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Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



BIP (Blended Intensive Program) Philosophical Sources of European Identity

2023-24

University of Antwerp, Maastricht University
& University Carlos III of Madrid



Philosophical Sources of European Identity

COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. Ambition and contents
2. International classroom
3. Learning objectives



Ambition and contents

This blended intensive program offers a philosophical introduction to the idea of Europe. Far from aspiring to a systematic exposition or largescale historical overview, its approach is one of curiosity and wonder at the history of philosophical ideas. The course aims to explore a millennial tradition of thought in order to unlock an original perspective on contemporary notions of a (broadly conceived) 'European identity': it examines the 'effective history' of philosophical ideas and their capacity to help express and even create a sense of cultural identity. With this goal in mind, the course will dwell on a number of philosophical, literary and historiographical sources, taken from different historical periods, that are ideally suited to spark discussion about how the idea of Europa emerged. At stake is the power of philosophical ideas, both as shaping factors of a collective European identity and as compelling testimonies that continue to affect the way Europe is understood and experienced today.

International classroom

By welcoming students from universities all over Europe, the course intends to create an international classroom with various cultural and historical backgrounds for philosophical reflection. The international embedding is strengthened by the organizational support and cooperation with Maastricht University and University Carlos III of Madrid (as co-host universities), and by the participation of philosophy colleagues from the entire YUFE alliance and other international institutions. The course is divided into an online program and an on-campus block seminar. It fosters a combination of classical lectures, close reading sessions, interactive seminars, independent groupwork, self-tuition and self-reflection. Students will be invited to actively reflect on their own intuitions about the concept of European Identity and bring these to class. Co-creation, both on the part of students and teachers, is at the heart of the learning trajectory of this course.

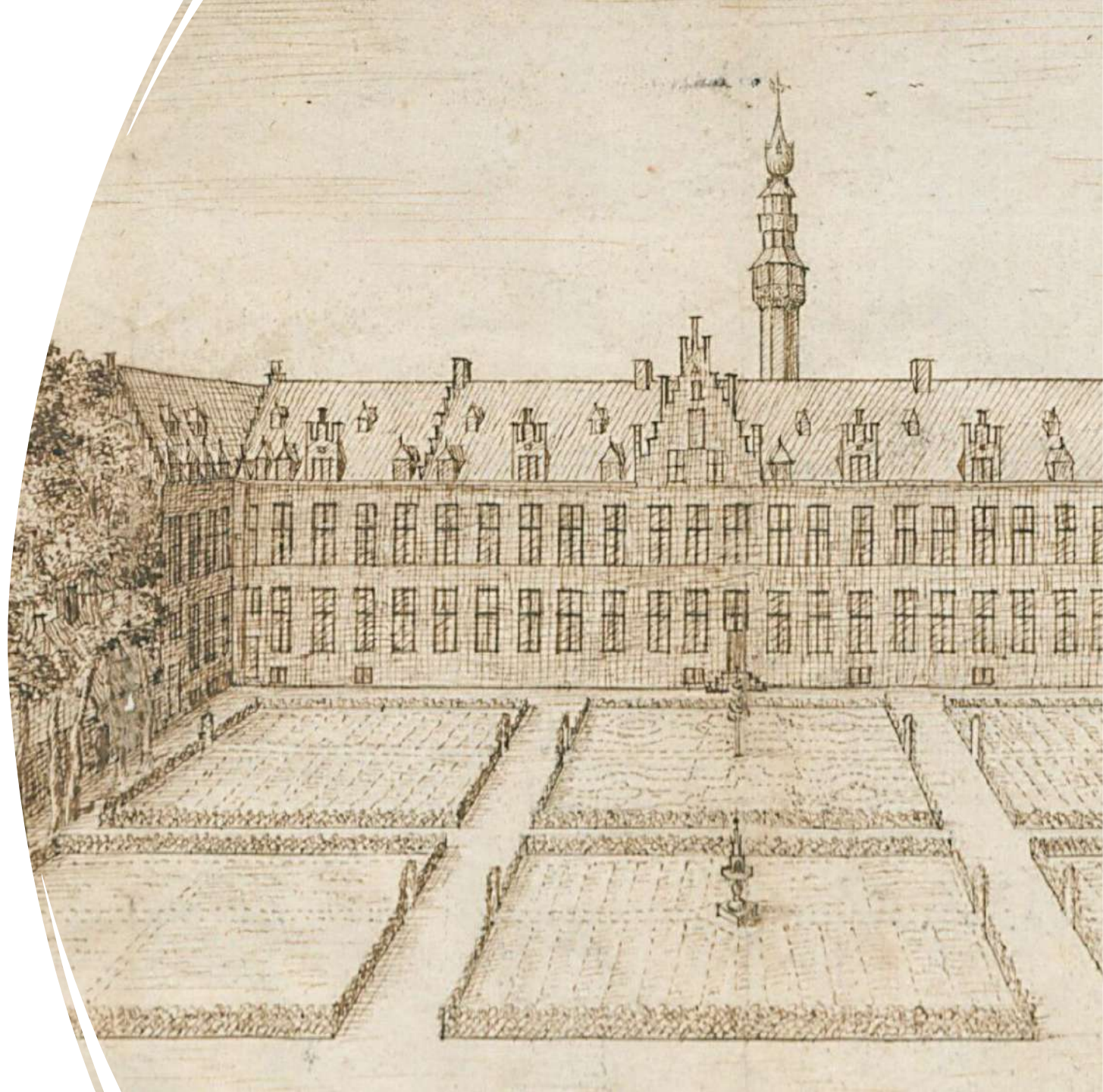
Learning objectives

- Students are able to study and explore various philosophical and literary sources from significant periods of European intellectual history in order to examine, interpret and/or critically evaluate their possible contribution to how we understand Europe today.
- Students are able to recognize, employ and critically reflect upon different methodologies used to identify the affinity, degree of correspondence or relationship between philosophical sources and cultural identity.
- Students are able to apply knowledge and insights from the course to reflect upon, and engage in thoughtful debate about the influence of fundamental philosophical ideas on contemporary European culture and institutions.

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PROGRAM

1. Online module on The Idea of Europe (week 1-4)
2. Online module on Philosophical Source Texts (week 5-7)
3. On-campus block seminar on European Identity (week 9)
4. Assessment details



1. The Idea of Europe (online)

Students follow at their own pace a learning trajectory of four lectures and independently process a package of philosophical texts on the idea of Europe. The learning formats include an individual assignment and online collaboration in pairs and small work groups.

- 15 February, 14:00-16:00 CET
Online lecture **Introduction to the Idea of Europe** * Sebastian Müngersdorff (Antwerp)
- Video recording of two-hour lecture **FRAMEWORK 1: Athens or Jerusalem / Roman or Classic** * Sebastian Müngersdorff (Antwerp)
- Video recording of two-hour lecture **FRAMEWORK 2: Europe as a Republic of Letters or a Europe of division** * Sebastian Müngersdorff (Antwerp)
- Video recording of two-hour lecture **FRAMEWORK 3: Europe between the Quest for Truth and the Spirit of Irony** * Guido Vanheeswijck (Antwerp)

2. Philosophical Source Texts (online)

Students choose one of seven self-study packages devoted to a philosophical key idea. The packages provide access to an online learning environment with video recordings (including an introduction to the philosopher and a discussion of the source text), text materials and writing exercises.

- **Aristotle** (384-322, Athens)
CIVIC FRIENDSHIP * Ana Gavran Milos (Rijeka)
- **Augustine** (354-430, Hippo Regius/Annaba)
GRACE * Anthony Dupont (Leuven)
- **Ibn Rushd** (Averroes) (1126-1198, Córdoba)
RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY * Caterina Belo (Cairo)
- **Giordano Bruno** (1548-1600, Rome)
HUMANISM * Paolo Quintili (Rome)
- **Jean-Jacques Rousseau** (1712-1778, Paris)
WAR AND PEACE * Ann Thomson (Florence)
- **Mary Wollstonecraft** (1759-1797, London)
UNIVERSAL RIGHTS * Herbert De Vriese (Antwerp)
- **Immanuel Kant** (1724-1804, Kaliningrad)
THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS * Tomasz Kups (Toruń)

3. European Identity (on-campus)

Students choose in advance a theme that will define their learning trajectory during the on-campus block seminar. They meet with the guest lecturer who coaches them to develop their own ideas on the theme and elaborate them into a lesson to give to their fellow students. As support, there are plenary workshops and social activities.

- 9 April: Guest lecture and coach sessions
REMEMBRANCE * Antonio Gomez Ramos (Madrid)

- 9 April: Guest lecture and coach sessions
OPPOSITION * Darian Meacham (Maastricht)

- 9 April: Guest lecture and coach sessions
SOLIDARITY * Alessandro Volpe (Milan)

- 10 April: Guest lecture and coach sessions
IMMIGRATION * Lecturer & topic TBC

- 10 April: Guest lecture and coach sessions
WAR * Lecturer & topic TBC

| | Monday 8/apr | Tuesday 9/apr | Wednesday 10/apr | Thursday 11/apr | Friday 12/apr | Saturday 13/apr | |
|-------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 9:00 | Welcome | Workshop: Ideas & Identity | Guest Lecture 3 | | Class Group 1 | Closing Discussion | |
| 10:00 | Introduction to the idea of Europe | | Guest Lecture 4 | Workshop: Inside / Outside - Part I | Class Group 2 | | |
| 11:00 | Break | | Break | Break | Break (15') | | |
| 12:00 | Understanding Europe: three frameworks | | Break | Guest Lecture 5 | Class Group 3 | | |
| | | | Coaches & Study assignments | Discussion | Class Group 4 | | |
| 13:00 | Lunch Break | Lunch Break | Lunch Break | Lunch Break | Lunch Break | | |
| 14:00 | Imagining Europe | Guest Lecture 1 | 1st Coach Session | | City Walk | | |
| 15:00 | | Break | | | | | |
| 16:00 | | Guest Lecture 2 | | | | | Visit Snijders&Rockoxhuis |
| 17:00 | | Break | 2nd Coach Session | | | | |
| 18:00 | | | | 3rd Coach Session & Final Rehearsal | City Walk | | |
| 19:00 | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 | | | | | Farewell Dinner @ Lokeend | | |
| 21:00 | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 | | | | | Film @ Cartoon's: R.M.N. (2022) | | |

4. Assessment Details

The course evaluation falls into two parts. The first contains four short and achievable assignments, completed and handed in online, all of which are pass or fail. The second part is graded. It includes the student class prepared and given during the block seminar, and a concluding paper assignment.

1. Literature on the Idea of Europe: **text analysis** (pass/fail)
2. Literature on the Idea of Europe: **Socratic dialogue** (pass/fail)
3. Philosophical source text: **written assignment** (pass/fail)
4. Imagining Europe group work: **video montage** (pass/fail)
5. On-campus learning trajectory: **co-created student class** (40% of the final mark)
6. Final assignment: **individual paper** (60% of the final mark) to be submitted by 31 May (resit 15 August)

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PRACTICALITIES

1. Course characteristics
2. Target audience
3. Application & nomination
4. Funding for students
5. Learning platform
6. Contact details



Course characteristics

- Host University: University of Antwerp
- Co-host universities: Maastricht University & University Carlos III Madrid
- Academic course level: Advanced Bachelor
- YUFE focus area: European Identity and Responsibilities in a Global World
- ECTS of course: 6
- Language(s): English
- Academic year: 2023/2024
- Method of delivery: Blended
- Timing: Semester II
- Start course: 15-02-2024
- End course: 30-06-2024
- Seats available: 30 regular and 20 YUFE Journey
- Registration start date: 10-10-2023 00:00 CET
- Registration deadline: 19-01-2024 23:59 CET

Target audience

The BIP *Philosophical Sources of European Identity* welcomes advanced Bachelor students

- from the entire YUFE and YERUN network (both YUFE journey and regular learning group students)
- from universities that have an interinstitutional Erasmus agreement with the university of Antwerp
- from different programs and disciplines, provided there is an interest in European identity and a certain familiarity with the subject matter and philosophical approach

Admission criteria: students are willing to travel to Antwerp from 8 to 13 April 2024 (preferably with an Erasmus+ short mobility grant).

Application & nomination

YUFE students can apply through the YUFE course catalogue, see <https://virtualcampus.yufe.eu/link/course/GTq2o2ipUKYOSidv>

All other students make their interest known to the international coordinator at their home institution and follow the application procedures in place there

For enrollment to be valid, students must be nominated by their home institutions, preferably by using the **Short Term Blended Mobility Grants** of the Erasmus+ Program.

The timing for this procedure is as follows:

- 19 January 2024: application deadline
- 29 January 2024: nomination deadline + Learning Agreements signed

Funding for students

- Daily fee: 75€
- Refunding of travel cost on the basis of erasmus distance calculator
<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator>
- Green Travel: see EU regulation
- Top-up lump sum on the basis of the income : see university regulation
- Constraints: maximum number of days in Erasmus during their academic career (12 months for the first cycle)

Learning platform

The BIP's learning platform is Blackboard. After registering, students will have access to the Blackboard course *Philosophical Sources of European Identity*. In this online learning environment, they find all study materials, assignments and practical information. In addition, they are guided here online for their assignments in pairs and in small groups.

Contact details

Course coordinators and co-organizers:

Herbert De Vriese (Herbert.DeVriese@uantwerpen.be)

Sebastian Müngersdorff (Sebastian.Müngersdorff@uantwerpen.be)

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Alessandro Volpe (Volpe.Alessandro1@hsr.it)

International office:

YUFE: Miek Bruggen (Miek.Bruggen@uantwerpen.be)

ERASMUS+: Dominique Van Droogbroeck (Dominique.VanDroogbroeck@uantwerpen.be)

Philosophical Sources of European Identity

TO CONCLUDE

A Brief impression of the previous
edition, Spring 2023 in Antwerp





HANNAH ARENDT

"The political, heteronomous organization of the political sphere"

"The organization of freedom... does not at all require that the freedom be the same of equal to each other, but rather that they become equal partners in a common world... that they together constitute a common world."

"Just as there is no need to a person, one friend understands how to be what specifically distinguishes the human world... against the other, who is a person is forever integral or different. This kind of understanding—seeing the world as we require things to be other than the other follow a point of view... is the political kind of thought and action."

Student classes
 11:45-12:15 (Antonio) REMONBRANC
 12:15-12:45 (Antonio) REMONBRANC







Philosophical Sources of European Identity

Venue: University of Antwerp
City Campus, Prinsstraat 13
2000 Antwerp, Belgium

