SOCIOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

Despite the apparent over-familiarity of Europe to researchers in the social sciences and humanities, there is in fact very little sociology that thinks about facets of European society as a whole (taking ‘Europe’ as the unit), rather than on a nation-by-nation basis. European integration and enlargement (i.e., European Union) is changing all that. This course will offer an introductory sociology of contemporary Europe, based on interdisciplinary readings (covering economics, history, sociology, politics and geography) and a comprehensive lecture course. We will start with a humorous look at the image of the perfect (liberal) European society – the Netherlands – and the ‘dream’ of European integration, before winding our way through Europe’s dark twentieth century history. We then begin to assess contemporary evidence on the continent’s distinctive version of economy, society and politics, taking up questions such as demography, migration, unemployment, the welfare state, and industrial change.

Meets: Once a week (2 x 1hr 15min lectures, including Q and A discussion)
Requirements: Read books, Attend lectures, 2 exams + in-class tests

Office Hours:
Weds 9-10am (by appointment only, email afavell@soc.ucla.edu)

Required Texts:
Available from ASUCLA Textbooks, buy and read all.
2. Mark MAZOWER, Dark Continent: Europe’s Twentieth Century (Vintage 1998)

Rules
Honors seminar for up to 10 students will be available on arrangement (minimum 8 required)
Sorry – No incompletes are possible

NOTE: First meeting is on MONDAY APRIL 3rd
Week-by-week

Week 1 (Mon 3rd April)

i) What is Europe? Where is Europe? Is there a ‘United States of Europe’?

ii) Rifkin’s European dream

reading: RIFKIN (first half)

Week 2 (Mon 10th April)

iii) Introduction to the European Union 1

iv) Introduction to the European Union 2

reading: RIFKIN (second half) + EU handouts

Week 3 (Mon 17th April)

v) Mazower’s dark continent 1

vi) Mazower’s dark continent 2

reading: MAZOWER, pref + ch.1-6

Week 4 (Mon 24th April)

vii) The trajectory of post-war Europe 1

viii) The trajectory of post-war Europe 2

reading: MAZOWER, ch.6-11;

Week 5 (Mon 1st May)

MIDTERM EXAM (40%)

Week 6 (Mon 8th May)

vix) Assessing the European dream 1
x) Assessing the European dream 2

reading: RODRÍGUEZ-POSE, chs.1-2, 6-7

Week 7 (Mon 15th May)

xi) Europe’s problems: ageing, migration, unemployment 1

xii) Europe’s problems: ageing, migration, unemployment 2

reading: RODRÍGUEZ-POSE, chs 3, 4, 5

Week 8 (Mon 22nd May)

xiii) The European welfare state 1

xiv) The European welfare state 2

reading: ESPING-ANDERSEN (all)

Week 9 (Mon 29th May)

NO CLASS Mon 29th May

Reading and revision week

Week 10 (Mon 5th June)

FINAL EXAM (60%)