



## Tübingen International & European Studies (T-IES)

### Doshisha EU Campus European Studies Program

**September 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026**

<b>Course title:</b>	Religion and the Challenge of European Identity
<b>Date:</b>	November 17 – November 28, 2025
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>Lecturer:</b>	Lucas Ogden
<b>Contact hours:</b>	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 religion still plays a significant role in shaping cultural values and identity. In this course, we will address key questions and problems concerning religion in Europe.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic	Reading (tba)
<b>1</b> (= 90 minutes)	Monday, November 17: 10:15 – 11:45	Religion in Europe: Introduction, key terms and concepts	
<b>2</b>	Tuesday, November 18 (I): 10:15 – 11:45	Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox: Division between Christians in Europe	
<b>3</b>	Tuesday, November 18 (II): 13:15 – 14:45	Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox (continued)	

4	Wednesday, November 19 (I): 10:15 – 11:45	Judaism in Europe	
5	Wednesday, November 19 (II): 13:15 – 14:45	Islam (background)	
	Thursday, November 20	<b>Study Trip: Stuttgart</b> (all day)	
6	Monday, November 24 (I): 10:15 – 11:45	Reflection on study trip	
7	Tuesday, November 25 (I): 10:15 – 11:45	Christianity, Judaism and Islam in Europe	
8	Tuesday, November 25 (II): 13:15 – 14:45	Church and state relations in Europe	
9	Wednesday, November 26 (I): 10:15 – 11:45	Symbols of religious identity in architecture, art and music	
10	Wednesday, November 26 (II): 13:15 – 14:45	Religion and secularism in Europe	
11	Thursday, November 27 (II): 10:15 – 11:45	The place of religion in European identity today	
12	Friday, November 28 (I): 10:00 – 11:00 Exam	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	
	Thursday, November 28 (II): 11:30 – 12:15	<b>Discussion of final exam and Course Wrap-up</b>	

## 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.