



## COURSE SYLLABUS

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Course: **Political Geography of Europe**

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### COURSE DATA

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Degree                       | Diploma in Humanities and Global Challenges  |
| Academic Year                | 2025-26                                      |
| Credits                      | 6  |
| Course type                  | Elective                                     |
| Departament                  | International relations                      |
| Language of instruction      | English                                      |
| Name and email of instructor | Alessia Putin Ghidini<br>aputin@comillas.edu |

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### SHORT DESCRIPTION

The subject delves into the geopolitical and geographical relationship of Europe with the rest of the world, emphasizing the historical European influence at a global level. The main objective of this course is to introduce students to the geographical, historical, political, cultural, and socioeconomic evolution of the idea of Europe. It will facilitate understanding of the stages, protagonists, and sociopolitical realities of Europe and its relationship with the rest of the world.

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### CONTENTS AND STRUCTURE

TOPIC 1: INTRODUCTION

TOPIC 2: POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOPOLITICS

TOPIC 3: RUSSIA

TOPIC 4: CHINA

TOPIC 5: WESTERN EUROPE

TOPIC 6: UNITED STATES

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TOPIC 7: AFRICA

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TOPIC 8: MIDDLE EAST

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TOPIC 9: KOREAN AND JAPAN

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TOPIC 10: INDIA AND PAKISTAN

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TOPIC 11: LATIN AMERICA

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TOPIC 12: THE ARTIC

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## **METHODOLOGY**

The comprehensive learning of any historical and geographical subject requires a necessary effort of personal discovery on the part of the student, duly supervised by the professor. The professor is primarily responsible for lectures, support, and academic supervision; however, the student is responsible for active participation in their own learning, the assimilation of topics, and the development of their own critical thinking. To this end, each student must participate in collaborative projects, present a group project in class, and participate in discussions. They may also complete freely chosen optional assignments with the help of the professor. This method not only aims to develop skills specific to the subject area, but also those generic to the degree/course listed above. The limited number of contact hours allocated to this subject requires strict control over time allocation. Taking all this into account, a tight schedule has been developed that assigns each week to the study of a specific topic.

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## **ASSESSMENT AND GRADING**

| <b>Assessment type</b> | <b>Assessment criteria</b>  | <b>Percentage</b> |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| FINAL EXAM             | A final written EXAM in which you will answer questions that assess your knowledge and understanding of everything covered in class. It will cover the program content, including all materials explained in class.<br>The student must pass (5) the exam so that his/her grade can be completed with the rest of the activities carried out. | 70%               |
| INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY    | Class Readings, Attendance, punctuality and Participation Class attendance is considered essential for mastering the subject matter. Unjustified absences from one-third of the class time may result in the inability to sit for exams, both in ordinary and extraordinary calls, as established by the Faculty's Academic Regulations.      | 15%               |

|                |  |     |
|----------------|--|-----|
| GROUP ACTIVITY | The topics for group work will be explained in the first classes. Readings and presentations, as determined by the professor. Failure to attend the presentation will result in a 0 for the student. | 15% |
|                |  |     |
|                |  |     |

- Committing any serious academic misconduct, such as **plagiarism** of previously published material, or **copying** in the exam or any other graded activity, **will imply not being able to pass the course in the ordinary assessment period.**
- The **use of AI** to create complete works or relevant parts, without citing the source or the tool or without being expressly allowed in the description of the work, will be considered plagiarism and regulated according to the General Regulations of the University.
- At the beginning of the term the professor will announce the office hours for the course. Tutorials are an essential part of the development of the course, and students may attend tutorials during the course within those office times, but it is recommended that they are arranged in advance with the professor.
- Any non-face-to-face learning activity that requires the submission of an assignment/document, etc. will be submitted by the student through Moodle, always in PDF format.
- To be able to take the final exam, students must not have missed **more than one third of the classes without justification.** If this requirement is not met, the student may lose the right to be assessed both in the ordinary and extraordinary assessment period (art. 93-1 of the General Regulations). Failure to attend to the first hour of a two-hour lecture, means having missed the whole session in terms of attendance, regardless of whether or not the student the second hour.

| <b>STUDENT WORKLOAD</b> (in hours) |                   |         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| CONTACT HOURS                      | OUTSIDE CLASSROOM | OVERALL |
| 60                                 | 90                | 150     |

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## READING LIST / RELEVANT REFERENCES

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**Marshall, T. (2015). *Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything You Need to Know About Global Politics*. Elliott & Thompson.**

**Acemoglu, D., & Robinson, J. A. (2012).** *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. Crown Business. ISBN: 9780307719218.

**Rosling, H., Rosling, O., & Rosling Rönnlund, A. (2018).** *Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think*. Flatiron Books. ISBN: 9781250123817.

**Wells, H. G. (1922).** *A Short History of the World*. Cassell & Company (Londres) / The Macmillan Company (Nueva York).  
Ediciones modernas: Penguin Classics (2006). ISBN: 9780141441825.

**Harari, Y. N. (2015).** *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*. Vintage. ISBN: 9780099590088

**Pinker, S. (2018).** *Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress*. Viking.

**Fukuyama, F. (2006).** *The End of History and the Last Man* (Reprint ed.). Simon & Schuster. (Obra original publicada en 1992) [ISBN: 0743284550]

**Brooks, A. (2017).** *The End of Development: A Global History of Poverty and Prosperity*. Zed Books. [ISBN: 9781786990204]

**López Linares, M. (2019).** *Entender Europa*. Amazon.

**Putin Ghidini, A. (2024).** *El rearme occidental: Un nuevo impulso al orden liberal*. Editorial Almuzara, Colección Universidad. Córdoba, España. [ISBN: 9788410521995]