

EUROPEAN STUDIES

Mission

The European Studies program at Barnard College enables students to combine disciplinary approaches to the study of Europe. Students ground themselves in a core discipline (history, political science, anthropology, sociology, theater, and philosophy, among others) that provides them with methodological expertise. They also take courses in the language and literature of a chosen region of Europe and complement this program with a selection of courses exploring Europe from other disciplinary perspectives. Students are encouraged to study abroad in the region of their interest.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who graduate with a major in European Studies will be able to attain the following outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the breadth of Europe's cultural heritage as well as its distinctive components;
- Explain the role of language and literature within culture;
- Apply different disciplinary perspectives to the study of a single region.

This program is supervised by the Committee on European Studies:

Co-Chairs: Erk Grimm (Associate Professor of German), Lisa S. Tiersten (Professor of History)

Requirements for the Major

Students who intend to major in European Studies should consult a member of the department in their sophomore year to plan their academic programs.

The senior requirements vary according to the discipline studied. Majors should consult their advisers for details.

Students may focus on one country or one region of Europe. Competence in the language of the region is expected. The major includes:

1. A concentration consisting of five courses in an academic discipline chosen in consultation with the major adviser. A maximum of two of these courses that deal with European topics may be counted among the ten courses in the regional concentration (Part B).
2. Ten courses focusing on a country or region to include:
 - Two courses in European History;
 - Two courses in the literature or cultural studies of one country in the original language;
 - Two semester senior projects under the direction of the program adviser or an adviser in the minor field;
 - Four courses outside the field of concentration dealing with the selected country or region.

The following list is only a sample selection of courses that may be applied to the major.

ECON BC3041	THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS-POLIT ECON	3
HIST BC1101 & HIST BC1302	EUROPEAN HISTORY 1500-1789 and EUROPEAN HISTORY SINCE 1789 (recommended as prerequisites for other history courses)	8

HIST BC2321	COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS	3
HIST BC3323	The City in Europe	4
HIST BC3360	LONDON: GREAT WENT TO WORLD CITY	4
HIST BC3368	HIST OF SENSES ENG # FRANCE	4
PHIL UN3352	Twentieth Century European Philosophy	3
PHIL UN3353	EUROPEAN SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY	3
PHIL V3740	Hermeneutics and the Humanities	3
POLS UN1501	INTRO TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS	4
POLS UN3401		3
RELI V3501	Introduction To the Hebrew Bible	3
RELI V2801	Introduction to Western Religions	3
SOCI UN3000	SOCIAL THEORY	3
THTR UN3150	CRITICAL HISTORIES OF DRAMA, THEATRE, AND PERFORMANCE I	4.00
THTR V3152	Nazism in Performance	4
French courses in Culture and Literature See French		
German courses in Culture and Literature See German		
Italian courses in Culture and Literature See Italian		
Spanish courses in Culture and Literature See Spanish		

Cross-Listed Courses

Art History (Barnard)

AHIS BC1002 INTRODUCTION TO ART HISTORY II. 4.00 points.

The second part of the Introduction to Art History goes from about 1400 to 2015, circles the world, and includes all media. It is organized around one theme for each lecture, and approximately 100 works of art. Visits to New York museums and discussions sections are crucial parts of the course

Spring 2025: AHIS BC1002

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
AHIS 1002	001/00002	M W 2:40pm - 3:55pm 304 Barnard Hall	Dorota Biczal	4.00	106/150

AHIS W4480 Art In the Age of Reformation. 3 points.

Not offered during 2024-2025 academic year.

Artistic production in Germany and the Netherlands in the 16th century and the transformation of the social function of art as a consequence of the development of reformed theories of art and the introduction of humanist culture: Albrecht Durer, Hans Baldung Grien, Hans Holbein the Younger, Albrecht Altdorfer, Quentin Massys, Lucas van Leyden, Jan Gossaert, Jan van Hemessen, and Pieter Aertsen.

Economics (Barnard)

ECON BC3041 THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS-POLITICAL ECONOMY. 3.00 points.

Prerequisites: An introductory course in economics or permission of the instructor. Intellectual origins of the main schools of thought in political economy. Study of the founding texts in classical political economy, Marxian economics, neoclassicism, and Keynesianism

Spring 2025: ECON BC3041

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
ECON 3041	001/00863	M W 4:10pm - 5:25pm 418 Barnard Hall	Kurt Semm	3.00	80/72
ECON 3041	002/00923	T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm LI003 Barnard Hall	Kurt Semm	3.00	79/72

Fall 2025: ECON BC3041

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
ECON 3041	001/00073	M W 10:10am - 11:25am 328 Milbank Hall	Kurt Semm	3.00	54/55
ECON 3041	002/00074	M W 2:40pm - 3:55pm LI003 Barnard Hall	Kurt Semm	3.00	55/55

History (Barnard)

HIST BC1062 Introduction to the Global Middle Ages. 4.00 points.

This course introduces students to medieval history and the methods historians use to study and communicate about the past. Medieval history has traditionally centered on Western Europe, but this course also integrates new approaches to the Global Middle Ages, including attention to connectivity, comparative studies across contexts, and a survey of world literatures. Topics include Late Antique transformations to the Roman world, the Germanic migrations, and the rise of Christianity; the Islamic Conquests, the Carolingian Renaissance, and the Viking expansion; the Crusades, the Black Death, and the rise of early modern empires. Students will learn to read primary sources, assess scholarly arguments, and incorporate interdisciplinary approaches. This course will require visits to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Met Cloisters

Fall 2025: HIST BC1062

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
HIST 1062	001/00368	M W 11:40am - 12:55pm LI003 Barnard Hall	Matthew Delvaux	4.00	17/90

HIST BC1302 EUROPEAN HISTORY SINCE 1789. 4.00 points.

Emergence of revolutionary and counter-revolutionary mass political movements; European industrialization, nationalism, and imperialism; 20th-century world wars, the Great Depression, and Fascism

Spring 2025: HIST BC1302

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
HIST 1302	001/00128	M W 11:40am - 12:55pm 304 Barnard Hall	Lisa Tiersten	4.00	66/90
HIST 1302	AU1/20290	M W 11:40am - 12:55pm Othr Other	Lisa Tiersten	4.00	22/22

HIST BC3062 Medieval Economic Life and Thought ca 1000 to 1500. 4 points.

BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Historical Studies (HIS).

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor. Enrollment limited to 15. Preregistration required.

Traces the development of economic enterprises and techniques in their cultural context: agricultural markets, industry, commercial partnerships, credit, large-scale banking, insurance, and merchant culture. Examines usury and just price theory, the scholastic analysis of price and value, and the recognition of the market as a self-regulating system, centuries before Adam Smith.

HIST BC2116 The History of Money. 3 points.

Examining the history of money and the history of ways of thinking about money. We investigate how different monetary forms developed and how they have shaped and been shaped by culture, society, and politics. Tracing money from gift-giving societies to the European Monetary Union, the focus is on early modern Europe.

HIST BC2180 Merchants, Pirates, and Slaves in the Making of Atlantic Capitalism. 3 points.

BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Historical Studies (HIS)., BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Cultures in Comparison (CUL).

Examines how the Atlantic Ocean and its boundaries were tied together through the flow of people, goods, and ideas. Studies the cultures of the communities formed by merchants, pirates, and slaves; investigates how their interactions and frictions combined to shape the unique combination of liberty and oppression that characterizes early modern capitalism.

HIST BC2230 Central Europe: Nations, Culture, and Ideas. 3 points.

BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Historical Studies (HIS).

Not offered during 2024-2025 academic year.

The making and re-making of Central Europe as place and myth from the Enlightenment to post-Communism. Focuses on the cultural, intellectual, and political struggles of the peoples of this region to define themselves. Themes include modernization and backwardness, rationalism and censorship, nationalism and pluralism, landscape and the spatial imagination.

HIST BC2321 COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS. 3.00 points.

Examines the shaping of European cultural identity through encounters with non-European cultures from 1500 to the post-colonial era. Novels, paintings, and films will be among the sources used to examine such topics as exoticism in the Enlightenment, slavery and European capitalism, Orientalism in art, ethnographic writings on the primitive, and tourism

HIST BC3360 LONDON: GREAT WENT TO WORLD CITY. 4.00 points.

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor. Enrollment limited to 15.

Preregistration required.

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Preregistration required. Social and cultural history of London from the Great Fire of 1666 to the 1960s. An examination of the changing experience of urban identity through the commercial life, public spaces, and diverse inhabitants of London. Topics include 17th-century rebuilding, immigrants and emigrants, suburbs, literary culture, war, and redevelopment

Fall 2025: HIST BC3360

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
HIST 3360	001/00347	W 2:10pm - 4:00pm 214 Milbank Hall	Deborah Valenze	4.00	8/15

HIST BC3368 HIST OF SENSES ENG # FRANCE. 4.00 points.

Examination of European understandings of human senses through the production and reception of art, literature, music, food, and sensual enjoyments in Britain and France. Readings include changing theories concerning the five senses; efforts to master the passions; the rise of sensibility and feeling for others; concerts and the patronage of art; the professionalization of the senses

Philosophy (Barnard)**PHIL UN2101 HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY I. 4.00 points.**

Corequisites: PHIL V2111 Required Discussion Section (0 points).

Exposition and analysis of the positions of the major philosophers from the pre-Socratics through Augustine. This course has unrestricted enrollment

Fall 2025: PHIL UN2101

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
PHIL 2101	001/11986	T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm 717 Hamilton Hall	Katja Vogt, Qian Cao	4.00	85/90

PHIL UN2201 HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY II. 4.00 points.

Prerequisites: PHIL UN2211 Required Discussion Section (0 points). PHIL UN2101 is not a prerequisite for this course. Exposition and analysis of the metaphysics, epistemology, and natural philosophy of the major philosophers from Aquinas through Kant. Authors include Aquinas, Galileo, Gassendi, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. This course has unrestricted enrollment

Spring 2025: PHIL UN2201

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
PHIL 2201	001/00165	T Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm 405 Milbank Hall	Caroline Bowman	4.00	67/80

PHIL V2301 History of Philosophy III: Kant to Nietzsche. 4 points.

BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Reason and Value (REA)., BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Ethics and Values.

Not offered during 2024-2025 academic year.

Prerequisites: None.

Exposition and analysis of texts by Kant and major 19th-century European Philosophers.

PHIL W3264 19th Century Philosophy: Hegel. 3 points.

Examines major themes of Hegel's philosophy, with emphasis on social and political thought. Topics include Hegel's critique of Kant, the possibility of metaphysics, the master-slave dialectic, and the role of freedom in a rational society. Readings from Fichte help explain how Hegel's project develops out of Kant's transcendental idealism. Some knowledge of Kant's moral theory and his *Critique of Pure Reason* is presupposed. Prerequisite: *at least one* of PHIL 2201, 2301, or 3251.

PHIL UN3352 Twentieth Century European Philosophy. 3 points.

Prerequisites: one prior philosophy course.

Reading and discussion of selected texts by central figures in phenomenology, existentialism, hermeneutics, critical theory, and recent Continental philosophy. Authors may include Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, Gadamer, Horkheimer, Adorno, Foucault, Bourdieu.

Political Science (Barnard)**POLS BC3505 COLL: MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK. 4.00 points.**

Beginning in the mid-1970s a democratic wave swept the globe. It started in Southern Europe, spread throughout Latin America, parts of East Asia and Africa, and engulfed the former Soviet bloc. In all, dozens of new democracies emerged during the late twentieth century and by the early 21st century there were more democracies in the world than there had ever been before. Over the last decade and a half, however, a democratic undertow has sent in. Many new democracies have slid back towards dictatorship and many old democracies have experienced significant problems as well. This colloquium will exam the literature on democratic consolidation and backsliding, providing students with an overview of the most important theories about what makes democracy work—or not

Sociology**SOCI UN3000 SOCIAL THEORY. 4.00 points.**

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing.

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Prerequisite: at least one sociology course of the instructor's permission.

Theoretical accounts of the rise and transformations of modern society in the 19th and 20th centuries. Theories studied include those of Adam Smith, Tocqueville, Marx, Durkheim, Max Weber, Roberto Michels. Selected topics: individual, society, and polity; economy, class, and status; organization and ideology; religion and society; moral and instrumental action

Spring 2025: SOCI UN3000

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
SOCI 3000	001/00080	T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm LI003 Barnard Hall	Andrew Anastasi	4.00	50/60

Fall 2025: SOCI UN3000

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
SOCI 3000	002/00946	T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm 418 Barnard Hall	Andrew Anastasi	4.00	60/60

Theatre (Barnard)

THTR V3141 Socialism/Communism in Performance. 4 points.

Not offered during 2024-2025 academic year.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing. Enrollment limited to 16 students. Analyzes dramatic texts and performances under the Communist regimes behind the Iron Curtain before 1989. Principal focus is on Czech, Polish, and East German playwrights and their productions; we will consider their work in both legal and illegal contexts. In order to gain a wider understanding of the diversity of underground performative cultures, works from Hungary, Romania, and Slovenia will be considered as well. The seminar also attends to dissident performative activities in the framework of the 1980s revolutions, and reflects on works by western authors and emigrant/diasporic writers produced on stages behind the Iron Curtain. Fulfills one (of two) required courses in dramatic literature for Theatre/Drama and Theatre Arts major.

THTR V3152 Nazism in Performance. 4 points.

BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: The Visual and Performing Arts (ART).

Prerequisites: Course enrollment limited to 16; permission of instructor given at first class meeting. Explores the cultivation of national and transnational performances as a significant force of National Socialism, at the same time as challenging the notion of "Nazi Theatre" as monolithic formation. The core of the course inquires into the dialectical analysis of artistic creations in diverse art genres, while working towards an understanding of the social dramaturgy of such events as staging the Führer and the racialized body of the privileged people. Nazism did not harbor ideologies without benefits for the allied nations. Thus, the dynamic performance of transnationalism among the "brothers in arms" will be included as well, in order to elucidate how works of art crossing into the Third Reich were reimagined, sometimes in ways challenging to the presumed values of the state stage. Fulfills one (of two) required courses in dramatic literature for Theatre/Drama and Theatre Arts major.