identities, European integration and minority rights. The geography of Europe is shaped by its **history, ideas, ideals and ideologies.** The textbooks consist of a collection of articles from different sources, plus the recommended readings on reserve.

*Please Note: Course content and dates may vary due to unforeseen circumstance*

DATE 2015

LECTURE TOPIC

ASSIGNED READINGS

***Background: EUROPE'S HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY***

Jan 6	Introduction: Discussing the course content	'The limits of Europe'
Jan 13	What is Europe? From the physical landscape to the classical civilizations	'Physical Geography of Europe'
Jan 20	A geography of economic organization and religion	'Europe as a Culture realm'
Jan 27	Boundary change and creation of new states: from the 16 <sup>th</sup> to the 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries	'Capturing Europa: Images, Narratives, Maps'
Feb. 3	Europe's geography of race: the colonial enterprise	'The Cartographic Construction of Race and Identity'
Feb. 10	European Enlightenment: a geographical diffusion of European ideas and ideals	'The Political Landscape'
Feb. 16-20	READING WEEK	
Feb. 24	MID-TERM EXAMINATION	

***EUROPES'S CONTEMPORARY GEOGRAPHY***

March 3	Cold War, the Berlin Wall and its consequences	'The Cold War and the Triumph of Geopolitics'
March 10	The European Union: a confederation of 28 countries	'The European Union'
March 17	An urban geography of the EU	'A Europe of the Cities?'
March 24	Tourism and mobility in the European landscape	'A Grand Tour through European Tourism'
March 31	Europe's cultural geography: Food, Wine and Identity	'Europe's changing Social and Ethnic Geography' & 'European Identity'
April 7	Europe defined: a review	'Europe Defined'

**(Subject to minor changes)****Required reading:***Geography 2050B, Western Europe*, collated by Dr. M. Folch-Serra (**Reader**)**Recommended:**The Dictionary of Human Geography, Fifth Edition, edited by R.J. Johnston, D. Gregory & D.M. Smith. Oxford UK & Cambridge US: Blackwell*The Ethnopolitical Encyclopaedia of Europe*, 2004. Edited by Karl Cordell and Stefan Wolff. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire; New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Ezrow, Natasha M. 2011 *Dictators and dictatorships: understanding authoritarian regimes and their leaders*. New York: Continuum

Paxton, Robert O. 2012 *Europe in the twentieth century*. Boston, MA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning

Williamson, D. G. 2007 *The age of the dictators: a study of the European dictatorships, 1918-53*. Harlow, U.K.; New York: Pearson Longman

Rifkin, Jeremy 2004 *The European Dream*. New York: Tarcher/Penguin

### **EXAMINATION**

The Midterm examination will be given on February 24 (two hours). A make-up examination will only be granted on **documented** compassionate grounds. **You will need to fill-in the forms available at the Student Development Center, SSC Room 2105.**

The final examination will be given on the date and time determined by the University (three hours). It will consist of short and long questions encompassing all course material. The above instructions for make-up examinations apply.

**No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.**

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- 1) Completion of required readings
- 2) Completion of assignment

### **MARKING SCHEME:**

- |                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1) ASSIGNMENT          | 33% |
| 2) MIDTERM EXAMINATION | 30% |
| 3) FINAL EXAMINATION   | 37% |

**TUTORIALS:** Thursday from 11:30 to 12:30 Room SSC3022

During tutorial hours we will discuss topics related to the lectures and watch films on European history, society and politics.

### **Tutorial schedule:**

Jan 15	Discussing the readings
Jan 22	Film and discussion
Jan 29	Choosing the assignment
Feb 5	Debate on the readings
Feb 12	Debate on the readings
March 5	Film and discussion
March 12	Discussing the assignment
March 19	Film
March 26	Exam preparation

NOTE: tutorials are not given every week

## ASSIGNMENT

(All courses must have a written component)

The objective of the **Assignment** is to hone your writing skills, creative capability, and critical insight.

“The UK (or Spain, or Belgium, etc.) is not an immutable fact of nature; it is a human design that can be un-designed when the circumstances that gave rise to it no longer obtain”

The above statement reflects the 21<sup>st</sup> century reality of Western Europe. Why are regional nationalisms threatening to change the GEOGRAPHY of old Western European nations? Scotland, for example, came close to choosing independence from the UK in the 2014 referendum that would have changed the makeup of the United Kingdom to the 1603 Union of Crowns. Wales wants more autonomy. Catalonia emphasizes its distinctive language and institutions in opposition to Spanish centralism. Basque nationalism also remains powerful in Spain. Nationalism has brought Belgium to the verge of breakup with Flanders threat of separation. France is the exception, where regional nationalism has been methodically discouraged.

To begin to understand the changing geography of contemporary Western Europe, we must revise the historical roots of modern regional nationalism, the roles of language and institutions over long periods of time, then focus on the situations of today.

You need to read **Stateless nations...** and choose one of the examples of regional nationalism explained in the book. You are requested to write a brief summary of 5 pages on your chosen region, and then expand the argument with two more sources from other authors about the same subject for a total of 10 pages maximum (plus bibliography, maps and notes).

**TITLE: Stateless Nations: Western European regional nationalisms and the old nations**

LOCATION Online [**electronic resource**]

AUTHOR Friend, Julius Weis.

IMPRINT Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire; New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

DESCRIPT 1 online resource (viii, 212 p.)

NOTE Includes bibliographical references (p. 169-194).

(INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT STYLE, PAGE #, ETC. will be explained in tutorials)

The due date for the Assignment is March 24 during the lecture hour.

There are no extensions; assignments not handed on that date will not be marked.

**Marking scheme:**

Your evaluation is based primarily on your ability to fulfill the objectives of the course as evidenced in the assignment, and final exam. The grades will reflect the following: the mark of 'C' (60%-69%) is indicative of average work, both competent and acceptable. You have completed all of the assignments and readings and demonstrated a general understanding of the course material as evidenced in the oral presentation, written assignment, mid-term examination and final exam. A grade of 'B' (70%-79%) reflects evidence of an above average effort and performance. Not only have you fulfilled the assignments in a more meticulous fashion, you have demonstrated a more thorough understanding of the material and gone a few extra steps beyond the average student as evidenced on the tests and in your written work. An 'A' (80%-89%) is reserved for outstanding effort and achievement. Exceptional diligence, a thorough knowledge of the course material, and the ability to apply and convey concepts in an effective, logical and literate fashion are clearly evident. Hard work and exceptional effort are necessary but not, by themselves, sufficient to warrant an 'A.' An 'A+' (90 %+ ) is extremely rare. An exceptionally outstanding performance on the examination, and essay demonstrating a superb command of English and a critical mind capable of synthesizing complex facts and ideas to arrive at particularly astute conclusions, will earn this prestigious grade.

**NOTE ABOUT EMAILS:**

If you have questions about the report or the lectures, I will be available to answer them during my office hours. The use of email is limited to extensions or to make an appointment different from office hours. I will answer emails during office hours, not on weekends. **I do not discuss marks in emails. Please note: any consultation about reports, exams, or content of lectures, readings and the like, have to be done in person after or during class or in office hours.**

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

**Support Services:** Registrarial Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm> -- Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

**Requests for a final mark revision have to be done according to Calendar's rules regulations and timetable. The request has to be in written form, specific and must enumerate the points of contention.**

a) Your course mark is only final when you receive it from the Registrar, and even then it can be changed on receipt by the Registrar of a Marks Revision Form. In all cases the final marks are not final until the department chair has signed off.

b) Make-up dates will only be granted upon receipt of certified medical causes or bereavement. For further details consult the Academic Calendar. Your documents need to be presented at the office of Academic Counselling Student Centre, SSC 2105, and SSC 2114. UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.

c) Non-medical absences from midterms, tutorials, laboratory experiments, or late essays or assignments, will only be considered upon receipt of certified bereavement. For further details consult the Academic Calendar. Your documents need to be presented at the office of Academic Counselling Student Centre, SSC 2105, and SSC 2114.

d) Accommodation for medical illness of work worth less than 10% of the total course grade will be granted and no medical documentation for such accommodation will be required.

**APPEALS, PLAGIARISM, DROPS, EXTENSIONS, EXEMPTIONS & LATE PENALTIES:** You are advised to read the course calendar to familiarize yourself with the university's regulations and procedures concerning appeals ('relief'), plagiarism and penalties. Should you feel your final grade in the course is biased, inaccurate or unfair you have the right to appeal your mark. Be aware that marks may be raised--*as well as lowered*--- through an appeal process. Please refer to the *Western Calendar* prior to doing so. Plagiarism in all its forms is, of course, unacceptable and those who tempt fate will be persecuted to the fullest extent allowed under the university's regulations. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.

#### **Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.

*If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.*