



Tübingen International & European Studies (T-IES) Winter School on

Culture and Diversity

STUDY TRACK A

Europe, Diversity, and the Question of Identity

January 7 – February 4, 2025

Course title:	Religion and the Challenge of European Identity
Date:	January 27–30, 2025 / Room: Tba.
Language of instruction:	English
Lecturer:	Lucas Ogden
Contact hours:	16 (incl. presentations) + study trip

COURSE DESCRIPTION

To what extent does religion contribute to shaping people's identity and or/divide them in Europe today? This final of three Track A courses introduces the important role that religion has played 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. In this course, we will address key questions and problems concerning religion in Europe, and will also engage in critical analyses of art and music.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic	Reading (tba)
1 (= 90 minutes)	Monday, January 27 (I): 11:00 – 12:30	Religion in Europe: Introduction, key terms and concepts	
2	Monday, January 27 (II): 14:00 – 15:30	Religion and secularism in Europe: Interactive polling of Tübingen students	

3	Monday, January 27 (III): 16:00 – 17:30	Questions about religion: Interactive research and report	
4	Tuesday, January 28 (I): 11:00 – 12:30	Visit Kreuzkirche, Tübingen	
5	Tuesday, January 28 (II): 14:00 – 15:30	Discussion	
6	Wednesday, January 29 (I): 11:00 – 12:30	Islamic studies in Tübingen (visit)	
7	Wednesday, January 29 (II): 14:00 – 15:30	Discussion	
8	Wednesday, January 29 (III): 16:00 – 17:30	Final presentations	
	Thursday, January 30: All Day	Study trip / Field work	

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 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

The course concludes with a group presentation during the final session. The overall grade of the course will be calculated by the result of the presentation (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 on the virtual Moodle platform.

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.