

FALL 2009  
GEOG 272 – Geography of Europe  
Tuesday and Thursday, 5:35 to 6:50 p.m.  
Hunter North 1022

**Instructor:** Prof. Henry Sirotin  
**Email contact:** hsirotin@hunter.cuny.edu  
**Office hours:** Friday, 1:00 – 2:00 pm and Saturday, 4:00 – 5:00 pm,  
HN1032, and by appointment.

**Required Text:** Alexander B. Murphy, et. al., *The European Culture Area: A Systematic Geography*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Rowman and Littlefield, 2008, ISBN 0-7425-5672-0  
**Note that earlier editions are extremely different and not of use.**

The course will survey both the physical and human geography of the continent. It will also examine questions such as the geographical definition of “Europe,” the role of geographical factors in historical development, interrelationships between population and the environment, and political and economic issues that arise from these questions.

### **Grading**

There will be two exams, a midterm and a final. I will provide at least one week’s notice on the date of the midterm, and the final will not be cumulative. Both exams, or approved make-ups, must be taken. Makes-ups will be scheduled at my convenience.

A research paper of 1250-1500 words (5 to 7 pages) will be required. Format, research methods, and sources will be discussed in class and individually. A timeline is provided below in the calendar section. You may choose any topic you like, but all topics MUST be approved by me in advance, and Wikipedia IS NOT a quotable resource.

Each exam will be worth 40% of the final grade, with 20% for the paper. Class participation will be taken into account. To receive an incomplete (IN) a student must present evidence of a satisfactory reason and must have done “C” work or better PRIOR to the filing of the incomplete; otherwise, the student will receive a grade of WU. *Please be aware that the number of students I have each term makes it impossible for me to offer extra credit assignments.*

***Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.***

## Calendar

Tu Sept 1 <sup>st</sup>	First day of class
Tu Sept 29 <sup>th</sup>	No class, college on Monday schedule
Tu Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Election Day, so paper topic must be approved by this date
Th Nov 26 <sup>th</sup>	No class, Thanksgiving
Tu Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Final paper is due
Th Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of classes
Tu Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Final exam, 5.20-7.20 pm, in the classroom.</b>

## Classroom Electronics

I permit the use of electronic recording devices and dictionaries during lectures. ALL other personal electronics should be turned off before coming into the classroom. This includes cell phones, Blackberrys, etc. Headphones, ear buds, and in-class text messaging are a sign of disrespect both to the instructor and to your fellow students. The use of entertainment devices including, but not limited to, i-Pods and games during class will result in an invitation to leave the room for the day. The only exception to this shall be in situations where a student attends class while a known emergency condition is developing in the immediate family, and I should be notified of this at the beginning of class.

**NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES OF ANY KIND ARE PERMITTED DURING EXAMS.** Violation of this rule will result in an automatic grade of zero for the exam, and the possibility of further disciplinary action.

## Other Notes

I would suggest you develop a “buddy system” with one or more classmates to cover notes should you miss a session.

Well-behaved children are welcome at any time.

## Outline:

1. Where and What is Europe? (chap. 1)
2. Habitat: The Physical Environment (chap. 2)
3. The Biological Realm: Demography (chaps. 3 and 11)
4. The Cultural Tradition: Religion and language (chaps. 4 and 5)
5. The Economy
  - a. Agriculture (chap. 7)
  - b. The rise of the industrial world (chaps. 8 and 9)
  - c. Cities (chap. 10)
6. Politics (chaps. 6 and 12)

Additional readings may be assigned via Blackboard.