



Tübingen International & European Studies (T-IES)

Doshisha EU Campus European Studies Program

September 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025

Course title:	Religion and the Challenge of European Identity
Date:	October 14 – October 24, 2024
Language of instruction:	English
Lecturer:	Lucas Ogden
Contact hours:	25 (incl. exam and wrap-up) + study trip: Stuttgart

COURSE DESCRIPTION

To what extent does religion contribute to shaping people's identity and or/divide them in Europe today? Religion has played an important role in the development of European culture and identity, as evidenced by impressive church buildings as well as by religious themes in classical European art and music. The traditional concept of a "Christian" Europe has been both challenged and enriched by Islam and Judaism as well as by substantial criticism of the established churches. Today, the considerable drop in religious observance and belief has led many Europeans to embrace a "post-Christian" identity, while the presence of immigrant communities is making the continent more multi-cultural. Nevertheless, Christian churches continue to be officially supported by several European states, and movements encouraging a re-revitalization of religion have gained attention. In this course, we will address key questions and problems concerning religion in Europe.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic	Reading (tba)
1 (= 90 minutes)	Monday, October 14: 15:30 – 17:00	Religion in Europe: Introduction, key terms and concepts	
2	Tuesday, October 15 (I): 13:30 – 15:00	Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox: Division between Christians in Europe	
3	Tuesday, October 15 (II): 15:30 – 17:00	Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox (continued)	

4	Wednesday, October 16 (I): 13:30 – 15:00	Judaism in Europe	
5	Wednesday, October 16 (II): 15:30 – 17:00	Islam (background)	
	Thursday, October 17	Study Trip: Stuttgart (all day)	
6	Monday, October 21 (I): 13:30 – 15:00	Reflection on study trip	
7	Monday, October 21 (II): 15:30 – 17:00	Christianity, Judaism and Islam in Europe	
8	Tuesday, October 22 (I): 10:30 – 12:00	Church and state relations in Europe	
9	Tuesday, October 22 (II) 13:30 – 15:00	Symbols of religious identity in architecture, art and music	
10	Wednesday, October 23 (I) 10:30 – 12:00	Religion and secularism in Europe	
11	Wednesday, October 23 (II) 13:30 – 15:00	The place of religion in European identity today	
12	Thursday, October 24 (I): 10:00 – 11:00 Exam	FINAL EXAM and course summary	
13	Thursday, October 24 (II): 11:30 – 12:15	Discussion of final exam and Course Wrap-up	

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course aims to help students critically evaluate religion and its impact on culture and identity. Participants will be equipped to analyze religious beliefs and institutions, and to identify both positive and negative aspects of the religion's role in Europe. They will improve their ability to engage in informed discussion about music, art, ecumenical relations, politics, history, and current debates. Furthermore, students will be encouraged to develop and articulate their own opinions about religion and its place in Europe's cultural and political future.

PREREQUISITES

The course is designed for undergraduate students from Doshisha University with different academic backgrounds who are generally interested in exploring and discussing the role of religion in Europe. A good command of English and the willingness to actively participate in the course are expected.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Each course concludes with a written exam at the end of the program. The grade of each course will be calculated by the result of the written exam (70%) and active participation in class as well as by field work assignments (30%). Active participation in class as well as during field work includes: attendance, asking questions, taking part in discussions, showing interest, giving presentations.

READING

A course reader will be available.

Further reading requirements and recommendations will be announced.

INFORMATION ON THE LECTURER

Lucas Kent Ogden (Mag. Theol., Tübingen), originally from northern California, studied religion and theology in the United States, France, Switzerland, and Germany. He is currently a lecturer at the university.