European-American Relations in the 21st Century

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Course description:
This course explores the history and the current state of political, economic and cultural relations between the United States and Europe. Ever since the end of the World War II, the cooperative relationship between these two parts of the world, often described as „the West“, has been a bedrock of international stability, security and prosperity. After the end of the Cold War, this relationship has undergone changes, along with the whole system of international relations. Recently, on both sides of the Atlantic, the talk has been about a crisis of the Euro-American relationship. We will examine the validity of these claims, the causes of the current problems and possible ways of overcoming them. Throughout, we will emphasize the overwhelming nature of common values and interests on both sides of the ocean as well as the risks stemming from a potential rift for both Europe and America. We will examine the compatibility of current European and U.S. policies with respect to third countries or regions, such as Russia, China and the Middle East. We will also analyze the specific role played in this relationship by countries of Central and Eastern Europe as relative newcomers to democracy, to the Atlantic Alliance and to European Union.

Grading policy
Class participation/attendance: 20%
Presentation: 20%
Mid-term paper: 25%
Final paper: 35%

MIDTERM PAPERS ARE DUE IN WEEK 8
FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE IN WEEK 12

UPCES Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy
The UPCES program in Prague promotes a diverse learning environment where the dignity, worth, and differences of each individual are valued and respected. Discrimination and harassment, whether based on a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or other legally protected characteristic, are repugnant and completely inconsistent with our objectives. Retaliation against individuals for raising good faith claims of harassment and/or discrimination is prohibited.

UPCES Diversity Policy
UPCES fully embraces diversity and strives to create a safe and welcoming environment for students from all backgrounds. Prague is a wonderfully diverse community and UPCES is no different. All students should feel at home while studying abroad and UPCES will do its utmost to make sure that becomes a reality. Although unique challenges may arise, we believe that students from all walks of life will encounter wonderful opportunities for enrichment as they explore a new culture while studying abroad.
Week 1

UPCES Orientation Lecture Series

Lectures and site visits on subjects of history, culture, politics, and the economies of the Czech Republic and Central Europe in order to establish a common interdisciplinary background and vocabulary for all courses.

Week 2

Topic I – The Old World: Origins of the European and Western Civilization

Topic II – The New World and Beyond: Challenges of a New World Order

Readings


Week 3

Topic III - Allies in War: The Origins of the Atlantic Alliance

Topic IV- Partners in Deterrence: Victory in the Cold War
Readings

The North Atlantic Treaty. Washington D.C., 4 April 1949

Week 4

Topic V - The Emergence of the Other Europe

Topic VI - The New World Order and What’s Left of It
The end of history that never was. A new world order: Gulf War and the comeback of the UN. The pitfalls of humanitarian intervention: Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Rwanda. The clash of civilizations? Coming anarchy? Shall we miss the Cold War?

Readings

Huntington, Samuel P.: The Clash of Civilizations? Foreign Affairs, Summer 1993, pp. 22-49
Mearsheimer, John J.: Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War. The Atlantic Monthly, August 1990, pp. 35-50

Week 5

Topic VII - Doctrine of Enlargement
**Topic VIII - Fighting with Allies: The Balkan Wars**

Yugoslavia: Communists as nationalists. Europe: The haste to recognition. USA: No dog in the fight. UN: Reaching the limits (Vance – Owen Plan). The road to Dayton. Rambouillet, Kosovo and the question of legitimacy of intervention

**Readings**


Habermas, Juergen: *Bestiality and Humanity. A War on the Border Between Law and Humanity*. Die Zeit, April 29, 1999 (www.theglobalsite.ac.uk/library)


Ignatieff, Michael: *The Virtual Commander*. The New Yorker, August 2, 1999, pp. 30-36

**Week 6**

**Topic IX - The Essential Country: American Visions of the post-Cold War World**

Imperial overstretch or bound to lead? Pax Americana: The unipolar moment. The indispensable: Making the world safe for democracy. The soft power: Can interdependence work? Neo-cons and their benevolent empire. Lonely superpower and pivotal states

**Readings**


Huntington, Samuel P: *The Lonely Superpower*. Foreign Affairs, March/April 1999, pp. 35-49


**Topic X - Toward a Multipolar World: European Visions of the post-Cold War World**

Atlantic Europe: Keep America in, Russia out and Germany down. Multilateralism and moral superiority: Europe as a lighthouse. Multipolarity and the new balance of power: Europe as a counterweight. Focused on the U.S.: Liberal imperialism or the end of empire? Habermas and Derrida: A peace through conversation? Power gap: Economic elephant versus military pygmy

**Readings**


Huntington, Samuel P: *The Lonely Superpower*. Foreign Affairs, March/April 1999, pp. 35-49


**Week 7**

**Topic XI – What Kind of Europe?**

**Topic XII – How Americans are thinking about Europe**

**Readings**
- Schuman, Robert: Declaration of 9 May 1950. ([www.robert-schumann.org](http://www.robert-schumann.org))
- Fischer, Joschka: *From Confederacy to Federation*. Speech at the Humbolt University, Berlin, May 12, 2000
- Feldstein, Martin: *EMU and International Conflict*. Foreign Affairs, November/December 1997, pp. 60-73
- Bergsten, Fred C.: *America and Europe: Clash of the Titans?* Foreign Affairs, March/April 1999, pp. 20-34

**Week 8**

**MIDTERM PAPERS ARE DUE**

**Topic XIII – Challenges of Globalization**

**Topic XIV – New Threats, New Enemies**

**Readings**
- “Dueling Globalizations. A Debate Between Thomas Friedman and Ignatii Ramonet.” Foreign Policy, Fall 1999, pp. 110-126
- Fonte, John: *Democracy’s Trojan Horse*. The National Interest. Summer 2004, pp. 117127
Week 9

Topic XV – Power in the Post-Modern World
The case of Iraqi War. Of Paradise and Power – Venus and Mars. EU as a post-modern entity
Anti-Americanism in Europe. Anti-Europeanism in America. Clash of the titans or the new division of labor?

Topic XVI – Multilateralism – Train Wrecks in the Making?

Dahrendorf, Ralf, Garton Ash, Timothy: The Europe and the America We Want (Le Monde, July 9, 2003)
Michnik, Adam: A View from the Left: We, the Traitors (Gazeta Wyborcza, May 29, 2003)
Joffe, Josef: Who’s Afraid of Mr. Big? The National Interest, Summer 2001
Deutch, John, Kanter, Arnold and Scowcroft, Brent: Saving NATO’s Foundation, Foreign Affairs, November/December 1999

Week 10

Topic XVII – The Recent Challenges: Black Sea and the Greater Middle East
Turkey: Can a country be Islamic and European at the same time? Ukraine and Georgia: Europe or left behind? The Future of Iraq: Loosing the peace? Whither Iran? The Ultimate Sponsors: Saudi Arabia. Middle East: Modernization or Democratization?

Topic XVIII - The Future Challenges: Euro-Asia
Readings


1. Is preventive war justifiable? If so, on what grounds?
2. Is a UN Security Council Resolution the *sine qua non* for the use of force against another country?
3. Is proliferation stoppable? What would it take to stop it?

Week 11

**Topic XIX – The Cooperative Scenario: Working Together for a Global Society**
What we have in common: core values and threats. Bridging the transatlantic power gap

**Topic XX – The Nightmare Scenario: Fighting by Proxy for a Global Chaos**

Readings

Moisi, Dominique: *Reinventing the West*. Foreign Affairs, November/December 2003
Wallace, William: *Europe, the Necessary Partner*. Foreign Affairs, May/June 2001
Cimballo, Jeffrey: *Saving NATO From Europe*. Foreign Affairs, November/December, 2004
Vondra, Alexandr; Painter, Sally: *No Time to Go It Alone*. The Washington Post, Nov. 18, 2002

Week 12

FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE

Week 13

Summary of the course