

Name: Dr. Hans J. Wendler

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Course title: Transatlantic Relations

Track: A-Track

Language of instruction: English

Contact hours: 72 (6 per day)

ECTS-Credits: 6

Course description

Survey and analysis of the interplay between Europe and America since 1945 in the field of politics, economics, and culture. Special emphasis will be placed on the roles of the United States, Germany, and the European Union.

In the first half of the course we will start with a brief review of transatlantic relations before 1945 followed by the building of a new transatlantic framework in the postwar era and cooperation and conflict during the Cold War "in area" and "out of area". We will also discuss the so called "Americanization of Europe" and the European response to it.

In the second half we will analyze Euro-American relations after the fall of the Berlin Wall and after 9/11, the importance of religion and values, and will discuss the question as to which extent Europeans and Americans are growing apart and what could be done to repair the transatlantic rift.

Student profile

The course addresses students of the humanities, cultural and social studies, especially of history, geography, political science, sociology, European languages, and related subjects.

Prerequisites

None

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation, Midterm Exam, Final Exam

Grading

Attendance and participation: 20%

Midterm Exam: 30%

Final Exam: 50%

Literature

A course reader will be provided at the orientation meeting.

Suggested preparatory reading:

Geir Lundestad: The United States and Western Europe since 1945, From "Empire" by Invitation to Transatlantic Drift, Oxford University Press, 2005.

Course schedule

Date	Program
Monday, May 31, 2010	<p>Introduction; overview of the course; aims and process; logistics; grading. Europe; America; the North Atlantic as an area of transfer and retransfer. Transatlantic relations before 1945.</p> <p><u>1st excursion:</u> Visit to the German Historical Museum.</p>
Thursday, June 3, 2010	<p>Transatlantic relations 1945 to 1952; continuities and rupture; the reconstruction of Western Europe; CARE; American occupation policies, "reeducation", Berlin`s Freie Universität. The building of a transatlantic framework; Marshall Plan; OEEC; Truman Doctrine; the Berlin Airlift.</p> <p><u>2nd excursion:</u> Visit to the Allied Museum.</p>
Monday, June 7, 2010	<p>The Cold War 1948 to 1962; NATO; the policy of containment. American support for European integration; Council of Europe; ECSC; EDC; EEC.</p> <p><u>3rd excursion:</u> Visit to the "Europa House".</p>
Thursday, June 10, 2010	<p>Gaullism and Atlanticism; the Berlin Crises; the building of the Berlin Wall. "Out-of-area" disputes: the Korean War, the Suez crisis; the War in Vietnam; Cuba; the Middle East. Cooperation and conflict.</p> <p><u>4th excursion:</u> Museum "Haus am Checkpoint Charlie".</p>
Monday, June 14, 2010	<p>Culture and the Cold War; the radio stations: AFN, VOA, RFE, RIAS; the press; the America Houses. The Fulbright Program; USIA; the Congress for Cultural Freedom.</p> <p><u>5th excursion:</u> Visit to the "Haus der Kulturen der Welt".</p>
Thursday, June 17, 2010	<p>Midterm exam.</p> <p>The Americanization of Europe and the European response; student protest in America and in Europe.</p> <p><u>6th excursion:</u> The Brandenburg Gate and "The Kennedys".</p>

<p>Monday, June 21, 2010</p>	<p>The Atlantic Community and détente; Germany's "Ostpolitik". The arms race and the peace movements on both sides of the Atlantic. Economic conflict and cooperation in the 1970s and 80s.</p> <p><u>7th excursion:</u> Visit to the Jewish Museum.</p>
<p>Thursday, June 24, 2010</p>	<p>The fall of the Berlin Wall and the new world order; the US and the EU; the new role of NATO. The Europeanization of American culture; Western culture in the era of globalization.</p> <p><u>8th excursion:</u> Visit to the Goethe-Institut.</p>
<p>Monday, June 28, 2010</p>	<p>From 9/11 to transatlantic drift: the fight against terrorism, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Transatlantic misunderstandings, anti-Americanisms and anti-Europeanisms.</p> <p><u>9th excursion:</u> Visit to the American Jewish Committee.</p>
<p>Thursday, July 1, 2010</p>	<p>Growing apart? Religion and value change. Are we still a community of values? Recurrent themes and current issues: death penalty, global warming, the ICC, GMO's etc.</p> <p><u>10th excursion:</u> Visit to the American Academy.</p>
<p>Monday, July 5, 2010</p>	<p>Conclusion: relations between the US and the EU; the future of transatlantic relations vis-a-vis new global challenges.</p> <p><u>11th excursion:</u> Visit to the American Embassy.</p>
<p>Thursday, July 8, 2010</p>	<p>Final exam.</p> <p>Review of the course.</p> <p><u>12th excursion:</u> Visit to the office of Villa Aurora.</p>