THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Objectives
Political Europe has over the past few decades been changing at a rapid and increasing rate. Today, Europe faces a set of critical challenges, as well as opportunities for world leadership. This seminar will discuss some of the key challenges currently facing Europe: political integration, peace, monetary and economic crisis, international migration, and the fiscal and demographic challenges to the welfare state. The seminar will use a variety of teaching materials.

Approach
This is a freshman seminar, with no prerequisites. There will be five seminar meetings. Class attendance is required, and except for the first day of class you should come to class prepared to discuss the literature assigned for that day. During our initial meeting we shall explore the meaning and evolution of Europe. The remaining seminar meetings will explore four contemporary European challenges. You will have to write a brief discussion paper (800 words or more) on a study question related to one of these themes. Papers are due no later than noon the day before we discuss the topic in class (Tuesday), or preferably earlier. They can be left in an envelope outside my office (SSB 384). All dates and class schedules are subject to change.

Books and Materials
There are two main texts for the course:
Shorter assignments will be made from other readings, as listed below.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

Wednesday, January 9: The Meaning and Evolution of Europe
Alesina and Giavazzi, Introduction.
Leonard, Preface and Introduction.
Study Questions:
1. What is Europe?
2. In what ways is Europe distinctive?
3. One Europe, East vs. West, or North vs. South?
4. Where should Europe end?

Wednesday, January 16: Does the European Union Deserve the Nobel Peace Prize?
Alesina and Giavazzi, chs. 1 and 10.
Leonard, chs. 1-5, 7, 10-11.
Study Questions:
1. Can the European Union democratize the surrounding world?
2. How has war shaped Europe?
3. How has Europe shaped war?
4. Does the European Union have a democratic deficit?
5. Has European integration been driven by a desire for peace, French nationalism, Christian Democracy, or by fear of the Soviet Union?

Wednesday, January 23: The Euro and the Economic Crisis
Alesina and Giavazzi, ch. 12-14.
Leonard, ch. 6.

Study Questions:
1. What is the point of monetary integration?
2. How did most of Europe come to embrace the Euro?
3. The Euro crisis: Greek fraud, European negligence, or Wall Street collateral damage?
4. Should Denmark, Sweden, and Britain, and the new EU members count their blessings?

Wednesday, January 30: International Migration and Citizenship
Alesina and Giavazzi, ch. 2

Study Questions:
1. Is Europe’s immigration experience more difficult than America’s?
2. Does migration foster or hinder European integration?
3. Will immigration make Europe richer or poorer?
4. Will immigration make Europe more violent?

Wednesday, February 6: The Welfare State and the Graying of Europe
Alesina and Giavazzi, chs. 3-5 and 8.
Leonard, ch. 6.

Study Questions:
1. How has the welfare state affected poverty in Europe?
2. Can the Stockholm consensus be a model for the world?
3. Is the welfare state a mechanism for social stability or a political addiction?
4. Will falling birth rates doom Europe?