

EURO 3120 Contemporary European Societies (3,3,0) (G)
II: Struktur und Zukunft der Sozialen Marktwirtschaft

Prerequisite: EURO 2120 Contemporary European Societies I: The German-Speaking Countries or course instructor's approval

Based on earlier traditions, the Federal Republic of Germany purposely developed a specific political and economic system—the “Social Market Economy (SME)”. It created an extensive welfare state, but also institutions, which emphasized non-confrontational, co-operative action of employers and employees within a free market. Austria and Switzerland pursued similar strategies. The resulting “model Germany” underpinned the “economic miracle” of the Bonn republic after 1949 and decisively shaped its culture. In recent years, however, SMEs have faced serious challenges. Social services expansion outpaced economic growth. The system became too costly and was further affected by enormous demographic changes and (in the nineties) the cost of reunification. Increasing automation in the industry, changing management structures and the globalization of trade and capital markets all contributed to structural unemployment. At the beginning of the new millennium, Germany (as well as other European nations) needs to reform the SME. In the process, new industrial, labour, fiscal and educational policies are pursued to transform the country into a post-industrial service economy, while trying to retain, as much as possible, the characteristics of the successful consensus model of the SME. This course is open to European Studies majors only.

EURO 3140 Current Issues of European Integration (3,2,1) (E)

Prerequisite: *For GIS major:* POLS 1120 Introduction to Political Economy or POLS 1510 Foundations of Political Science
For ES major: EURO 2140 The Political Economy of the European Union

This course aims at offering students a clear overview of the economic, political, social and diplomatic issues raised by recent institutional developments of the European Union. On the one hand, it consolidates knowledge of institutional structures and key policy-making processes and results in recent years. On the other hand, it raises critical awareness of the deeper theoretical and practical questions these developments pose. One of the main components of the course is the growing importance of globalization and the opening of Europe to other regions of the world, in particular China and East Asia. The course integrates theoretical perspectives and case studies. This course is open to Year III major in GIS and Year IV major in European Studies only.

EURO 3160 European Economic and Business (3,3,0) (F)
Life: travailler en contexte international

Prerequisite: EURO 3110 Contemporary European Societies II: questions d'actualité and FREN 3111 European Language III (French)

The course is mainly based on a project that the students have to carry through to a successful conclusion through the teacher's supervision and advice. It is presented in a seminar format.

The project has to involve representatives from the French-speaking world as well as from Hong Kong/China. It means that the professional environment, which is to be imagined in consultation between the teacher and the students, sets up relations/contacts between institutions/companies/public authorities from a French-speaking country and their counterparts and/or partners in Hong Kong/China.

The various relations and contacts to be established in oral and written French will be presented under different forms: letters, interviews/discussions, faxes, telephone calls, e-mails, minutes, etc.

In order to increase the authenticity of the project, all data and resources necessary to the students to carry the project through to a conclusion (i.e. information about various existing companies/institutions, public authorities in French-speaking Europe and

Hong Kong/China) are to be found on the Web.

The objectives of this course are (1) to train the students to be able to achieve efficiently common oral and written tasks in various professional situations in a French-language environment; (2) to enhance the students' understanding of multicultural professional contexts, where are involved (French-speaking) European and Hong Kong/Chinese counterparts; and (3) to help the students grasp the logic of professional contacts/relationship and increase their sense of initiative and self-reliance in this field. This course is open to European Studies majors only.

EURO 3170 European Economic and Business (3,3,0) (G)
Life: Wirtschaft in Wandel/Deutsch-chinesische Wirtschaftsbeziehungen

Prerequisite: EURO 3120 Contemporary European Societies II: Struktur und Zukunft der Sozialen Marktwirtschaft and GERM 3111 European Language III (German)

Since the late 1990s, Germany, Austria and Switzerland have adapted to global economic forces by a restructuring of industries, both on a macro- and a microeconomic level. New management and production methods have changed the workplace and pose, above all, challenges to the education and training systems. The course will first discuss recent changes in the industry and their implications for the labour market. It will then investigate their effects on human resources development and present case studies of the new job market.

A key element of the new “knowledge economy” is the utilization of information technologies. The course will attempt to show how these are applied in industry and trade and how they affect commercial relation between Hong Kong and Europe (including language use). Emphasis will be given to business sectors most likely to employ students after graduation (e.g. marketing, merchandizing, human resources and information services). Guest speakers from the German, Austrian and Swiss Chambers of Commerce are invited to provide up-to-date briefings, whenever feasible. The course may involve project work. This course is open to European Studies majors only.

EURO 3205 Comparative Politics of (3,2,1) (tbc)
Post-Communist Central Europe

Prerequisite: *For GIS/ES major:* POLS 1005 Foundations of Political Science or EURO 1008-9 Europe: Unity and Diversity

This is a course which examines new European Union Members States in Central Europe (in particular, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia) from both historical and comparative perspectives. It begins with a discussion of the nature and weaknesses of the Communist regimes of Eastern Europe and the causes and processes leading to the 1989 upheavals in the region. It then considers the paradoxes and obstacles in the course of post-Communist transitions to democracy, the market economy and the civil society. The key issues of democratic consolidation and pro-market transformation will be addressed.

EURO 3511 European Academic/Internship (0,0,0) (F/G)
Semester I

Prerequisite: FREN 2112 European Language II (French) or GERM 2112 European Language II (German)

The European Academic/Internship Semester provides full linguistic and cultural immersion into the societies of French- or German-speaking countries through a combination of intensive language training, academic study and, whenever feasible, supervised working experience on location in Europe. Semester I is usually spent at a university in either the French- or German-speaking area of Europe.

Students will be placed individually or in very small groups at selected partner institutions of the European Studies Programme/ the Department of GIS. The course of study will normally comprise intensive foreign language tuition and selected academic courses, as they are available at the respective partner institutions.