

G364: German Culture  
M,W: 9:30-10:45; BH 221

Professor William Rasch

Office: BH 664; Office hrs: by appt (call: 855-7947); email: wrasch

## EUROPEAN IDENTITIES

### DESCRIPTION

This course will look at a variety of ways Europe and/or European nation-states (e.g. Germany) have constructed identities. In particular, we will look at how political and cultural identities – the idea of “Europe” or of “Germany” – are fashioned in terms of what and who they are *not*. In other words, we will examine in what way “selves” are determined by the idea of their “others,” or “friends” by their “enemies.”

The course will be based on the careful reading and discussion of literary, historical, theological, and philosophical texts. Students will also be encouraged to locate and introduce related material. Requirements include active participation in discussion, regular short writing assignments, and a final project.

The purpose of the class is at least twofold: to make ourselves aware of certain recurrent patterns in European history and give us a historically and theoretically rich background understanding of contemporary Europe’s attempt to form, as the saying goes, “a more perfect union.”

### TEXTS

#### Books:

*Poem of the Cid*  
Fletcher: *Quest for El Cid*  
Kant: *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*  
Las Casas: *Short Account of Destruction of Indians*  
Riley-Smith: *The First Crusade and the Idea of Crusading*  
Rothenberg: *The Napoleonic Wars*  
Todorov: *The Conquest of America*  
Wells: *The Battle that Stopped Rome*

#### E-reserves (password: **giant**)

Asad: “Muslims and European Identity”  
Clausewitz: *Historical & Political Writings* (250-62, 279-303, 329-34)  
Erdmann: *Origin of the Idea of Crusade* (3-34)  
Fichte: *Lectures to the German Nation* (lectures 1, 4, 8)  
Habermas: “Kant’s Idea of Perpetual Peace”  
(Available under Bohman for course G825, password: **attract**)  
Maalouf: *Crusades Through Arab Eyes* (xii-55)  
Mastnak: *Crusading Peace* (1-54)  
Peters: *First Crusade* (25-41, 245-60, 272-77)  
Taylor: *Philosophical Arguments* (“Politics of Recognition”)  
Todorov: *New World Disorder* (60-72)  
Vitoria: *On the American Indians*

## SCHEDULE

Week of:      Readings:

J 9                M: Introduction

### Christianity and Islam

W: *The Poem of the Cid*: Introduction, First Cantar

J 16              M: *The Poem of the Cid*: Second Cantar

W: *The Poem of the Cid*: Third Cantar

J 23              M: Fletcher: *Quest for El Cid* (pp. 3-104 [pp. 27-41, 58-85 **optional**])

W: Fletcher: *Quest for El Cid* (pp. 107-205)

J 30              M: Peters: *First Crusade* (25-41)

                    Erdmann: *Origin of Idea of Crusade* (3-34)

                    Mastnak: *Crusading Peace* (pp. 1-54)

W: Peters: *First Crusade* (245-60)

                    Riley-Smith: *The First Crusade* (1-57)

F 6                M: Peters: *First Crusade* (272-77)

                    Maalouf: *Crusades Through Arab Eyes* (xii-55)

                    Riley-Smith: *The First Crusade* (58-119)

W: Riley-Smith: *The First Crusade* (120-55)

                    Wrap-up

### Conquest of the New World

F 13              M: Las Casas: *Short Account* (pp. xiii-56)

W: Las Casas: *Short Account* (pp. 57-130)

F 20              M: Vitoria: *On the American Indians*

W: Vitoria: *On the American Indians* (cont.)

F 27              M: Todorov: *Conquest of America* (chaps. 1 [“Discovery”], 3 [“Love”])

W: Todorov: *Conquest* (chap. 4, section one [“Typology...”], Epilogue)

M 6                M: Summing Up First Part of Semester

W: ditto

**First paper due Wednesday, March 8**

M 13              **SPRING BREAK**

## Nationalism

- M 20 M: Wells: *Battle that Stopped Rome* (15-124)  
W: Wells: *Battle that Stopped Rome* (125-220)
- M 27 M: Fichte: *Lectures to the German Nation* (lectures 1, 4, and 8)  
W: Clausewitz: *Historical and Political Writings* 250-62  
Rothenberg: *Napoleonic Wars* (15-48)
- A 3 M: Clausewitz: *Historical and Political Writings* (279-303)  
Rothenberg: *Napoleonic Wars* (79-132)  
W: Clausewitz: *Historical and Political Writings* (329-34)  
Rothenberg: *Napoleonic Wars* (157-90)

## Perpetual Peace

- A 10 M: Kant: "Perpetual Peace"  
W: Habermas: "Kant's Idea of Perpetual Peace"
- A 17 M: Habermas: "Kant's Idea" (cont.)  
Taylor: "Politics of Recognition"  
W: Taylor: "Politics of Recognition" (cont.)

## Europe?

- A 24 M: Todorov: *New World Disorder* (pp. 60-72)  
Asad: "Muslims and European Identity" (under Pagden)  
W: Wrap-up
- M 1 M: **Second paper due Monday, May 1.**

## Assignments

Attendance:	10%
Participation:	15%
Homework:	25%
Papers:	25% each

*Attendance:* mandatory (doctor's notice for absence)

*Participation:* active participation in discussion required

*Homework:* written answers (ca. 1 page single-spaced) to study questions, weekly

*Papers:* 2 ca. 10-page (double-spaced) papers. The **first paper is due March 8** on any aspect of course covered by that date; the **second paper is due May 1** on any aspect of course covered after spring break.