

HI2J5-15 United in diversity? A history of Europe since 1945 - Brussels Residential Module

23/24

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Pierre Purseigle

Credit value

15

Module duration

4 weeks

Assessment

90% coursework, 10% exam

Study location

VUB Brussels

Description

Introductory description

This module will explore the history of Europe since 1945.

Module aims

This residential module will introduce students to key themes and issues in the history of Europe since 1945. It will consider the transformations of European societies, politics, and culture during the period. It will also analyse the regional and global dynamics that account for the contested process of integration of this diverse and often fragmented continent.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

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Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- To gain a broad understanding of the course of European history since 1945
- To be able to identify a range of related conceptual approaches and historiographical debates, including the nature, value, and limitations of transnational and comparative approaches
- To be able to identify and engage with a range of relevant primary sources
- To gain interpersonal and communication skills through the delivery of a presentation

Indicative reading list

Tom Buchanan, *Europe's Troubled Peace, 1945-2000* (London, 2012).
Mary Fulbrook (ed.), *Europe since 1945* (Oxford, 2001)
Konrad Jarausch, *Out of Ashes: A New History of Europe in the Twentieth Century* (Princeton, 2015)
Tony Judt, *Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945* (New York, 2005)
Mark Gilbert, *European Integration: A Concise History. Revised, Updated edition* (Lanham, 2011)
Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century* (London, 2000)
Mark Pittaway, *Eastern Europe 1939-2000*. London: Bloomsbury, 2004
Michael Richards and Paul Waibel, *Twentieth Century Europe: A Brief History, 1900 to the Present* (Abingdon, 2014).
James J. Sheehan, *Where Have All the Soldiers Gone?: The Transformation of Modern Europe* (Boston, 2009).
Dan Stone, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Postwar European History*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2012
Philip Ther, *Europe Since 1989*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2016
Rosemary Wakeman (ed.), *Themes in Modern European History since 1945* (London, 2003)

Research element

Students will be invited to consider museum collection and urban heritage as sources for the history of modern and contemporary Europe.

Interdisciplinary

Students will be invited to engaged with concepts and debates elaborated by political scientists, sociologists and other social scientists. The module is designed to provide the students with an understanding of relationships between the different disciplinary areas within the Humanities and Social Sciences, particularly History, Politics and Sociology. It also invites to the students to make connections with other disciplinary areas covered in their main study programme. It provides the students with a critical understanding of dominant traditions and methodologies associated with

the main phenomena covered in the module and enables the students to transcend disciplinary boundaries. The interdisciplinary course cohort provides contact opportunities and learning to see from different perspectives is a core aspect of the learning experience.

International

The residential module in Brussels will be delivered in a cosmopolitan city and with the support of both non-UK and transnational institutions. Students will engage with comparative and transnational methodologies and will do so in an intercultural context.

The module draws on cases from different contexts and different European countries and regions. The assessment involves students working in groups which will allow for a global and local outlook to be built into the module's work. The international and diverse course cohort provides contact opportunities and learning to see from different perspectives is a core aspect of the learning experience.

Subject specific skills

see learning outcomes

Transferable skills

Work effectively with others in group tasks and in teams; Plan and manage time in projects; Develop strong analytical skills; Find, evaluate and use previous research at a level appropriate for a second year module. Use a range of tools and resources effectively in the preparation of course work. Use appropriate analytic methods to analyse research data on modern and contemporary Europe. Read academic papers effectively in the context of an intensive programme; Communicate clearly and effectively in discussions; Communicate ideas effectively in writing.

Study

Study time

Type	Required	Optional
Lectures	1 session of 2 hours (1%)	1 session of 2 hours
Seminars	4 sessions of 2 hours (5%)	4 sessions of 2 hours
Practical classes	2 sessions of 2 hours (3%)	2 sessions of 2 hours
External visits	3 sessions of 3 hours (6%)	3 sessions of 3 hours
Private study	120 hours (80%)	
Assessment	7 hours (5%)	
Total	150 hours	

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group D1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Group Presentation 1 Analysis of a primary source	30%	2 hours	No
Reassessment component			
Commentary Commentary on primary source extract			Yes (extension)
Assessment component			
Group Presentation 2 Critical exploration of a historiographical debate	30%	2 hours	No
Reassessment component			
Historiographical Essay			Yes (extension)

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
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Assessment component			
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Group Presentation 3	30%	2 hours	No
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Students will debate a topic adopting the perspective of historical participants

Reassessment component			
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Essay			Yes (extension)
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Assessment component			
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Seminar Contribution	10%	1 hour	No
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Reassessment component			
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Reflective Piece			Yes (extension)
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Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in writing. Further oral feedback and clarification will be provided upon request.

[Past exam papers for HI2J5](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)
- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History