

TRANSATLANTIC CIVILIZATION(S)? - CULTURAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES

1. MODULE SUMMARY

Aims and Summary

The module consists of three parts. The first part will focus on essential concepts that have shaped contemporary political order in the so-called “western civilization”. The students will study relevant philosophical theories, paying special attention to the role of state, rule of law, human rights and their protection, and the pursuit of happiness. The second part will focus on the evolution of the alternative models of social organization across the Atlantic in such areas as constitutionalism, political culture or attitude towards religion. Students will discuss the role of regional organizations (Council of Europe, European Union, and Organization of American States) with reference to the concept of sovereignty. Part three will provide comparative analysis between the United States and EU in the context of contemporary challenges such as regional integration, migration, terrorism and the role of the state in times of united Europe and American global domination.

Module Size and credits

CATS points	20.0
ECTS credits	10.0
Total student study hours	200
Number of weeks	12
School responsible	Łazarski University, Faculty of Economics and Management
Academic Year	2021-2022

Entry Requirements (pre-requisites and co-requisites)

None

Excluded Combinations

None

Composition of module mark (including weighting of components)

Coursework 60%: composed of an essay;

Final exam 40%

Pass requirements

To pass the course a student must score at least 40% of the overall weighted average and not less than 35% for each assessment component (i.e. final exam and coursework). Re-assessment: coursework component(s) and/or examination as appropriate.

Special Features

None

Course stages for which this module is mandatory

None

Course stages for which this module is a core option

MA Year 2 International Relations (level 7)

2. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Intended Module Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this module, the student should be able to:

1. Critically analyze the cornerstone political concepts of Western civilization
2. Deliberate on the patterns of political culture within the Western Civilization
3. Critically evaluate recent policy proposals in America and Europe in light of the different philosophical approaches to modernity in both regions
4. Critically appraise future relations between the USA and Europe.

Indicative Content

- What is modernity? The birth of modern consciousness and its philosophical and scientific consequences.
- The cultural and political consequences of the modern disenchantment philosophies.
- The Scottish, American and French Enlightenments; human nature, natural law and natural rights.
- The state and the individual in the Western Civilization. The American and French revolutions in comparative perspective. Natural law, natural rights, constitutionalism, rule of law.
- Alexis de Tocqueville and the society across the Atlantic.
- Political culture in the Western Civilization: nuances and consequences.
- Modernity and liberalism as enemies of religion in the post 1789 Europe and a different American Approach –the cultural and political differences.
- The concept of the West; theories of Western modernization, multiculturalism, post-colonial theory, and a breakdown of the liberal consensus.
- What are human rights and where do they come from? Regional systems of human rights protection within the Western Civilization.
- American democratic universalism, the post – Second World War European post-heroism, communism in Eastern Europe as a form of modernity and modernization.
- The European Union’s process of integration, the postcolonial theory and its application to Eastern Europe; Different approaches to modernization in Eastern Europe.
- Alternative approaches to civil liberties after 9/11. Examples from the United States and Europe. The immigration crisis; the fate of the transatlantic civilization.

Teaching and Learning

This module will be taught by means of lectures, discussions and self-directed study.

Formative Assessment: Comments will be given on assessments, and tutorial guidance will be provided for coursework and exam.

Student activity and time spent on each activity comprises:

Guided	0 hours	(0%)
Lecture	0 hours	(0%)
Self-guided	140 hours	(70%)
Seminar	60 hours	(30%)
Workshop	0 hours	(0%)
Total	200 hours	

Method of Assessment (normally assessed as follows)**The intended learning outcomes will be assessed as follows:**

- Essay (60% – 6 Credits): 3500 words; contribute to learning outcomes 1 and 2
- Final exam (40% – 4 Credits): 120 minutes; contributes to learning outcomes 3 and 4

Re-sit

Students failing any component of assessment, at the first attempt, is entitled to one re-sit attempt. This will be by new examination and/or new coursework scheduled for the next assessment opportunity. For coursework, if more than one element existed in the first attempt, this may be combined into one assessment for re-sit.

Date of last amendment

05-01-2018

3. MODULE RESOURCES**Essential Reading**

Bryk, A., 2008. The United States, the European Union, Eastern Europe: and the different attitudes and approaches towards modernity. *Krakow International Studies*, 1/2008, pp.109-227.

Kopstein, J., Steinmo, S., 2010. *Growing Apart: America and Europe in the Twenty-First Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Buchanan, J.M., 1975. *The limits of liberty: between anarchy and Leviathan*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Kirk, R., 1997. *Rights and Duties, Reflection of our Conservative Constitution*. Spence Publishing Company.

Recommended Reading

Anderson, B.C., 2007. *Democratic Capitalism and Its Discontents*. Wilmington, DE: ISI Books. (Chapter: Religious America, Secular Europe).

Berman, M., 2002. *All That is Solid Melts into Air: The Experience of Modernity*. New York: Penguin.

Caesar, J., 2004. 'The Philosophical Origins of Anti-Americanism in Europe', in Hollander, P. (ed), *Understanding Anti-Americanism*, Chicago: Ivan R. Dee.

Caldwell, C., 2009. *Reflections on the Revolution in Europe: Immigration, Islam and the West*. Johannesburg: TPB.

Himmelfarb, G., 2005. *The Roads to Modernity: The British, French and the American Enlightenments*, New York: Knopf.

Kagan, R., 2004. *Of Paradise and Power: America and Europe in the New World Order*. Vintage Books USA.

Manent, P., 2006. *A World beyond Politics? A defense of the Nation State*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Mansfield, H.C., Winthrop, D., 2004. "Introduction" to Alexis de Tocqueville "Democracy in America". Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Newman, E.S., 1970. *Civil Liberty and Civil Rights*. New York: Oceana publications.

Rabkin, J., 2005. *Law without Nations?: Why Constitutional Government Requires Sovereign States*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Weigel, G., 2005. *The Cube and the Cathedral: Europe, America and the Politics without God*. New York: Basics Books.

Required Equipment

None

4. MODULE ORGANISATION

Module leader

Name Prof. Andrzej Bryk
Dr Spasimir Domaradzki

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Length and month of examination

120 minutes in January

Expected teaching timetable slots

Timetable information should be verified with the School responsible for the module

No timetable information available

Subject Quality and Approval information

Board of Study Faculty Collaborative Provision Committee

Subject Assessment Board Faculty Council, Faculty of Economics and Management

Shortened title

Date of approval by FCPC 28 February 2018