



Tübingen International & European Studies (T-IES)

Doshisha EU Campus European Studies Program

September 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026

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| Course title: | Topics of Culture and Information Science-- Digital view of EU and Europe- Culture and Society-- |
| Date: | September 15 th – September 19 th , 2025 |
| Language of instruction: | English |
| Lecturer: | Yuejun Zheng |
| Contact hours: | 26(Face to face) + 4(on-demand course) |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

For hundreds of years, Europe had suffered the tragedy of war many times before 1945. In particular, the center of the conflict was France and Germany in modern times. ECSC (European Coal and Steel Community), established in 1952 inspired by the "Schumann Declaration ([Link is external](#))" which advocated the foundation of the mechanism of supranational Europe in 1950, was a starting point of present EU (European Union). In this lecture, while looking down at European countries, the first half focuses on looking back upon the pace of the EU, which is a regional integration affiliated with twenty-seven countries, and exceeding 450 million people. The second half concentrates on explaining the cultural and social histories and the present situations beyond the various histories, cultures, and social structures of European countries using the visualization based on statistical survey data. Main contents contain diverse aspects such as "Family and changing gender roles", "Religion", "Work orientation", "National identity & Citizenship", "Role of government", "Social inequality" and "Environment" etc. At the very end of this lecture, we will discuss the essential issues such as what the EU is like. How has the EU been developing? What kind of social implications does the EU provide?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- You will be able to grasp basic knowledge about the EU.
- You will be able to understand the social and cultural characteristic of Europe/EU using data.
- You will be able to explain the social meaning of the EU from a comparative perspective.

COURSE SCHEDULE

| CLASS DATES | CONTENTS | HOW TO CONDUCT A LESSON | CLASS HOURS |
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| See the note on „OTHERS“ | Orientation: What is the EU? Understanding the course outline and creating in-class assignments | On-demand (watching video) | 90 minutes |
| September 15 th 9:00-10:30 | Historical background of European integration: From the construction of Europe to the launch of the EU Preparation and review of course materials and reading of literature | Face to face | 90 minutes |
| September 15 th 10:45-12:15 | The progress of European integration: From the crisis of the 1970s to Brexit Preparation and review of course materials and reading of literature | Face to face | 90 minutes |
| September 16 th 9:00-10:30 | The EU's organizational structure: Institutions and their roles Preparation and review of course materials and reading of literature | Face to face | 90 minutes |
| September 16 th 10:45-12:15 | Cultural and social characteristics of the EU / Europe Preparation and review of course materials and reading of literature | Face to face | 90 minutes |
| September 16 th 13:15-14:45 | Angle-French-German conflict and cooperation Preparation and review of course materials and reading of literature | Face to face | 90 minutes |
| September 17 th 9:00-10:30 | Data overview: Introduction to International Society Survey Programme (ISSP) Preparation and review of course materials and reading of literature | Face to face | 90 minutes |
| September 17 th 10:45-12:15 | Comparison of social attitudes 1: Family and changing gender roles Preparation and review of course materials and reading of literature | Face to face | 90 minutes |
| September 17 th 13:15-14:45 | Comparison of social attitudes 2: Religion Preparation and review of course materials and reading of literature | Face to face | 90 minutes |
| September 18 th 10:45-12:15 | Comparison of social attitudes 3: Work orientation (Occupation attitudes) | Face to face | 90 minutes |

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| | Preparation and review of course materials and reading of literature | | |
| September 18 th 13:15-14:45 | Comparison of social attitudes 4: Social inequality Preparation and review of course materials and reading of literature | Face to face | 90 minutes |
| September 19 th 9:00-10:30 | Comparison of social attitudes 5: National identity and citizenship Preparation and review of course materials and reading of literature | Face to face | 90 minutes |
| September 19 th 10:45-12:15 | Comparison of social attitudes 6: Role of government Preparation and review of course materials and reading of literature | Face to face | 90 minutes |
| September 19 th 13:15-14:45 | Comparison of social attitudes 7: Environment Preparation and review of course materials and reading of literature | Face to face | 90 minutes |
| See the note on „OTHERS“ | Outlook for the EU / Europe and course summary, Review of course materials Overall review and in-class assignments, Creating the final report | On-demand (watching video) | 90 minutes |

PREREQUISITES

No requirements

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Regular points (attendance, group work results etc.): situation of class participation, results of initiatives etc. 30%

Short report: level of understanding of each lesson content: 30%

Final report: comprehensive understanding of contents of the course 40%

READING

John Hirst: The shortest history of Europe, 3rd edition (Black Inc., 2012) ISBN: 1863955658

This book provides a structural analysis of European history (There is also a Japanese translation version.)

INFORMATION ON THE LECTURER

<https://kendb.doshisha.ac.jp/profile/en.d621a6dd660fa39c.html>

OTHERS

Contact method from student to instructor: to be informed after the course registration

Contact method from instructor to student: to be informed after the course registration

The first video will be released 1-2 weeks before the first Face to face class.

The release timing of the final video will be announced at a later date.

This class is scheduled to be held in face-to-face format, but it may be switched to an interactive online class/Online (e-learning) format via Teams depending on the circumstances.