Course Description:

With the expansion of the European Union, the definition of Europe is being pushed to its limits. This course will explore the historical foundations of Europe and look at some of the challenges that the new Europe is now facing. We will explore ethnic conflict, immigration and citizenship, religion, historical memory and its role in the construction of national identity. A number of case studies from specific European countries will be used to look more closely at current social issues and trends in European ethnography. We will also consider the development and challenges of doing ethnographic research in Europe today.

Objectives:

- Understand current issues in European ethnography
- Comprehend recent trends in European ethnography
- Understand the particularities of European ethnography (in the past and present)
- Develop critical thinking and writing skills
- Work effectively in groups
- Improve research skills

Texts:


Selected readings available on Web CT and at the Koerner Library in the course reserve area.
Evaluation:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group presentation &amp; bibliography</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Memos</td>
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<td>Essay</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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Assignments:

- Group presentation
- Memos
- Essay

Group presentation: Working in groups of 2-3, you will prepare a presentation (can include a debate, a visual presentation, group discussion, creation of a web page, etc.) on one of the topics broached in the course or a topic of your choice (to be okayed by the instructor). Please do not summarise the course readings. You will be required to investigate further and present new material. Group members may also want to use this as an opportunity to work on their paper topics. As a group you will prepare an annotated bibliography that will be posted on the course’s WebCT page. All members of the group will share the same grade. Groups and date of presentation to be decided in class. Presentations and discussion will take place in class on Fridays (unless otherwise discussed).

Memos: You will hand in 3 memos based on 3 of the readings (your choice). A memo is a two-page typed (double-spaced) reflection or comment on a course reading.

Essay: For this paper you should choose a debate or issue in European ethnography (contemporary or historical—eg. techniques in multi-sited ethnography used to study migration, the question of European identity in an expanding European Union, the legitimacy of European ethnography) that interests you and write a think paper that explores different perspectives on this topic. Feel free to include course material as a starting point but you should also go beyond this point of departure. You should also include your own commentary and analysis. Your paper must include proper citations (APA or AAA citation in text) and a bibliography. Your paper must be 10-12 pages (double-spaced), not including bibliography. It should be typed in 12-point font (Times New Roman or a similar size font) with regular 1-inch margins. Due in class on Mon., March 23, 2009. Hard copies only (electronic files upon request). Late essays will be penalized 10% per day.

Exam: The final exam will be a take-home exam with two essay questions that address the broad themes from the course. The exam must be submitted via e-mail as a Word file (.doc) to the instructor at reblack@gmail.com. Submission date TBA.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism will not be tolerated and all plagiarised work will be given a mark of zero. Please refer to UBC guidelines on plagiarism or ask the instructor if you have any doubts or questions
http://www.vpacademic.ubc.ca/integrity/policies.htm
http://www.library.ubc.ca/clc/airc.htm
Course outline:

Week of Jan. 5
• Introduction, course objectives, outline, grading, assignments and expectations
• What do you mean by Europe and the Ethnography of Europe?
• Europe imagined

Readings:


Week of Jan. 12
Regional identities: Regionalism, nationalism and local identities

Readings:


Film: The Basque of Santazi

Week of Jan. 19
Consuming Europe and the Anthropology of Food

Readings:


Film: Our Daily Bread

Week of Jan. 26
Anthropological approaches to nationalism

Readings:
Week of Feb. 2
The anthropology of sport, the new Europe and post-nationalism or neo-nationalism?

Readings:


Week of Feb. 9
Immigration and migration

Readings:


Week of Feb. 16 – Reading Week- No class

Week of Feb. 23
Transnational identities and trade in the Euro-Med area

Readings:


Week of March 2
Travellers and Roma: Nomads encounters sedentary Europe

Readings:

Film: Suspino
Week of March 9
Religion: Debating Islam’s place in the New Europe

Readings:


Week of March 16
Performing culture: Contesting tradition

Readings:

Week of March 23
Gendered Europe: Renegotiating gender roles

Readings:


Film: Taking the face

Week of March 30
Rural and urban Europe: the disappearing countryside, the overcrowded city

Readings:


Week of April 6
Virtual Europe: Ethnographic Methods and the Anthropology of Imagination

Readings:

Last class April 8 – take-home exam will be given out at the end of class.