

# POLITICAL AND SOCIAL IDENTITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

## **AIMS**

The Course will aim to examine the possible interaction between national, regional and a European Union identity at the political and socio-cultural levels. The first part of the course will outline and examine various theoretical concepts identified as useful in analysing any future construction of a European Union identity. In the second part of the course these will be examined within the context of European Union 'core values' (democracy, the rule of law, peace and security, economic stability and prosperity, respect for human rights) and the existing 'identity' perspectives of EU citizens.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Students will be introduced to a range of theoretical concepts identified as useful in analysing any future construction of a European Union identity. In the second part of the course they will then be encouraged to employ these concepts in assessing the opportunities, processes and possibilities for such a construction of a citizenship European Union identity.

## **COURSE STRUCTURE**

It is intended that the course will be taught through a programme of 8 lectures and 4 seminars/workshops (1 seminar and 1 workshop for each group of students). All the lectures will be given at ESF jointly for ESF and FSS students. Students will be divided into two groups for each Faculty (ESF and FSS) for the workshop and seminar (four groups overall). Workshops and seminars for ESF students will be held at ESF. Workshops and seminars for FSS students will be held at FSS.

## **Timetable**

<i>Utery (Tuesday).</i>	<i>19.4.05 (Room P6 at ESF)</i>	16.20. Lecture 1	18.00 Lecture 2
<i>Streda (Wednesday)</i>	<i>20.4.04 (Room P3 at ESF)</i>	12.50. Lecture 3	
<i>Pondeli (Monday).</i>	<i>25.4.04 (Room P3 at ESF)</i>	14.35. Lecture 4	16.15 Lecture 5
<i>Utery (Tuesday)</i>	<i>26.4.05 (Room P6 at ESF)</i>	16.20. Lecture 6	
<i>Utery (Tuesday)</i>	<i>26.4.05 (Room P6 at ESF)</i>	17.35. Workshop (Group A - ESF students)	
<i>Utery (Tuesday)</i>	<i>26.4.05 (Room P6 at ESF)</i>	18.35. Workshop (Group B - ESF students)	
<i>Streda (Wednesday)</i>	<i>27.4.04 (Room G12 at FSS)</i>	12.00. Workshop (Group A – FSS students)	
<i>Streda (Wednesday)</i>	<i>27.4.04 (Room G12 at FSS)</i>	13.30. Workshop (Group B – FSS students)	
<i>Pondeli (Monday)</i>	<i>02.5.05 (Room P3 at ESF)</i>	14.35. Lecture 7	16.15 Lecture 8
<i>Utery (Tuesday)</i>	<i>03.5.05 (Room P6 at ESF)</i>	16.20. Seminar (Group A - ESF students)	
<i>Utery (Tuesday)</i>	<i>03.5.05 (Room P6 at ESF)</i>	18.00. Seminar (Group B - ESF students)	
<i>Cvrtok (Thursday)</i>	<i>05.5.05 (Room G12 at FSS)</i>	12.00. Seminar (Group A – FSS students)	
<i>Cvrtok (Thursday)</i>	<i>05.5.05 (Room G12 at FSS)</i>	14.00. Seminar (Group B – FSS students)	
<i>Pondeli (Monday).</i>	<i>09.5.05 (Room 528 at ESF)</i>	10.30. to 12.00.noon	<b>SUBMISSION OF ESSAY</b>

## LECTURE CONTENT

- 1. Identity as a concept: the ‘narrative of identity’ in the socio-cultural and political sphere.**
  - the theoretical concept of ‘identity’
  - the symbols and processes that produce and contribute to identity
  - the development of the identity of the European Union as an institution.
  
- 2. The development of the identity of the European Union**
  - the founding principles and historical development of the European Union
  - how the identity of the European Union informs its interests and its actions
  - European Union integration and expansion: federalism, functionalism and neo-functionalism
  
- 3. Social Constructivism and an EU identity.**
  - the theory of social constructivism
  - identity constituted by the institutionalized norms, values and ideas of the social environment of the European Union
  
- 4. New Institutionalism, Behaviouralism, and an EU identity.**
  - New Institutionalist and Behaviouralist theory
  - the capacity of cultural and organizational practices within EU institutions to mould the preferences, interests and identities of EU citizens
  - the capacity of, and impact of, social movements and practices (including cultural practices) in shaping an EU identity
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- 5. Identity and European Union ‘core values’**
  - democracy
  - the rule of law
  - peace and security
  - economic stability and prosperity
  - respect for human rights and minority rights
  - diversity
  
- 6. A European Union for citizens to identify with: federalism and subsidiarity**
  - a European Union identity alongside a Europe of political and socio-cultural regional identity?
  - Federalism, a ‘Europe of the Regions’, and a European Union identity
  
- 7. EU identity today**
  - the perspective of EU citizens.
  - attitudes to a European Union identity in surveys and opinion polls

### **8. A European Union identity in the future?**

- constructed through a narrative of the socio-cultural development of the European Union
- the interaction of multi-level socio-cultural and political development
- the impact of a European Union constitution

### **SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS**

Students from each Faculty (ESF and FSS) will be divided into two groups. Each group will have one workshop and one seminar.

#### *Workshops*

In the workshop students will be required to work collectively in the first part of the session on particular theories and issues within the course and then present their collective findings to the student group within the workshop in the second part of the session.

#### *Seminars*

Seminars will consist of presentations by students or groups of students on particular issues and topics prepared by students prior to the seminar.

Students should prepare individual or collective group presentations and papers on one of the following:

1. Is national, local/regional or European identity the most prevalent amongst citizens in your town/city/region and country today?
2. Social constructivism can contribute significantly to the promotion of the values and ideas of the social environment of the European Union, and thereby assist the development of a European Union 'citizen' identity. Do you agree?
3. Federalism, a 'Federal European Union', and a true 'Europe of the Regions' offers the best structure to promote the development of a European Union 'citizen' identity. Do you agree?
4. What is the relationship between the 'core values' of the European Union and the construction and development of a European Union 'citizen' identity?

### **ASSESSMENT**

#### *Essay*

Students should write an essay of between 1500 (minimum) and 2000 (maximum) words (between 4 and 6 sides of A4 paper) in answer to **ONE** of the questions shown below. Essays should be properly and fully referenced, and include a full bibliography. They should be word-processed or typed.

***ESSAYS MUST BE HANDED IN TO JOHN WILTON ON PONDELI (MONDAY) 9.5.05 IN ROOM 528 at ESF BETWEEN 10.30. AND 12.00. NOON***

1. A European Union 'citizen' identity must be 'inclusive' and not 'exclusive', in that it cannot seek to eradicate or replace national and regional identity. Discuss, using theoretical and empirical examples to substantiate your argument in favour of or against this statement.
2. What processes can meaningfully assist in the construction of a European Union 'citizen' identity?
3. Upon what basis and values could a European Union 'citizen' identity be constructed?

## LITERATURE AND OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES

**PLEASE NOTE:** Packs relating to particular lectures on the course have been placed in the ESF and FSS libraries. They will contain paper copies of any Overhead Transparencies used in the lecture, as well as copies of relevant selected book chapters and/or articles relating to the lecture topic.

### Books

- Cederman, L. (ed.) *Constructing Europe's Identity: The External Dimension*, London, Lynne Reinner, 2001.
- Christiansen, T. Jorgensen, K.E. and Weiner, A. (Editors) *The Social Construction of Europe*, London, Sage, 2001.
- Dunkerley, D. et al *Changing Europe: identities, nations and citizens*, London, Routledge, 2002.
- Graham, B. *Modern Europe: place, culture and identity*, London, Arnold, 1998.
- Nicoll, W. and Salmon, T.C. *Understanding the European Union*, Harlow, Longman, 2001.
- Poole, R. *Nation and identity*, London, Routledge, 1999.
- Van Ham, P. *European integration and the post-modern condition*, London, Routledge, 2001.
- Shore, C. *Building Europe: the cultural politics of the European Union*, London, Routledge, 2000.
- Zeff, E. and Pirro, E. *The European Union and the Member States: Cooperation, Coordination, and Compromise*, London, Lynne Reinner, 2001.

### Journal Articles

- Fossum, J.E. 'Identity Politics in the European Union', in *Journal of European Integration*, Vol.23, Number 4.
- Journal of European Public Policy* 6:4, 1999 (Special Issue on 'The Social Construction of Europe')

### Internet Sites

<http://www.cec.org.UK>

- for information - in English - on European Union institutions, policies and programmes, and a wide range of links to European Union related Websites, including EUROPA and European Union Documentation and Information Centres containing on-screen copies of

the original Treaties - of Rome, Maastricht, Amsterdam, Single European Act, etc. - with comprehensive guides.

**<http://www.cunliffe.demon.co.uk/Politics/eu.html>**

- for on-screen copies of the Treaties - of Rome, Maastricht, Amsterdam, Single European Act, etc. - for details of the institutions and main legislative bodies of the European Union, current affairs, including monetary union, and details of Parliamentary groupings in the European Parliament.

**<http://www.ecsa.org>**

- The European Communities Studies Association is one of the largest and most active academic organisations for studying the EU and maintains an excellent website with links to a wide variety of other sites.

**<http://www.ibeurope.com>**

- InfoEurope is an EU funded site that provides up-to-date information on EU social policy and industrial relations plus some links to the sites of EU social policy interest groups.

**<http://europa.eu.int>**

- this is the central site for policy documentation, information on institutions, up-to-date developments, enlargement information, and links to other sites. It also contains the Eurobarometer surveys on public opinion in the 'old' Member states, and in the new Member states.

**<http://www.europarl.eu.int>**

- for information on the European Parliament

**<http://www.ex.ac.uk/~pcovery/lib/eurostudies.html>**

- site of the European Union documentation centre at University of Exeter, United Kingdom - has extensive sources of information on the European Union, all in English, and links to Official Web servers of the European Union - it also has links to EUROTTEXTS and the historical document/material archives centre at the University of Berkeley in the United States, which has copies of much of the earlier European Community documentation available.

**<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/GSSI/eu.html>**

- this is an excellent site, entitled European Union Internet Resources, contains an impressive collection of links to 'EU servers in institutions', 'EU documents on the web' and 'Servers of interest in or from EU countries'.

Maurits van der Veen, A. **Determinants of European Identity**, University of Pennsylvania, 19 March 2002, on line at

**<http://www.isanet.org/noarchive/vanderveen.html>**

Schwimmer, W. European Identity: is there more than one Europe, on line at

**[http://www.coe.int/T/E/Com/Files/Themes/Identity/Col3\\_SG%20-%20RZ\\_One%20Europe.asp](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Com/Files/Themes/Identity/Col3_SG%20-%20RZ_One%20Europe.asp)**

**Dr. John Wilton**

**April 2005**