

University of Cyprus
Department of English Studies

ENG 249: Frontiers of/in Europe

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ECTS: 5

Office Hours: T 12.00-2.00; T 6.00-7.00; F 6.00-7.00

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course considers the notion of frontiers from an interdisciplinary perspective by bringing together texts from Philosophy, Literature, History, Cultural Criticism and Cinema. The main aim of the course is to critically assess the significance of various types and understandings of frontiers for the meaning of Europe. The central questions examined in this course are: (a) Is the question of frontiers necessarily and exclusively a question about geography? And (b) How is our understanding of frontiers informed by closely examining ossified ways of thinking? Thematically the course is divided three sections. The first, *Theocentrism and European Expansionism*, examines the notion of spatial frontiers. The second, *Anthropocentrism and Thoughtlessness*, examines thought-frontiers through a close reading of Hannah Arendt's controversial report on the Eichmann trial. And finally, the third section, *Otherness and Frontier Shifting*, critically examines Europe's relationship with its Others within and without.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Arendt Hannah. *Eichmann in Jerusalem, a report on the Banality of Evil*. NY: Penguin, 196. **(Required)**

Césaire, Aimé. *Discourse on Colonialism*, trans. Joan Pinkham. NY: Monthly Review Press, 2000. **(Required)**

De Las Casas Bartolome. *The Devastation of the Indies, a brief account*, trans. Herma Briffault. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1992. **(Required)**

Heidegger Martin. *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*, trans. William Lovitt. NY: Harper and Row, 1977.

FILMOGRAPHY

Chrysanthou, Panicos. *Our Wall* (Cyprus, 1993)

Joffe, Roland. *The Mission* (UK, 1986)

Pierson, Frank. *Conspiracy* (UK, 2001).

Revenioti, Paola. *Kalosorisma* (Greece, 2017).

Schirk, Heinz. *The Final Solution: The Wannsee Conference* (Austria, 1984)

Stylianou, Danai. *Sharing an Island* (Cyprus, 2012)

Von Trotta, Margarethe. *Hannah Arendt* (Germany, 2012)

Williams, Paul Andrew. *The Eichmann Show* (UK, 2015)

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Class Preparation and Participation

I expect everyone to come to class fully prepared to discuss the material. Preparation includes reading the material, taking detailed notes, and noting down questions. As you are reading each of the assignments try to think what the main argument of the reading is and how the author arrives at such a conclusion. Engage with the author in such a way that as you read, try, to also respond in your mind, or by taking notes, to what she or he says. Excellent participation involves regular, thoughtful contributions to discussions: expressing your understanding of the material, and developing and thinking critically about your own positions. Some of the material that we will read makes for a lively class discussion; while disagreement is expected disrespect will not be tolerated.

Attendance

Missing any class, coming in late to class, or leaving early will all detract from the final grade; if you do miss a class, you are still completely responsible for knowing what was covered in class that day and for finding out if there were any assignments given. Please call another student in the class to find out what you missed.

Note: *The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited during class time.* Your phones must be switched off while you are in class unless there is an extremely serious reason for you to keep them on.

Late Paper/Assignment Submission Policy

All papers assigned for this course must be submitted on the dates, times and places indicated on your syllabus and/or assignments. No email submissions will be accepted unless you have checked with me in advance. Failure to meet deadlines will result in a reduction of your overall grade. No exceptions will be made. In cases of illness or other such unforeseeable circumstance please contact me and provide the necessary documentation.

Presentations/Response Papers

You will be responsible for a presentation and a response paper. Assigned topics and further instructions will be provided later on in the semester.

Films

Unless otherwise specified, please consider the films required for this course as your homework and watch them at your own time. You should study them as you would study any other text you are assigned.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. It involves stealing other people's ideas and presenting them as your own. Some examples of plagiarism are: copying another's work, word for word, and presenting it as your own; "borrowing," without properly acknowledging the source, paragraphs, sentences, ideas, or even key concepts; and paraphrasing another's work and claiming it as your own. Additional information about plagiarism and citation rules will be provided during the semester. Exhibiting lack of academic integrity in any of its varied forms will result in a failing grade.

Grading

Participation/Preparation 10%

Presentations/In-Class Assignments/Reflection Papers 15%

Midterm Exam (in-class) 25%

Final Exam (in-class) 50%

SCHEDULE

Introduction

WEEK 1: Jan.15-18

Optional Reading:

- Martin Heidegger, *The Age of the World Picture*

European Expansionism

WEEK 2: Jan. 22-25

Reading:

- Bartolome De Las Casas, *The Devastation of the Indies*

WEEK 3: Jan. 29-Feb.1

Reading:

- Bartolome De Las Casas, *The Devastation of the Indies*

WEEK 4: Feb. 5-8

View:

- Roland Joffe's *The Mission* (1986)

Thoughtlessness

WEEK 5: Feb. 12-15

View:

- Heinz, Schirk. *The Final Solution: The Wannsee Conference* (UK, 1984)
- Frank, Pierson. *Conspiracy* (UK, 2001)
- Paul Andrew Williams. *The Eichmann Show* (UK, 2015)

Reading:

- Hannah Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

WEEK 6: Feb. 19-22

Reading:

- Hannah Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

WEEK 7: Feb. 26-March 1

Reading:

- Hannah Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

*******MIDTERM IN-CLASS EXAMINATION March 1 *******

WEEK 8: March 5-8

View:

- Margarethe Von Trotta. *Hannah Arendt* (Germany, 2012)

Otherness and Frontier Shifting

WEEK 9: March 12-15: Colonialism

Reading:

- Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*

WEEK 10: March 19-22:

Reading:

- Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*

WEEK 11: March 26-29: The Cyprus Conflict

Reading:

- Selection of newspaper and magazine articles on the Cyprus Conflict

View:

- Panicos Chrysanthou. *Our Wall* (Cyprus, 1993)
- Danai Stylianou. *Sharing an Island* (Cyprus, 2012)

WEEK 12: April 2-5: Linguistic Frontiers

Reading:

- John McWhorter, "How Immigration Changes Language." Read at <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/12/language-immigrants-multiethnolect/420285/>

WEEK 13: April 9-12: Refugee Crisis

View:

- Paola Revenioti. *Kalosorisma* (Greece, 2017).

WEEK 14: April 16-19 Final Thoughts