**Titre du cours**

Unsettled Questions About the Idea of Europe

**Langue du cours/Language of instruction :** English

**Enseignant(s)**

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**Résumé du cours – Objectifs**

The discussion thread of this course is the assumption that the European construction failures have their roots in the ambiguity of the idea of Europe. So in order to strengthen the European idea, it is assumed that this very idea of Europe has to be cleared by deconstruction.

The premise to any success in the European construction not betraying the ideal of democracy, peace and hospitality - all virtues attached to the political ideal of Europe - is the deconstruction of the idea of Europe. So, the objective of the course is to go back up from some unsettled questions about the European idea to the idea of Europe that is to find in the writings of European philosophers, especially since Kant.

A distinction is made between the European idea and the Idea of Europe. By European idea I mean the constructivist idea of the European polity that the European unification attempts to realize by the creation of common institutions and common policies. So, the European idea refers to the implementation of the “founding fathers” project until the apparent failure of the European constitution. By idea of Europe I mean the philosophical conceptions of Europe by European philosophers since Kant to Derrida through Valéry, Husserl, Patocka and many others. Philosophers thought Europe as apart from the rest of the world and of humanity, because of its intellectual achievement. They thought of a special connexion between Europe and the reason: Europe is self-declared as the birth-place of philosophy, and by this way of science, but also between Europe and democracy. Philosophy, science and democracy are conceived as essentially European inventions. In other words, philosophy, science and democracy are supposed to fulfil the idea of Europe. And we have by there the definition of Europe in a simple equation: Europe = reason, logos. And from this idea they claimed for Europe and Europeans a special destiny and a special mission in regard of the world. That is called the destiny and mission of the universal.

The objective of the course is to call this pretension into question and to appreciate the achievements of the European idea from the commitments rooted in the European self-image.

**Evaluation**

An Essay of 10 pages, 1.5 spacing, margins: 2cm. Between 4500 and 5000 words.

Topic related to Europe.

No pre-requisit in philosophy to enrol in this course. Just curiosity and the love of ideas and discussion (philosophia).

**Plan – Séances**

From the Crisis of the European Humanity to the European Construction

How many languages can Europe sustain?
Cool memories?
How old is Europe?
Do we still need nations?
Can a weak Europe have an effective foreign policy?
Can hospitality be rationed?
Globalization or Europeanization?

**Bibliographie:**