

EUROPEAN STUDIES @ RICE

FOCUS EUROPE is a new interdisciplinary program in the School of Humanities, which links the study of the humanities and human sciences to contemporary debates in public policy.

Supported by a major Sarofim Grant for teaching development, FOCUS EUROPE situates current European Union policy issues—including transatlantic relations—in a broad historical and cultural context that stretches from the later Middle Ages to the present. Courses are taught by faculty from the departments of German & Slavic Studies, Hispanic Studies, French Studies, English, History, and Philosophy. With the interdisciplinary orientation of FOCUS EUROPE Rice University now joins a select group of U.S. public and private universities who have made similar innovations in view of recent developments that have brought the humanities and public policy closer together.

The idea of Europe, coupled with fundamental political and cultural changes that reach far beyond the European arena, has become more important today than it ever has been since the early nineteenth century. The current enlargement of the European Union from 15 to 25 member states has profound effects on the transatlantic relationship both politically and economically. Also, recent trends towards legal self-definition will culminate in a European Constitution that complements and widens the already existing European Convention on Human Rights. This will fundamentally change the understanding of the public sphere, in both political and cultural terms, within an international arena.

Although these policy debates are of central importance for the shape of the transatlantic relationship, they may become detached from their cultural and historical settings, thus inviting a lasting misunderstanding of the European public sphere on this side of the Atlantic. As an academic program intended to provide undergraduate students with first-hand knowledge of these issues and their historical trajectories, FOCUS EUROPE delivers a high level intellectual preparation in European topics:

- *Nations and Nationalism*
- *War and Peace*
- *Law and Constitutional Thought*
- *Religious Culture and Secularization*
- *The Responsibilities of Art and Literature*
- *The Cultural Perception of Modern Media*

- *The Enlightenment and its Opponents*
- *Technology, Science, and the Cultural Imagination*
- *The European Women's Movement*
- *The Culture of Travel*
- *Migration*

Starting in the Fall semester of 2005, the program of undergraduate core courses will be enhanced by a lectures or compact seminars by public policy experts at Rice as well as visiting scholars from other institutions, often in close cooperation with the Baker Institute for Public Policy.

FOCUS EUROPE will build an intellectual context in the humanities to enable students to gain maximum benefit from the visits of European dignitaries and policy makers, distinguished speaker series involving European politicians, and seminars with international relation experts.

COURSES

MODERN EUROPE, 1450-1789 (HIST 101)

This course provides an introduction to European history from 1500 to the French Revolution, tracing Europe's rise to world dominance via capitalism, the nation-state, science and technology, and a secular world view. It asks how conditions in the rest of the world allowed European imperialism and colonialism to triumph.

Professor John H. Zammito

THROUGH TIME AND SPACE: EUROPEAN TRAVEL STORIES (GERM 123 / FSEM 123)

A travel story stands at the beginning of European literature: Homer's *Odyssey*. Since antiquity, literary travel accounts of all sorts, to all destinations, by all means, and undertaken with a wide range of different purposes have kept Europeans on the move. First attracted by the 'exotic' and the 'unknown' in the far distance, the interest moved ever closer to the self. Travelers became more thoughtful about themselves, their feelings and perceptions, while the exploration of the human mind became the most exotic and intriguing journey. Readings include Homer, Jonathan Swift, Voltaire, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Heinrich Heine, Mark Twain, and Jules Verne.

Professor Uwe Steiner

THE CULTURE OF WAR: VIOLENCE, CONFLICT, REPRESENTATION

(GERM 128 / FSEM 128)

The beginning of the twenty-first century is surprisingly marked by a return of war and military conflict as defining categories of political life. The rapidly changing political and cultural environment after the Cold War—globalization, terrorism, religious conflict, new genocides—requires a new understanding of "war." Taking into account the history of war as well as recent intellectual debates, the seminar will examine the politics and perception of war, ranging from early modern Europe to most recent events. Not for the faint-hearted, topics include: destruction, ruins, refugees, the enemy, just war, massacres, terrorism, victims, spaces of battle, anxiety, trenches, and violence.

Professor Christian Emden

EUROPE SINCE 1945

(HIST 225)

A survey of Western and Eastern Europe since the end of World War Two to the present. The course's emphasis is on the multiple legacies of the Second World War in the making of modern Europe.

Professor Daniel Cohen

CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY

(PHIL 308)

An examination of movements in twentieth-century European philosophy—including phenomenology, existentialism, hermeneutics, critical theory, deconstruction and postmodernism.

Professor Steven Crowell

REASON AND FAITH: THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND ITS LEGACY

(PHIL 322 / ENGL 334)

This course investigates Enlightenment works concerning the role of reason and faith in human life, with reference to current policy and political debates. The European thinkers that we now group together under the term "Enlightenment" participated in an intellectual and political movement aimed to promote the rule of reason in human life. Many Enlightenment thinkers identified religion as the social institution, and faith as the intellectual attitude, most threatening to the rule of reason and its promise of social, political, and intellectual progress. These debates continue to be of central importance, and we will use these discussions to try to understand our current political situation, including the relationship between fundamentalism and ter-

rorism, and the role of religion in American politics, e.g. in debates about the study of Creationism in school, and whether the Pledge of Allegiance should include the word "God."

Professor Sarah Ellenzweig & Professor Rachel Zuckert

NATION AND MEMORY

(GERM 334)

Providing a critical review of modern concepts of nationhood and nationalism in the light of recent research on cultural memory, this course traces the history of political foundation myths in Germany and Europe since the eighteenth century. The course provides links between literature, visual culture, historical anthropology, and public policy.

Professor Christian Emden

MEDIEVAL EMPIRES

(Course number to be announced. First offered in Spring 2007)

How does studying medieval empires—the Holy Roman Empire and the Byzantine Empire—tie in with contemporary issues in European culture and policy debates? Understanding the characteristics of these empires helps explaining major differences between the modern Western and Eastern Europe. The following topics will be addressed: regionalism vs. centralism in the current European Union; regional identities and political struggles; rise of the nation state; concepts of empire that differ from those of modern empires; traditions of political representations; religion and state; religious cults and expressions of religious communities; relations to the Middle East and Islam; relations to the cultures of the Mediterranean; intellectual centers and universities; economic strengths and their regional differences; concepts of war and alliances.

Professor Eva Haverkamp

FOCUS EUROPE: POLICY DEBATES IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

(Course number to be announced. First offered in Fall 2006)

The ancient idea of a unified Europe gained momentum after 1945 as a response to the crisis of total war, and to the division of the European continent in the Cold War era. Since 2004 the idea of Europe has gained momentum with the addition of ten new member states, mostly from the former communist block. This course will introduce students to the study of current European policy issues in both a contemporary and historical perspective. Specifically we will examine the status of Muslimson a continent that has traditionally seen itself as

Christian; we will ask the question "Who is a European?" by examining patterns of migration and immigration for reasons of war, work, and religion; and we will study the welfare state, once a response to communism, but now increasingly dependent on workers and immigrants from the European periphery and beyond. This course, co-taught by a historian and a literary scholar, will demonstrate how resources from the humanities can illuminate the patterns underlying contemporary European policy issues, and the passions that inform them.

Professor Sarah Westphal & Professor Lora Wildenthal

FACULTY

G. DANIEL COHEN is Assistant Professor of History. Educated at Tel Aviv University and New York University, he teaches French and European history, specializing in the post-war period. His main research interests are in migration, political refugees, and intellectual and political history after 1945.

Humanities 305—713 348 2543—gcdohen@rice.edu

STEVEN CROWELL is Mullen Professor of Philosophy and German Studies, and Chair of the Department of Philosophy. He is the author of *Husserl, Heidegger, and the Space of Meaning* (Northwestern University Press, 2001) and of numerous articles on European thinkers from Kant and Nietzsche to Derrida and Levinas. His current research concerns the existential sources of normativity, on which he is conducting a Mellon Seminar in 2005-06.

Humanities 224—713 348 2719—crowell@rice.edu

SARAH ELLENZWEIG is Assistant Professor of English. She teaches courses on literary analysis and literary form, as well as on Restoration and eighteenth-century literature and culture. She has published articles on class politics and religion in Enlightenment literature in *ELH*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, and *Journal of British Studies*. Currently, she is working on a book on Freethinking in English literature from Rochester to Swift.

Herring Hall 330—713 348 3208—sellenz@rice.edu

CHRISTIAN EMDEN is Assistant Professor of German Studies. Educated at the University of Konstanz, Germany, and Cambridge University, England, his main area of research is German In-

tellectual History since 1750. Before coming to Rice, he was a Fellow of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. He is the author of *Nietzsche on Language, Consciousness, and the Body* (University of Illinois Press, 2005) and is currently working on the relationship between historical consciousness and the political imagination in Germany. He is also interested in the history of science and technology, especially with regard to their effect on the cultural imagination in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Europe, and in theories of nationalism, sovereignty, and violence.

Rayzor Hall 326—713 348 5312—emden@rice.edu

EVA HAVERKAMP is Anna Smith Fine Assistant Professor of History. She studied at the Universities of Cologne, Jerusalem, and Konstanz, and is the author of *Hebräische Berichte über die Judenverfolgungen während des Ersten Kreuzzugs* (Monumenta Germaniae Historica and Israel Academy, 2005). Working on historiography in Jewish and Christian culture, her current interests include the relationship between Jewish and Christian communities in the Middle Ages and the notion of Empire in medieval Europe. Recently, she was elected a Fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities, of the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University, and of the Humanities Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Humanities 314—713 348 8085—haver@rice.edu

R. LANE KAUFFMANN is Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies. His training was in Comparative Literature at the University of California, San Diego. His research concerns European theories of the essay, Spanish literary and intellectual history (particularly in relation to the invention of national identity), and hermeneutics and alterity. He teaches modern Spanish literature and art, literary theory, and humanities. He edited a special issue of *L'Esprit Créateur* (1991) on the work of Jean-François Lyotard, and has published articles on the European essay, literary theory and criticism, and Latin American short fiction. He is co-editing, with Beatriz González-Stephan, a collection of essays on *Reinventing Hispanism*.

Rayzor Hall 312—713 348 5403—rlk@rice.edu

LOUISA SHEA is Assistant Professor of French Studies. She studied at Harvard University and Cambridge University, England. Her current teaching and research is concerned with eighteenth-century French literature and culture, the Enlightenment and its legacy in modern Europe,

continental philosophy, literary and aesthetic theory, and French cinema. She is currently working on a book on *Cynicism and the Question of Enlightenment*.
Rayzor Hall 228—713 348 2956—lshea@rice.edu

UWE STEINER is Associate Professor of German Studies. His research and teaching encompasses German literature and culture from the seventeenth century to the present. He is the author of three books, most recently *Walter Benjamin* (Metzler, 2004) and *Poetische Theodizee: Philosophie und Poesie in der lehrhaften Dichtung im achtzehnten Jahrhundert* (Wilhelm Fink, 2000). His current work focuses on Walter Benjamin, the Frankfurt School, and Critical Theory.
Rayzor Hall 331—713 348 3243—ustein@rice.edu

SARAH WESTPHAL is Associate Professor of German Studies. She is the author of *Textual Poetics of German Manuscripts 1300-1500* (Camden House, 1993). From 1985 to 1990 she served as an Associate Editor of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. Her current research is concerned with the representation of women in medieval fictional trials and how this relates to the theory of gender in medieval customary law. She has also carried out collaborative research and publishing on the implications of stories of violence against girls for contemporary legal theory. Currently, one of her main interests is in the relationship between law and literature.
Rayzor Hall 327—713 348 4192—westphal@rice.edu

LORA WILDENTHAL is Associate Professor of History. Her research and teaching focuses on modern Germany, European women, human rights, nationalism, gender and feminism in modern Europe, and on colonialism. She was a Fellow at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University and taught at M.I.T. and Texas A&M before coming to Rice. The author of *German Women for Empire, 1884-1945* (Duke University Press, 2001), she is currently working on a book manuscript on the human rights movement in post-war Germany.
Humanities 318—713 348 3526—wildenth@rice.edu

JOHN H. ZAMMITO is John Antony Weir Professor of History and Chair of the Department of German & Slavic Studies at Rice University. His research centers on the German Enlightenment and the works and relationship of Immanuel Kant and Johann Gottfried Herder. Publications include: *The Genesis of Kant's Critique of Judgment* (1992), *Kant,*

Herder and the Birth of Anthropology (2002), and *A Nice Derangement of Epistemes: Post-Positivism in the Study of Science from Quine to Latour* (2004), all from University of Chicago Press. His current research focuses on the relation between developments in the life sciences and philosophy in the Enlightenment.
Humanities 317—713 348 2453—zammito@rice.edu

RACHEL ZUCKERT, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, studied at Williams College, at Oxford University, England, and at the University of Chicago. Her research focuses on Kant's philosophy, particularly Kant's aesthetics, but her research interests include, more broadly, developing conceptions of subjectivity, aesthetics, and the foundations of political liberalism in the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century European philosophical traditions. Recent publications include "Boring Beauty and Universal Morality: Kant on the Ideal of Beauty," *Inquiry* 2005. She is currently working on a book on Kant's Critique of Judgment.
Humanities 214—713 348 2298—rzuckert@rice.edu