COMILLAS
UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA
CIHS

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: **REGIONAL STUDIES: EUROPE**

COURSE DATA	
Degree	Diploma in Humanities and Global Challenges
Academic Year	2026-27
Credits	6
Course type	Elective
Departament	International Relations
Language of instruction	English
Name and email of instructor	Manuel María López Linares Alberdi: **mmlopezlinares@comillas.edu** (Term 1); Jason Xidias Sheaff: **jxidias@comillas.edu** (Term 2)

SHORT DESCRIPTION

This module provides students with a broad understanding of the major developments that shaped Europe from the Age of Exploration and the Age of Empires to the contemporary challenges of the twenty-first century. It examines how European expansion, imperial competition, and colonialism transformed the continent and laid the foundations for the political, economic, and cultural systems that influenced modern European history.

Particular attention is given to the rise and decline of European empires, the emergence of nation-states, and the geopolitical rivalries that culminated in the First World War. Students will explore the causes and consequences of war and revolution, the ideological conflicts of the interwar period, the rise of fascism and communism, the Second World War, and the Cold War division of Europe. The social, cultural, and intellectual developments that shaped European societies are also examined, including changing living standards, political movements, and the mentalities and ideologies that influenced historical change.

The final section focuses on post-war reconstruction, the process of European integration, the development of European institutions, Brexit, and contemporary challenges to the European order, including the Russia–Ukraine war. Through thematic seminars and essay writing, students will engage critically with key historical debates and gain a deeper understanding of the diverse experiences of Europeans across different periods and regions. Particular emphasis is placed on the interplay between continuity and change in Europe's role in the world, from global expansion and imperial dominance to integration, cooperation, and contemporary geopolitical tensions.

CONTENTS AND STRUCTURE

TOPIC 1: AGE OF EXPLORATION AND EMPIRES
TOPIC 2: ROAD TO WWI
TOPIC 3: WWI AND REVOLUTION
TOPIC 4: INTERWAR YEARS AND WWII
TOPIC 5: COLD WAR
TOPIC 6: EU INTEGRATION
TOPIC 7: EU INSTITUTIONS
TOPIC 8: BREXIT
TOPIC 9: RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

METHODOLOGY

This course titled REGIONAL STUDIES: EUROPE will be taught in person. The professor will deliver a series of lectures on the key themes above. This will be enriched by student contributions (questions, commentaries, discussions) inside the classroom as well as readings, research and writing outside.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assessment type	Assessment criteria	Percentage
FINAL EXAM	Further details TBA.	**70%**
RESEARCH PROJECT	Further details TBA.	**15%**
ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION	Further details TBA.	**15%**

- Committing any serious academic misconduct, such as **plagiarism** of previously published material, or **copying** in the exam or any other graded activity, **will imply not being able to pass the course in the ordinary assessment period.**
- The **use of AI** to create complete works or relevant parts, without citing the source or the tool or without being expressly allowed in the description of the work, will be considered plagiarism and regulated according to the General Regulations of the University.

- At the beginning of the term the professor will announce the office hours for the course. Tutorials are an essential part of the development of the course, and students may attend tutorials during the course within those office times, but it is recommended that they are arranged in advance with the professor.

- Any non-face-to-face learning activity that requires the submission of an assignment/document, etc. will be submitted by the student through Moodle, always in PDF format.

- To be able to take the final exam, students must not have missed **more than one third of the classes without justification**. If this requirement is not met, the student may lose the right to be assessed both in the ordinary and extraordinary assessment period (art. 93-1 of the General Regulations). Failure to attend to the first hour of a two-hour lecture, means having missed the whole session in terms of attendance, regardless of whether or not the student the second hour.

STUDENT WORKLOAD (in hours)

CONTACT HOURS	OUTSIDE CLASSROOM	OVERALL
60	90	150

READING LIST / RELEVANT REFERENCES

ALCOCK, A. (2002). A SHORT HISTORY OF EUROPE. 2ND ED.BASINGSTOKE:PALGRAVE

BEST, A. (2015). AN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY OF THE 20TH CENTURY AND BEYOND. 3RD ED. ROUTLEDGE.

DAVIES, N. (1998) EUROPE. A HISTORY. LONDON: PIMLICO. CHAPTERS XI AND XII.

FABBRINI, S. (2015). WHICH EUROPEAN UNION? EUROPE AFTER THE EURO CRISIS. CAMBRIDGE: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

FERGUSON, N. (1999). THE PITY OF WAR. LONDON: PENGUIN. (SELECTED READINGS).

COL. HUGHES-WILSON, J. (2006). THE COLD WAR. LONDON: CONSTABLE & ROBINSO

JARAUSH, K. H. (2015) OUT OF ASHES. A NEW HISTORY OF EUROPE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS.

JUDT, T. (2006). POSTWAR. PENGUIN BOOKS.

KEEGAN, J. (1997): THE SECOND WORLD WAR. LONDON: PIMLICO. (SELECTED READINGS).

MAZOWER, M. (1998) THE CRISIS OF CAPITALISM. DARK CONTINENT. VINTAGE BOOKS, RANDOM HOUSE. PP 115-130.

OVERY, R. (2010).1939. COUNTDOWN TO WAR. LONDON: PENGUIN

RICHARDS, M., WAIBEL, P. (2014). TWENTIETH CENTURY EUROPE: A BRIEF HISTORY, 1900 TO PRESENT. MALDEN: WILEY BLACKWELL.

SAKWA, R., STEVENS, A. (2012). CONTEMPORARY EUROPE. BASINGSTOKE: PALGRAVE. SELECTED CHAPTERS.

STITES, R. (2002) THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE AND THE SOVIET UNION IN HOWARD, M. THE OXFORD HISTORY OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY BY OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS.

APPLEBAUM, A. (2012). IRON CURTAIN: THE CRUSHING OF EASTERN EUROPE. PENGUIN.

BLAIR, A. (2005). THE EUROPEAN UNION SINCE 1945. LONDON: LONGMAN.

BAYLY, C.A. (2004). THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN WORLD. OXFORD: BLACKWELL.

BERENDT, I. (2016). AN ECONOMIC HISTORY OF TWENTIETH-CENTURY EUROPE. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

BLANNING, T.C.W. (1996). THE OXFORD ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF MODERN EUROPE

CALIC, M.J. (2019). A HISTORY OF YUGOSLAVIA. PURDUE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

CALVOCORESSI, P. (2009). WORLD POLITICS SINCE 1945. HARLOW: PEARSON.

DEDMAN, MARTIN J. (2010). THE ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION 1945-2008: A HISTORY OF

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. LONDON: ROUTLEDGE.

DREA, A. (2012). 20TH CENTURY EUROPE. A CONCISE HISTORY. XLIBRIS CORPORATION

JACKSON, J. (2018). A CERTAIN IDEA OF FRANCE. THE LIFE OF

CHARLES DE GAULLE. ALLEN LANE. PENGUIN BOOKS FEIS, H. (1970).

FROM TRUST TO TERROR. THE ONSET OF THE COLD WAR 1945-1950.

LONDON: ANTHONY BLOND. GILBERT, M. (2004). WINSTON

CHURCHILL. THE WILDERNESS YEARS. LONDON: PIMLICO

GILBERT, M. (2012). EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: A CONCISE HISTORY. ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD PUBLISHERS INC.

GRAEBNER, N.A., BENNETT, E.M. (2011). THE VERSAILLES TREATY AND ITS LEGACY: THE FAILURE OF THE WILSONIAN VISION.

CAMBRIDGE: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

KEEGAN, J. (1999). THE FIRST WORLD WAR. LONDON: A. KNOPF.

KENNEDY, P. (1998). THE RISE AND FALL OF GREAT POWERS. LONDON: UNWIN HAYMAN

KLEMPERER, V. (2006): THE LANGUAGE OF THE THIRD REICH: LTI: LINGUA TERTII IMPERIII. LONDON: CONTINUUM.

LIDDELL HART, B. (2007). GERMAN GENERALS TALK. NEW YORK: PERENNIAL.

MASSIE, R.K. (2004). CASTLES OF STEEL. BRITAIN, GERMANY AND THE

WINNING OF THE WAR AT SEA. NEW YORK: BALLANTINE BOOKS.

MASSIE, R.K. (2007). DREADNOUGHT. BRITAIN, GERMANY AND THE COMING OF THE GREAT WAR. NEW YORK: VINTAGE BOOKS.

MCCORMICK, J. (2017). UNDERSTANDING THE EUROPEAN UNION: A CONCISE INTRODUCTION. 7TH EDITION. PALGRAVE

OVERY, R. (1997). RUSSIA'S WAR. LONDON: ALLEN LANE.

OVERY, R. (1995). WHY THE ALLIES WON. LONDON: JONATHAN CAPE.

PIRIS, J.-C. (2010) THE LISBON TREATY: A LEGAL AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS (CAMBRIDGE: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

ROBERTS, J. (1970). A GENERAL HISTORY OF EUROPE 1880-1945. LONDON: LONGMAN.

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SASSOON, D. (1996) ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF

SOCIALISM: THE WEST EUROPEAN LEFT IN THE

TWENTIETH CENTURY.

WASSERSTEIN, B. (2008) BARBARISM AND CIVILIZATION: A HISTORY OF EUROPE IN OUR TIME.

VINEN, R. (2000). A HISTORY IN FRAGMENTS: EUROPE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

LEONARD, M. (2005). WHY EUROPE WILL LEAD THE 21ST CENTURY. LONDON: FOURTH STATE.

TAYLOR, A.J.P. (1961). THE ORIGINS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. LONDON: HAMISH HAMILTON.

TUCHMAN, B. (1962). THE GUNS OF AUGUST. LONDON: MACMILLAN.

ZUBKOV, V.M. (2007). A FAILED EMPIRE. THE SOVIET UNION IN THE COLD

WAR. FROM STALIN TO GORBACHEV. CHAPEL HILL: THE UNIVERSITY OF

NORTH CAROLINA PRESS.