

## Senior Seminar Course Proposal

### 1. Catalog Description

- a. **Course Number:** EIU 4113G
- b. **Course Title:** The European Union: A Multi-cultural Approach.
- c. **Meeting Times & Credit:** 3-0-3
- d. **Terms to be Offered:** On demand
- e. **European Union**
- f. **Catalog Description:** Through an investigation of the EU websites, the course introduces students to the unique aspects of the individual EU member countries, such as culture, language, and educational policies, and demonstrates how the countries relate to one another in spite or because of their differences.
- g. Foreign Language majors are excluded from this course.
- h. **Prerequisite:** 75 hours completed
- i. This course is writing intensive.

### 2. Student Learning Objectives

In accordance with the goals of general education students will

- Explore how language forms a major component of cultural and national pride (global citizenship)
- Discuss the meaning of culture, then learn about the different cultures of the countries that are members of the European Union (oral communication, global citizenship)
- Investigate educational institutions (reflective thinking)
- Discuss people and symbols associated with the member countries and the EU and examine how these items affect perception, especially American, of the EU (critical thinking, global citizenship)
- Examine tourism in the member countries and in the EU (global citizenship)
- Learn about the European currency, the euro, and its importance for unity (critical thinking, global citizenship)
- Discuss how the model of tolerance and multi-culturalism provided by the EU can be integrated into their lives and how the ideas discussed can be related to their majors (oral communication, critical and reflective thinking, global citizenship)
- Demonstrate the ability to examine issues from a global perspective and the ability to summarize information in written form (literacy, critical thinking, global citizenship)

### 3. Outline of the Course

The course will meet for 15 weeks of 15 sessions of 150 minute classes.

Week 1: Introduction - What is the EU? Overview of the 15 member countries  
On eight occasions during the semester students will be asked to select one of the 15 EU member countries to investigate and represent in the ensuing discussions. A different country must be chosen for each topic.  
Countries selected for Week 2 discussion

Week 2: Languages - importance, recognition of and official role of the eleven EU languages

	Discussion of 11 languages and countries where they are spoken
Week 3:	Languages - historical relationships, similarities and differences Language families and the development of the 11 EU languages
Week 4:	Language - linguistic nationalism Why does the EU have 11 official languages? Will this change? Countries chosen for Week 5 discussion
Week 5:	Culture - The Arts -individual country policies and agencies Students present the policies of country chosen in Week 4
Week 6:	Culture - The Arts -EU policies and agencies Students compare policies of country chosen in Week 4 to EU policies Countries selected for Week 7 discussion
Week 7:	Culture - leisure time entertainment Students present information on this subject. Countries selected for Week 8 discussion
Week 8:	Education - individual country policies and agencies Students discuss educational policies of selected country
Week 9:	Education - EU policies and agencies Students compare educational policies of selected country to EU policies Countries selected for Week 10 discussion
Week 10:	Famous Figures - past and present - stereotypes, misconceptions Countries selected for Week 11 discussion
Week 11:	National Symbols - EU symbols - How is the EU perceived by others? Countries selected for Week 13 discussion
Week 12:	Assessment Activities
Week 13:	Tourism - open borders, open minds? Countries selected for Week 14 discussion
Week 14:	The Euro - The economy as a major concern for citizens What are the current monetary units? How is the euro perceived/received?
Week 15:	Summary

#### **4. Evaluation of Student Learning:**

**a.** Students will be evaluated as follows:

5 compositions based on individual research on selected unit topics	50%
class participation and oral presentations	30%
final exam	20%

**b.** This course satisfies the criteria for a writing-intensive course because 70% of the final grade is based on written work. At least one of the five unit compositions will be returned with comments, revised, and resubmitted. The final exam will test the student's ability to present a cohesive picture of the EU.

**5. Rationale:**

- a. Senior Seminar
- b. Prerequisite: 75 hours completed
- c. This course does not duplicate any current offerings.
- d. This course will not be required in any majors or programs other than general education senior seminar. Foreign Language majors are excluded from this course.

**6. Implementation**

- a. **Faculty Member to Whom the Course May be Assigned:** course will be assigned initially to Shelley French
- b. **Texts:** The web sites of the European Union: [www.europarl.eu.int](http://www.europarl.eu.int)  
[www.europa.int](http://www.europa.int)
- c. **Additional Cost to Students:** no additional cost
- d. **First Term to be Offered:** Spring, 2002

**7. Community College Transfer:** a community college course will not be judged equivalent to this course.

**8. Date approved by the College Curriculum Committee:** 7 March 2001

**9. Date approved by the Senior Seminar Advisory Committee:** 2 May 2001

**10. Date approved by CAA:** 13 September 2001

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