It is impossible to think about the contemporary world without the lasting impact European culture has had on it. But what are the deeper reasons for Europe to emerge as a dominant continent from the sixteenth century onwards? Why is it in crisis at present? Its physical, cultural, and economic geography will provide answers. Divided by landscape, language, religion, & war, the European Union promises peace and prosperity for some 500 million people in 27 countries, but faces unprecedented challenges, from unemployment and xenophobia to population ageing and climate change. The EU does not cover all of the continent, of course. Who is and could be a member state in itself explains much about its complex history. This course will guide you from Europe’s physical make-up and urbanization to the formation of nation-states and the colonization of other continents, in order to understand the crisis today.

Mon-Wed 1.00 - 2.15  
3 credits  
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Awaiting certification of Global Perspectives LibEd for this course