

STARTING EUROPE: LITERATURE & CULTURES (part 1)

Course code: LUEES21E

1. Course instructor

Dr. Bertrand Westphal

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Bertrand Westphal is a Full Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Limoges, France. He is the main promoter of geocriticism, and he also specializes in world literature, postmodernism, and the relationships between literature and contemporary art (with a particular focus on literary cartographies and artistic maps). His recent publications include monographs such as *L'œil de la Méditerranée. Une odyssée littéraire* (Editions de l'Aube, 2005), *Geocriticism. Real and Fictional Spaces* (trad. Robert Tally, Palgrave Macmillan, 2011, also translated to Italian, Portuguese, and Chinese forthcoming), *A Plausible World* (trad. Amy Wells, Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), *La cage des méridiens. Le roman et l'art contemporain face à la globalisation* (Editions de Minuit, 2016, Chinese translation forthcoming), and *Atlas des égarements. Etudes géocritiques* (Editions de Minuit, April 2019).

2. Course description

Contact hours	Credits	Term
9 hours	3 ECTS	Autumn

From Ancient Greece (*The Odyssey*) to modern times, European artistic production has always sought to establish bonds between the multiple European identities and cultures. Literature, in particular, has played a significant role in reflecting not only what Europe was and still is, but also in correcting Europe's historical tendencies toward ethnocentrism.

Designed as a general survey, this course will explore the relationship between literature, the arts and culture in the European cultural context, past and present. A special emphasis will be put on major texts (Homer's *Odyssey*, & Dante's *Inferno*.) and paintings and on the concept of journey – “journey” as travel, but also “journey” as an experience of humanity and the limits of humanity.

3. Course material

Reference/reading Materials:

Homer, *Odyssey*

Aeschylus, *The Persians*

Dante Alighieri, *Inferno*, canto 26

4. Course assessment

Assessment details

Oral presentation and/or written paper

5. Course structure

Class #	Subject	Content
1	Introduction	The Limits of Europe
2	A History of European Literature Constructed vs. Deconstructed	Reflections On a European Canon
3 +4	Europe in Ancient Times	Homeros, <i>The Odyssey</i> Aeschylus, <i>The Persians</i>
5+6	Christianitas & Medieval Multiculturalism	Dante, <i>The Inferno</i> , canto 26
7	A Triple Birth: Europe, Modernity, Colonialism	Cabeza de Vaca, <i>Chronicle of the Narváez Expedition</i>
8+9	Baroque, or the Inclusion of a new world representation in Europe	The Introduction of Landscapes in European Arts