

**Hist 6 C: Changing
Societies History and
the News: Europe and
European Union**

Fall 2022

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Course Description:

Have you ever wondered what a historian takes from his or her reading of the newspaper? Why do your history teachers make such a big deal over keeping up with the news (after all they study the past, not the present, right?). Who cares about newspapers in a day when you can get your news more rapidly by going online? We will discuss how we read and analyze the news, how to follow a news story over a period of time, and how to discuss those stories. We will also discuss the relationship between news literacy and citizenship, considering the role of a free press and an educated readership in a democracy. We focus primarily on Europe and the European Union (EU).

Requirements:

- Read *The New York Times* and *The EU Observer* (<https://euobserver.com/>) at least three times a week.
- Keep a log of the articles you read and clip the article(s) you consider most important in that day's reading.
- Attend class
- One paper 5-7 pages, due on the last class.

Attendance Policy:

Your attendance and participation count for 50% of your final grade. If you miss two or more classes, you will receive an "F" for this part of the course.

Important information:

<https://www.hofstra.edu/provost/course-syllabi-information.html>

Warning: This is a one credit course but if you do not attend class, complete assignments and engage the project you will get an "F" grade!

Note on the reading: *The New York Times* is one of the leading national/international newspapers and is available on line for a small student subscription fee. You are expected to come to class on Thursdays with a copy of the paper on your computer. *The EU Observer* is also required reading for the course. It is a free on-line periodical. Please bring at least 3 stories a week to discuss in class. You are encouraged to read other newspapers or periodicals (weekly or monthly news magazines) but *The New York Times* and *The EU Observer* will serve as our common reading.

https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu_en

Course Schedule:

9/8: -**Introduction: What is the EU?**

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/how-does-european-union-work>

9/15: How do we read the news? For this class begin keeping your reading log. Try reading the newspaper every day this week. Note down when you read the paper, where you are, and then track how you read. Where do you begin? What section do you look at first? What stories attract your attention? Are there stories that you feel obligated to read? When you do get to the editorial page? When do you get there and what do you read - the letters to the editor? the editorials, the op-ed articles? Pick a topic that you will follow for the next weeks. You will be asked to update the class periodically.

9/22 Guest Speaker Dr. Carolyn Dudek – *EU and the migrant crisis?*

<https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2022/03/30/how-the-war-in-ukraine-compares-to-other-refugee-crises>

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2022/02/25/as-ukrainian-refugees-arrive-poland-prepares-to-do-the-right-thing?> -

9/29: In Axinn Library, we will learn how to access *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The London Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, as well as EU newspapers and web sources (France 24).

10/6 : Guest Speaker: Dr. Santiago Slabodsky *Antisemitism/Islamophobia and the EU*:

1. Discussion I: Are Jews and Muslim Eternal Enemies?

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-jewish-muslim-fathers-viral-photo-met-20170131-story.html>

<https://contendingmodernities.nd.edu/theorizing-modernities/eternal-enmities/>

2. Discussion II: Are Muslims the New Jews in Europe?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2007/feb/02/comment.religion1>

<https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/news/articles/islamophobia-anti-semitism>

<http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/60/144.html>

<http://www.israelwhat.com/2011/11/13/university-of-bergen-professor-muslims-are-the-new-jews-norwegian-muslim-europes-new-jews-are-still-the-jews/>

<https://politicaltheology.com/laughing-with-charlie-but-never-about-charlie-by-santiago-slabodsky/>

10/13 – NO CLASS

10/20 Comparing news sources: periodicals, CNN, *The Guardian*, the *Middle Eastern*, *Al Jazeera*, the Italian *La Repubblica* and the Spanish *El Pais*

10/27- Reading Weekly/Monthly news periodicals (What's the difference between reading *The National Review*, *The New Republic*, *The Nation*, or *The New Yorker*?)

11/3: Guest speaker: Dr. Carolyn Eisenberg: NATO and the EU (*The Nation* article)

11/10 - Paper Due & Course Assessment

