A slightly more detailed syllabus will be posted on Huskyct by May 24. Most additions will involve further study recommendations and details related to documenting missed course deadlines owing to emergencies. Dates and requirements shown below are not likely to be changed in the final syllabus version.

GEOGRAPHY OF CONTEMPORARY EUROPE (GEOGRAPHY 4700)
EARLY SUMMER SESSION I, MAY 24 – JULY 19, 2012
PROF. BERENTSEN, Department of Geography, UConn-Storrs
email: william.berentsen@uconn.edu (Prof. Berentsen does not regularly use Huskyct's email tool; make sure to send emails from outside of that platform and to this address).

COURSE OUTLINE


A. IMPORTANT: Read the course syllabus; know (a) exam policies and course requirements, including (b) the deadlines and "writing" requirements for all posts and exercises. [Numbers in brackets indicate online lectures posted within "Course Contents: Learning Modules"; these become available by May 24.]

B. Introduction: Kaleidoscope Europe—the region’s fascinating population, climatic and landform diversity [1]


D. Europe's Regional Geopolitical Structures [2]


MAY 31: Introductory discussion post due by 10 p.m. EDT.

WEEK 2 (6/3): POPULATION GEOGRAPHY (Text: Chapter 3, pp. 366-371, Chapters 4-5)

A. European Population: Distribution and Demographics [4]


C. European Music and Sport [6]
JUNE 7: QUIZ #1 (Complete at the latest by 6/7 10 p.m. EDT. Make sure to take a practice quiz before this graded quiz, so that you know about submission details and so that you are prepared for the limited time frame for quizzes. Quiz answers need to be provided quickly; good knowledge of course content is needed.)

WEEK 3 (6/10): POLITICAL SYSTEMS & DEVELOPMENT POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY


SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Text: Chapter 11)

A. Development Levels of Europe's Countries and Regions [8]
B. Why Western Europe is More Developed than the East [9]; (Gowland et al.: pp. 27-40)

JUNE 14: Discussion #1 posting due by 10 p.m. EDT.

WEEK 4 (6/17): ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY


A. Agriculture and Natural Resources [10]
B. Manufacturing, Service Sector Activities and International Trade [10]; “Europe’s Most Famous Spa Towns” http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/27/europe-spa-towns_n_2481111.html

JUNE 21: QUIZ #2 (Complete at the latest by 6/21 10 p.m. EDT.)

WEEK 5 (6/24): URBAN & PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

URBAN GEOGRAPHY (Text: Chapter 10)


PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY (Text: Chapter 2. Berentsen et al.: “Europe’s Landscapes” (pp. 27-40))

A. Landforms and Climate [13]
JUNE 25: Response to discussion topic #1 posts due by 10 p.m. EDT.
JUNE 28: Exercise #1 due by 10 p.m. EDT.

WEEK 6 (7/5): NORTHWESTERN EUROPE:

FRANCE & BENELUX

A. Paris as a Primate City [15]; (Berentsen et al.: Inset 8-1)
B. Planning and Planning Projects in The Netherlands [16]; (Berentsen et al.: Inset 8-2)

WEST CENTRAL EUROPE

A. Germany, Divided and United [17]; (“Big Brother is Still Haunting Society in Germany’s East”: http://www.autentico.org/oa09338.php [Prof. Berentsen lived in E. Germany for three months during the height of the Cold War. It’s assumed that the CIA has his Stasi file, which Germany “cannot locate”.])
B. Preserving Treasured Forest and Alpine Landscapes [18]

THE BRITISH ISLES (Berentsen et al.: Inset 7-2); "Will Scotland Go Its Own Way?" [This short New York Times article provides (1) reminders of the nature of the UK, (2) Scotland's and England's place within it, and (3) intriguing possibilities for the future of all three.]

A. The UK's North-South Divide [19]
B. Booms and Busts in Ireland [20]; Lyall, “In Ruined Apartments, Symbol of Ireland’s Fall”

JULY 5: Quiz #3 (Complete at the latest by 7/5 10 p.m. EDT.)
JULY 8: Exercise #2 due by 10 p.m. EDT.

WEEK 7 (7/8): SOUTHERN, NORTHERN, & EASTERN EUROPE

SOUTHERN EUROPE  Development Problems in Southernmost Europe [21]; (Berentsen et al.: Inset 10-3); “From 'La Serenissima' to bunga bunga: How Italy fell into a coma”,
http://www.cnn.com/2013/02/20/opinion/italy-election-emmott/index.html?id=article_sidebar

NORTHERN EUROPE  Western Europe’s Welfare State Systems: The Nordic Model [22]; “Danes Rethink a

Welfare State Ample to a Fault”,
REMINDER: Exercise #3 is due on July 16.

JULY 12: Discussion topic #2 posting due by 10 p.m. EDT.

WEEK 8 (7/15): SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE & THE FSU (Former Soviet Union)

SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE The Dissolution of Yugoslavia [24]; (Text: pp. 186-188); “Ethnic violence belies Balkans peace”, http://www.csmonitor.com/world/europe/2012/0329/ethnic-violence-belies-balkans-
[Mladic’s war crimes trial is underway in The Hague, Netherlands.]

THE EUROPEAN FSU:

B. Russian Resources and Regional Development [26]

CONCLUSION [27]

JULY 15: Response(s) to discussion topic #2 posts due by 10 p.m. EDT.
JULY 16: Exercise #3 due by 10 p.m. EDT.
JULY 19: Comprehensive, online final exam (tentatively: 2:00-4:00 p.m. EDT. Details of the exact time will be determined in direct communications between Prof. Berentsen and students early in the summer school session. It may be possible to arrange an in-person exam at UConn-Storrs at the same time that the online exam is available.)

Course Content in the Geography of Europe:

Europe is comprised of an absolutely fascinating set of diverse places, inhabited by intriguingly diverse peoples. The focus of this course is on learning about the region and the people, as well as the latter’s accomplishments and challenges. Please review course expectations and rules now, which should alleviate potential problems later.

Required Reading:

Assignments include selections from several current and recent textbooks as well as other sources.
TEXTBOOK: *The European Culture Area*, A.B. Murphy, T.G. Jordan-Bychkov, B. Bychkova Jordan, Rowman & Littlefield, 2009 (referred to as Text in the syllabus)


Software needs:

Students will need QuickTime for an introductory video and for YouTube videos, and Adobe Reader for accessing PDFs of posted materials. Huskyct also sometimes experiences "glitches" within Internet Explorer, but Prof. Berentsen has had 100% success by then switching to Firefox. Make sure that you can use the online quiz and exercise software flawlessly in order to meet mandatory deadlines. A small number of students have claimed problems with submission of timed quizzes, creating problems of interpretation about whether more time (and outside resources) was actually being improperly used, the student was simply unprepared, or an actual technical problem related to Huskyct actually occurred (none of the latter have been verified). Make sure that you and your internet connection are ready for graded quizzes, in particular.

QUICK, BASIC COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS;

1. Skim the course outline and read the syllabus carefully by May 28.

2. Begin reading and studying on May 28 (or earlier) and stay caught up. The course is a temporally condensed version of a 15 week course, so there will be about twice the weekly work a student would have during a fall or spring semester. There are no “extra credit” options in the course in the case of poor performance, other than withdrawal. Unfortunately, there is no time for a "break". Students starting slowly and/or falling behind very quickly experience poor performance on quizzes and exercises. Also note that the period around July 4th will be a busy one in the course, so a vacation during that period would be a challenge for any student.

3. Take good notes or outlines of online lectures and other reading. Simply reading course materials (especially belatedly) will likely not result in the learning needed to perform well on quizzes and the exam.

4. Know how to use course tools and materials with ease, including quiz and exercise submission mechanisms, by the end of week 1, at the latest.

5. Study for and take practice quizzes. Make sure to use the study guides related to lectures and reading. Seriously consider testing yourself on additional, self-written questions on course material. The first score on a practice quiz is usually closely related to scores on the next graded quiz or exam, though in each case the questions are only sampled questions from a large number of possible questions. Be prepared early.

6. Carefully read quiz and exercise directions.
7. Take the plagiarism quiz, and make sure that you understand plagiarism as well as citation and reference requirements for a paper. Ignorance about plagiarism provides no excuse or protection from consequences.

8. Make sure that all emails, written work and responses are written in clear, correct American English, including correct spelling and capitalization. Read carefully and follow quiz, exam, and exercise directions in order to avoid needless loss of credit.

**Grading:**

Exercises 25%; discussion postings and responses 10%; online, timed quizzes 30%; final exam 30%; and 5% weight on the higher of either the final exam or quiz average. Also see "Make up Policies" below. Note that someone missing the final exam based on ill health or an emergency must provide documentation both to the Dean of Students Office and to Prof. Berentsen, and, after securing permission from the Dean of Students Office, **must contact Prof. Berentsen as soon as possible** to arrange a make-up exam. Students cannot automatically assume that they can schedule the make-up exam as late as possible: **the make-up exam will be given as soon as possible after the scheduled exam date.** (See late submission and make-up policies below.)

Prof. Berentsen will provide qualitative feedback on the discussion posts, including identification of errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling and capitalization. See section on “Standard American English Required” below.)

Final grades will be based on a standard scale: 93 and above = A; 90-92 = A-; 87-89 = B+......60-62 = D-, 59 and below = F.

**All quizzes and the exam will be “closed book.”** This means that no course material other than the quiz or exam may be accessed during the time period that a student takes the quiz (quizzes will be taken on selected Fridays from 8 a.m. EDT to 10 p.m. EDT). Quiz questions will be drawn randomly from a pool of similarly constructed questions, and quizzes will be timed.

**Online Quizzes**

Both ungraded practice quizzes and graded quizzes (as well as the final exam) can be accessed during selected times within Huskyct’s “Assessments” section. Make sure that you know how to access, take, save and submit a quiz (and exercise or post) before the first due dates and times.

**Final exam:**

The final exam will be an approximately two hour online exam on Huskyct, to be given on during an agreed upon time on Friday, July 19, hopefully around about 2:00-4:00 p.m. Exams will have questions drawn from a large pool of quite similar, though not identical, questions. The exam will have several separate question sections that need to be completed, each within a specific time period (as on quizzes), totaling about two hours. An in-person, paper-based final exam may be possible at UConn-Storrs at the same time that the on-line exam is open.
“Office Hours” and Questions about Coursework:

If you are doing the work in this class, no question is a bad one. In addition to responding to questions, Prof. Berentsen is also ready to discuss issues in more depth, discuss student perspectives on course content that may differ from their own, and/or discuss issues related to Europe that are not addressed directly in the course. Contact Prof. Berentsen by email (from outside of Huskyct) at: William.Berentsen@uconn.edu. He can usually respond to most types of questions within hours during the week, though it could take longer on a weekend. Prof. Berentsen will also be happy to try to arrange an in-person meeting, if requested, at the UConn Storrs campus—though he does not meet to “discuss grades” or “extra credit”, the latter not an option in GEOG 4700. Also, last minute questions about quizzes, exams or exercises will likely not get immediate responses; so begin work early and send questions by the late afternoon before a quiz, exam, or exercise due date so that there is time for a response.

Exercises:

Instructions for exercises will be posted, so look for them early in the course. In order to receive full credit, all exercises must be neatly presented, well organized, well written, and turned in on the due date and time. Complete bibliographic information for sources of written work must be provided. Four or more words taken directly from any source must be put within quotations and properly cited. Citations within the text of written work and complete, matching references to these in a bibliography, list of references or work cited section must be presented using a standard citation/reference system and must include all information needed for another person to easily access your sources, including references to websites (which must have information beyond just a URL—make sure to include author and date, title, and publisher, which for online materials is often a sponsoring institution). See the posted guide "Providing Proper Source Information for Written Work" on the course website for an outline of citation requirements for written exercises in this course.

It is a course requirement that quizzes, the exam, and exercises must be completed by students on their own, so work copied from other sources or in collaboration with others will not meet requirements, will not receive credit, and cannot be redone and resubmitted for credit. Students need to complete their own work, according to requirements, and on time in order to receive credit in GEOG 4700.

Collaborative learning between students in GEOG 4700, outside of the quiz and final exam testing periods (e.g., discussion about course content and for quiz/exam preparation prior to a quiz/exam period), is encouraged. The goal of the course is to learn about the geography of Europe; and if students can achieve that by helping one another (without violation of exam and exercise requirements), everyone can benefit.

Check written work carefully for misspelled words, improper punctuation, and incomplete sentences. Correctly used, standard American English is required. (See the section on “Standard American English Required” below.)
Exercises not meeting the standards outlined above may receive reduced or no credit. Exercises are due by the due date and time or will be considered late and receive reduced credit. Exercises 1 and 2 may be turned in up to nearly one week late, but penalties will accrue progressively up to 25% a week after a due date. An exercise turned in more than one week after the due date or after a listed "last due date" (whichever comes first) will receive no credit, unless a verifiable emergency can be documented to explain the late submission, in which case no penalties apply (see "Make-up Policies" below).

Discussion Postings:

There will be three discussion topics begun by a statement or question from Prof. Berentsen, with student postings expected to follow, including responses by students to fellow students’ posts. Students may post “responses” as often as they wish, but a small number of well thought out remarks may be most appropriate. Postings need to be well written, in standard American English. Well thought out opinions are sought; inappropriate, demeaning or threatening language should not be used in posting. Students and Prof. Berentsen need to respect and learn from different views, and we may all ultimately need to “agree to disagree” on some issues. Grading on the postings will focus on content, quality of arguments/statements, and quality of organization and presentation. (It is not a requirement to agree with a fellow student or with Prof. Berentsen, unless the issue clearly relates to a matter of fact. For example, “The world is actually flat” style of argument, while protected by freedom of speech, would be detrimental to a grade. On the other hand, whether governments should be more or less involved in providing health care or in land use planning, for example, are issues open to reasoned debate.)

Standard American English Required:

The use of standard American English is required, including accurate spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Prof. Berentsen highly recommends that you review rules related to all of the above. Writers' guides generally provide such information, (e.g., David Sonstroem (1985), The Style Booklet (Storrs, Conn.: Dept. of English, U. of Conn.). Incorrectly spelled and/or capitalized European place names will receive no or reduced credit; learning correct spelling and capitalization of major places and people is part of the course content.

Spelling and Capitalization:

Learn correct American English spellings of major European-related proper nouns (e.g., major European institutions and place names). Be aware that you will often see some words or phrases capitalized within tables or headings that are otherwise not capitalized. Check a reliable reference source in order to learn correct spelling and capitalization, which are required for full credit on GEOG 4700 exams and written work.

LATE SUBMISSION and MAKE-UP POLICIES:

There will likely be no make-up for a missed quiz. If you miss a quiz based on a documented emergency, its weight will likely be added to the weight of the comprehensive final exam, if you have satisfactory
evidence documenting cause of your absence and submit it in a timely fashion, as soon as possible following ill-health or an emergency.

**Academic Misconduct:**

**Plagiarism** includes copying four or more words without proper quotation and citation directly from another source, which could be another student's paper, a web site, a book, a dictionary, an encyclopedia, or other source. A student is responsible for properly preparing his/her own work; penalties for plagiarism apply in a case where a student claims ignorance about this course’s student conduct rules. While some high school and college instructors choose not to enforce plagiarism rules, the rules have been and will be strictly enforced in this course.

**Study Notes and Recommendations:** Past students’ performances indicate that learning in GEOG 4700 is very positively correlated with: (1) good, complete reading and online lecture notes; (2) "active" as opposed to "passive" studying techniques (e.g., active learning: careful note-taking and referring to collateral sources like atlases and encyclopedias, self-creation of study questions and closed-book examination on them; studying questions missed on completed quizzes to discover possible prior lapses in preparation. Passive learning: reading over the lectures and book, and pretty much leaving it at that); (3) close attention to assignment requirements and deadlines; and (4) timely completion of course reading and practice questions. “Cramming” will likely bring poor results, because there is too much to learn to put off studying. Experience also indicates that people beginning work for the class much after May 28 and/or falling behind, for whatever reasons, often have difficulty in the course.

**Quiz/Exam Notes and Recommendations:** Quizzes and the exam will have questions within them that represent a random sample of all possible questions that could be asked. Online lectures do not (and should not) "teach to the test". If you study, understand and remember course material well, this should be reflected in exam scores. The quizzes and exam will have questions from reading, lectures, and study guides; some questions, perhaps many, will incorporate information from all these sources. Questions from the book will focus on material covered in-depth, indicated on study guides, and/or also covered in lectures. Questions from lecture material will not cover details that are mentioned only briefly, unless the same material is also covered adequately in assigned reading and/or indicated on a study guide.

There will be as many questions as time permits on quizzes and the exam in order to reduce the impact of inevitable, “uncharacteristic” errors by a student. Only students who read very slowly or are unfamiliar with course material will experience time pressure on the quizzes and exam; most students will have time to complete all questions and to reconsider some they are unsure about. Unfortunately, security requirements play a role in the necessity for timed quizzes and for the final exam. Quizzes will cover material from only the most recent two week period. The final exam will have both a "quiz" component covering material from the last part of the course and a "comprehensive" component, with questions covering the entire course.