



SYLLABUS

Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Geography & Anthropology

GEOG 3312: Geography of Europe –

Peoples, Cultures, and Environments of Europe with an Italian Twist

Summer 2025: Montepulciano, Italy, Session 1, May 22 to June 26, 2025

Course Information

Class meeting time: TBD

Modality: Face-to-Face

Location: Fortezza di Montepulciano, KSU's Facility in [Montepulciano](#), Italy, and via field trips and site visits.

Instructor Information

Name/Title: Dr. Paul N. McDaniel, Associate Professor of Geography

Pronouns: He/Him/His

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Faculty Web: Visit [Dr. McDaniel's FacultyWeb](#) page

Office Location: Sturgis Library Building (LB) 4217 (a [SafeSpace](#))

Phone: 470-578-2373

Drop-In Office Hours & Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

[Department of Geography & Anthropology](#) Main Office:

Social Sciences Building (Kennesaw Campus) room 4042. Phone: 470-578-2373.

Preferred Method of Communication

If you have questions or concerns about our course, please send your messages to Dr. McDaniel at paul.mcdaniel@kennesaw.edu. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours, Monday to Friday, during regular business hours (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM). For messages that arrive over the weekend (after 5:00 PM on Friday) or during holidays/breaks, I will respond the next business day. While I will also respond to messages sent through the D2L email message platform within the online course, it may take longer for me to respond than via regular KSU email. Email is a primary form of communication for businesses and other professional settings such as at a university. Knowing when and how to write effective emails is critical because email often provides the first impression of you and your communication skills (i.e., sending a professional email within a professional setting is not the same as sending a text message to a friend). As such, please refer to the KSU Writing Center's [Guide on Writing Professional Emails](#).

Course Description & Purpose

Official course catalog description: A geographical survey of Europe and its environs, with emphasis on the tremendous diversity found in both the physical and human geography of the region. Economic, political and cultural geography are examined within the framework of the forces that are rapidly restructuring the landscapes of Eastern and Western Europe. No prerequisites.



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Specific Course Section Description for Study Abroad: Europe has profoundly shaped our modern world! We'll explore concepts about the regional geography of Europe as they occur on the landscapes of Italy. We'll examine the physical setting and environment, population and migration, languages and religions, cultures, towns and cities, and geopolitical organization. We'll consider these concepts within the framework of the European Union and broader global processes restructuring local social, cultural, economic, and political landscapes in Italy. While in Italy, we'll observe concepts as they occur on the Italian landscape, allowing us to compare and contrast these patterns with our home culture.

Course Objectives

This course utilizes the geographic, historical, cultural, geopolitical, and economic evolution of Italy and the European Union (EU) as the central framework to challenge students to accomplish the following goals. After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe and identify the basic physical geography and human geography characteristics of the world region of Europe and Europe's sub-regions and countries.
2. Identify Europe's major physiographic and cultural features.
3. Analyze the characteristics, distribution, and cultural complexity of Europe's populations.
4. Explain how global patterns and processes impact Italy and Europe and how Italy and Europe impact global patterns and processes.
5. Describe specific systematic geographic concepts and how these concepts impact environments, populations, cultures, economies, and policies at the national and local level in Italy and Europe.
6. Compare and contrast how larger geographic patterns and processes impact the local level in a foreign landscape compared to their home culture.
7. Identify, define and contrast the environment, culture, population, economics, and political geography of Italy and Europe through the usage, interpretation, and analysis of data represented on different types of maps.



Optional Textbook/Supporting Materials

The course structure and content are based on the following textbook (optional for this study abroad course): *The EU & Neighbors: A Geography of Europe in the Modern World*, third edition, by Brian W. Blouet, from Wiley publishing (2018). ISBN: 9781119397632. Available as an e-textbook.

Recommended Reading: To add further context to textbook concepts, class discussions, field trips in Italy, and ongoing current events, a select set of supplemental readings *may* be made available at the discretion of the instructor. These readings may be drawn from newspapers, magazines, academic journals, book chapters, etc., and would be made available to students online via D2L. Please note that every attempt will be made to include the research and work done by researchers and scholars who have contributed to geographic thought who are often underrepresented in academia.

Course Policies

Attendance

Class Participation. For this class, you should be diligent about reading the required textbook as class activities (lectures, quizzes, exams, discussions) are based on content directly from the textbook. Regular participation and meeting course graded activity deadlines are an essential component to succeeding in this class. Consider our class meetings an assemblage of individuals that is unique and irreplaceable. Irregular participation not only hurts a student's course work, but it weakens the class as a whole. For all KSU in Italy Courses: "Studying abroad offers the unique and exciting experience of taking classes and participating on field trips in another country. Because of this, it is vital that you attend all

pre- and post-session classes offered by your instructor along with all in-country classes and field trips. Attendance is imperative and mandatory for you to benefit fully from the experience. Any unexcused absence from an assigned class or field trip will result in a drop of one letter grade for that class. You are required to comply with the KSU Student Code of Conduct in all classes and field trips associated with this program. Students who engage in disruptive behavior or otherwise appear to be in violation of the KSU Student Code of Conduct will be referred to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. Additionally, if such behavior results in the instructor asking you to leave class or an activity, you will be counted as absent, and the unexcused absence policy above will apply."



Financial Aid Attendance Compliance: You are responsible for determining your enrollment status in all classes to protect your financial aid monies. **NOT ATTENDING A CLASS FOR WHICH YOU ARE REGISTERED IS NOT THE SAME AS WITHDRAWING FROM THE COURSE.** You must complete an online withdrawal to be removed from a course. If you stop attending class but do not complete an online withdrawal **BEFORE** the last day to drop without academic penalty, you will receive a grade of WF, which counts as an F in calculating your grade point average and counts as a completed course for determining your financial aid award.

Grading & Evaluation Policies

All graded activity due dates are clearly listed in multiple locations to help you stay organized and on schedule for successful complete of all course components. Due dates are clearly listed in the course grade activity chart below, in the module schedule further below in this syllabus, in D2L on each individual activity page, and in the online D2L course calendar. Typically, I will do my best to grade items and return feedback to you in the grade item submission area within D2L within one week of the due date for the item.

Final Course Grading Scale

500 Total Possible Points. Final course grades will be assigned based upon the total points from the items above out of 500 total possible points, computed to a percentage according to the grade guideline below.

A = 90% to 100% B = 80% to 89% C = 70% to 79% D = 60% to 69% F = 0% to 59%

I will round up final course grades if they are $>$ or $= .5$ or above, for example, an 89.6 is an A, but 79.2 is a C.

Participation (100 points)

Active participation in class including attending class (attendance will be taken at each class meeting and field trip) and participating in class discussions and all other components of the course is important, especially in this study abroad program. Consider our class meetings an assemblage of individuals that is unique and irreplaceable. Irregular attendance not only hurts a student's course work, but it weakens the class as a whole. Please see the Attendance Policy earlier in this syllabus.

Quizzes (100 points)

There are 10 quizzes that occur throughout the course. Each quiz corresponds to a particular textbook chapter, per the weekly schedule in this syllabus. Each quiz has 10 multiple choice questions worth 1 point each for a total of 100 points. You may utilize these quizzes to study for exams. Quizzes are multiple choice, directly based on material from the course reading, and completed on D2L. D2L will grade the quizzes automatically so you will be able to see your grade immediately upon completing the quiz.

- Quiz 1: May 16
- Quiz 2: May 16
- Quiz 3: May 29
- Quiz 4: June 5
- Quiz 5: June 5
- Quiz 6: June 12
- Quiz 7: June 12
- Quiz 8: June 19
- Quiz 9: June 19
- Quiz 10: June 25

Travel Journal Discussions (300 Points)

There are six online travel journal discussion forums throughout the course. Each is worth 50 points for a total of 300 points. You must respond in detail (at least 200 words) to the travel journal discussion topic prompt/question and respond in one paragraph (at least 50 words) each to at least 2 other classmates' responses to create a dialogue around the topics that the entire class is participating in. For each travel journal discussion activity, you should engage the learned course content with your experiences among the landscapes of Italy. It is expected that these entries will tie specifically to our fieldtrips, class discussions, and course readings. Such journal entries should make cohesive connections to the content and concepts we are discussing in class each week and observing on the landscapes of Italy. The discussion assignment grading rubric below contains detailed information about what is required for the discussions and how points are awarded for different items required within the discussions. See schedule overview for discussion due dates and related course modules. These activities help facilitate student comprehension of thematic and regional concepts of Europe & the EU.



- Journal 1 (Introduce Yourself): May 16
- Journal 2 (EU Members and Physical Geography): May 29
- Journal 3 (Historical, Cultural, and Population Geography): June 5
- Journal 4 (Urban, Economic, and Political Geography): June 12
- Journal 5 (Political Geography, Geopolitics, and EU Future): June 19
- Journal 6 (Reflection): June 25

Grading Rubric for Each Discussion Activity

Criteria	Exemplary	Midpoint	Unsatisfactory
Content appropriately Responds to Discussion Instructions / Questions / Prompts 20 points	Fully addresses all aspects of the discussion prompt. Delivers a clear and focused post that directly answers the question(s) / prompt(s) and demonstrates critical thinking. May introduce relevant outside information or personal experience(s) to enhance the discussion. Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic under discussion. Analysis is insightful and well-developed. Uses relevant geographical concepts and terminology accurately. Provides strong supporting evidence (data, examples) to back up claims.	Addresses most aspects of the discussion prompt, but may miss some minor details. Response may be somewhat focused, but might deviate slightly from the main question(s) / prompt(s). Demonstrates a basic understanding of the topic under discussion. Analysis is somewhat developed but may lack depth. May use some geographical concepts and terminology, but may not always be accurate. Provides some supporting evidence, but it may be weak or irrelevant.	Does not fully address the discussion prompt. May misunderstand key elements of the question(s) / prompt(s). Response is not focused and may stray significantly from the intended topic. Demonstrates a weak understanding of the topic under discussion. Analysis is lacking or underdeveloped. Does not use geographical concepts or terminology. Lacks supporting evidence.
Length (Main Discussion Post) 10 points	Meets or exceeds the minimum 200-word requirement. Content is well-distributed and provides a substantial contribution to the discussion.	Length is between 100 and 199 words.	Length is less than 100 words.
Grammar and Spelling 5 points	Writing is free of grammatical errors and typos. Sentences are varied and well-constructed.	Writing contains some grammatical errors and typos, but they do not hinder overall understanding. Sentences may be repetitive or unclear at times.	Writing contains frequent grammatical errors and typos that significantly hinder understanding. Sentences are poorly constructed and difficult to read.

Criteria	Exemplary	Midpoint	Unsatisfactory
References / Citations 5 points	Includes relevant reference citations using a consistent style guide (e.g., APA, MLA) to support claims made in the discussion post. The KSU Writing Center provides style-specific resource guides for citations, references and other aspects of the writing process.	May or may not include citations or references. If included, there may be inconsistencies in style or some missing citations.	Does not include any citations or references, even when relevant information is clearly sourced from outside materials.
Meaningful Responses to At Least Two Other Students' Discussion Posts 10 points	Identifies and responds thoughtfully to at least two classmates' posts (minimum 50 words per response). Responses demonstrate active reading of others' posts, build upon others' ideas, and contribute meaningfully to the overall discussion. May ask insightful questions to stimulate further discussion.	Only one response to another student discussion post. Or, responds to at least two classmates' posts, but responses may be short or brief (less than 50 words) or generic or lack depth. May not demonstrate a clear connection to the classmate's original post.	No responses to other students' discussion posts.
Total	50 points	15 points	0 points

Other Course-Specific Policies

Late work may be accepted at the discretion of the instructor through either making pre-arrangements for a late submission with a valid excuse with documentation or for an unplanned missed due date with a valid excuse and documentation. Simply submitting a graded activity late without communicating with the instructor as to the reason why it was submitted late is unprofessional. Also, late work most likely will not be accepted more than one week after the stated due date. However, "life happens" and so it may be necessary for you to submit something late due to an unforeseen circumstance. Such issues are taken into account, but please communicate with the professor. So that final course grades can be submitted to the university on schedule, no late work will be accepted after the last official day of class for the term as stated in the official university calendar unless there is a valid reason with documentation (such as pre-arranged accommodations or a valid excuse such as a doctor's note).

Communication Rules/Online Course Etiquette

In any classroom setting there are communication rules in place that encourage students to respect others and their opinions. In an online environment the do's and don'ts of online communication are referred to as **Netiquette**. This [netiquette resource](#) may prove useful to students.

How to Succeed in this Class

To succeed in this class, you will need to log on daily, and refer to the detailed schedule in this syllabus which lists the course modules week-by-week and the due dates for discussions and quizzes. The D2L course calendar also specifies due dates for all course items. An online class can be both challenging and exciting. You need to have and make the time to complete all the activities, participate in discussions, and be proactive and open-minded to learning. You also need to be self-motivated and self-disciplined to succeed.

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is defined as the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. If you are unaware or uncertain about how to properly cite a particular source, check out the RCHSS ODE's Plagiarism Resources (for [MLA](#) and [APA](#)) for more information.

Institutional Policies

Federal, BOR, & KSU Course Syllabus Policies

There are numerous federal, University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents (BOR), and KSU course syllabus policies that outline students' rights and responsibilities. Students are responsible for visiting the KSU website that lists these and for being familiar with all of the policies listed. For detailed information, visit the [Course Syllabus Policies](#) page:

[Federal, BOR, & KSU Required Syllabus Policies and Student Resources](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Policy

Kennesaw State University provides program accessibility and reasonable accommodations for persons defined as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended. Students who require accommodation in facilities, services, programs or activities should contact the Assistant Director for Disabled Student Services to arrange an individual assistance plan. Accommodations may include classroom accessibility, modified computer equipment, disability-accessible parking, assistance with note-taking sign language interpreting or captioning services, class materials in alternate format, library and laboratory assistance, and other accommodations. Determination of appropriate accommodations to be provided will be based upon documentation of the disability. Members of the public who require specific accommodations in facilities, services, programs or activities should contact the office sponsoring the service, program or activity at least five days in advance to arrange individual accommodations. Should a student require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact either the ADA Compliance Officer for Students at 770-423-6443; the ADA Compliance Officer for Facilities at 470-578-6224; or the Director of Human Resources, ADA Compliance Officer for staff and faculty at 470-578-2666. For more information, visit KSU's [Institutional Policies](#) page.

KSU Non-Discrimination Policy

Kennesaw State University (KSU) is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful environment for living, work and study. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, Board of Regents policy, and University policy, the University prohibits harassment of or discrimination against any person because of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status by any member of the KSU Community on campus, in connection with a University program or activity, or in a manner that creates a hostile environment for members of the KSU community. For more information, visit KSU's [Office of Institutional Equity](#) page.

Codes of Conduct

All students are responsible for knowing the information, policies and procedures outlined in the Kennesaw State University Codes of Conduct. The KSU Codes of Conduct include: the general Student Code of Conduct, the Residential Code of Conduct, and the Code of Academic Integrity. Kennesaw State University reserves the right to make changes to this code as necessary and once those changes are posted online, they are in effect. Students are encouraged to check online for the updated versions of all policies. For more information, visit KSU's [Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](#) page.

KSU Student Resources

A wealth of resources is available on campus for students. Visit the [KSU Student Resources](#) page and [KSU Required Syllabus Information](#) page for detailed information about: Coronavirus (COVID-19); Technology Assistance; Student Support and Wellness; Academic Resources (including Grade Appeals). You can also access information regarding [Financial Aid](#), [the Registrar](#), and [the Bursar](#) by visiting their websites. KSU's [Online Learning Support](#) division is also available if you need assistance with online courses.

Course Schedule

Below is an outline of the content and activities in each module of the course. Dates below indicate the date the module begins. Due dates are listed within this schedule below, in the Grading and Evaluation Policies section earlier in this syllabus, and are also clearly listed in the online D2L course calendar and on each graded activity item within D2L. All due dates for activities are in Eastern Time and are due by 11:59 PM on D2L on the specified due date.

Week	Modules	Topic & Readings	What's Due
Saturday, March 29	0: Start Here	Location: Kennesaw Campus 9:30 – 12:00 Program Orientation (Preparing for Travel, Italy/Montepulciano, Expectations) 1:00 – 1:50 First class meeting with morning class 2:00 – 2:50 First class meeting with afternoon class Syllabus Overview and Introduction to the Course	
Saturday, April 12	Module 1: Introduction to the EU	Location: Virtual 10:00 – 12:00 Program Orientation (Health & Safety; Team building for each session) 1:00 – 1:50 First class meeting with morning class 2:00 – 2:50 First class meeting with afternoon class Read Geography.com website for general overview of the discipline of geography. Introduction: The European Union	
Friday, May 2	Module 2: Physical Geography	Location: Virtual class meeting Chapter 1: Physical Environments	
Friday, May 16	Module 2: Physical Geography (continued)	Location: Virtual class meeting Chapter 1: Physical Environments (continued)	Journal 1 Quiz 1 Quiz 2
Week 1 Abroad: May 21-29	Module 3: Cultural & Historical Geography	Chapter 2: Cultural and Historical Geography	Journal 2 Quiz 3
Week 2 Abroad: May 30-June 5	Module 4: Population & Migration Module 5: Rural and Urban Settlements	Chapter 3: Population, Distribution, Density, Migration, and Aging Chapter 4: Rural and Urban Settlements	Journal 3 Quiz 4 Quiz 5
Week 3 Abroad: June 6-12	Module 6: Economic Geography Module 7: Political Geography & Geopolitics	Chapter 5: Economic Geography: Agriculture, Industry, and Services Chapter 6: Political Geography	Journal 4 Quiz 6 Quiz 7
Week 4 Abroad: June 13-19	Module 9: France & Benelux States Module 10: Germany & Italy Module 11: United	Chapter 7: France and the Benelux Countries Chapter 8: Germany and Italy Chapter 9: The United Kingdom, Denmark, and Ireland Chapter 10: Southern Europe: Greece, Spain, and Portugal	Journal 5 Quiz 8 Quiz 9

Week	Modules	Topic & Readings	What's Due
	Kingdom Module 12: Chapters 10-16	Chapter 11: Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, and Finland	
Week 5 Abroad: June 20-24	Module 12: Chapters 10-16	Chapter 12: Eastward Expansion 2004: The Baltics, Poland, The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Slovenia Chapter 13: Eastward Expansion 2007-2013: The Balkans Chapter 14: Belarus, the Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and Russia Chapter 15: Turkey, Cyprus, Malta, and Gibraltar Chapter 16: European Union Future? Course Wrap-Up Discussions and Observations	Journal 6 Quiz 10

Itinerary/Field Trips

Date	Location	Bus Times	Activities/Tickets	Meals	Class Time	Notes
Thursday, May 22, 2025	Atlanta		Flight ATL > Rome (FCO), Delta 214, depart 4:10 pm			Students fly out of Atlanta
Friday, May 23, 2025	Rome / Montepulciano	11:00	Arrive FCO 7:35 am, Bus to Montepulciano, Apartment Check in	Trattoria Dinner		Bus to Montepulciano
Saturday, May 24, 2025	Montepulciano		Orientation (10 am), Historic City Tour (3 pm)	T. Breakfast, Pizza in Fortezza		
Sunday, May 25, 2025	Montepulciano		Apartment Inspections	Trattoria Dinner		
Monday, May 26, 2025	Montepulciano		Class, Cooking Class Group 1 (3:30 pm)		8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Tuesday, May 27, 2025	Orvieto	8:00	Field Trip - Duomo, Underground (10:30, 10:45), St. Patricks Well	Trattoria Dinner		Bus there and back
Wednesday, May 28, 2025	Montepulciano		Class, Survival Italian (4:00 pm)	Trattoria Dinner	8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Thursday, May 29, 2025	Pisa	7:00	Field Trip - Tower (12:30pm), Baptistry			Bus there and back
Friday, May 30, 2025	Montepulciano					
Saturday, May 31, 2025	Montepulciano					
Sunday, June 1, 2025	Montepulciano			Trattoria Dinner		
Monday, June 2, 2025	Montepulciano		Class		8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Tuesday, June 3, 2025	Montepulciano		Class, Survival Italian (4:00 pm)	Trattoria Dinner	8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Wednesday, June 4, 2025	Florence	7:00	Field Trip - Market, Faculty Choice (Class 1)			Bus there

Date	Location	Bus Times	Activities/Tickets	Meals	Class Time	Notes
Thursday, June 5, 2025	Florence		Field Trip - Uffizi (10 am), Faculty Choice (Class 2)			20 euros for transportation
Friday, June 6, 2025	Montepulciano					
Saturday, June 7, 2025	Montepulciano					
Sunday, June 8, 2025	Montepulciano			Trattoria Dinner		
Monday, June 9, 2025	Montepulciano		Class, Cooking Class Group 2 (3:30 pm)		8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Tuesday, June 10, 2025	Rome	7:00	Field Trip - Colosseum (10 am), Faculty Choice (Class 1)	Trattoria Dinner		Bus there and back
Wednesday, June 11, 2025	Montepulciano		Class	Trattoria Dinner	8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Thursday, June 12, 2025	Rome	7:00	Field Trip - Vatican (10 am), Faculty Choice (Class 2)			Bus there and back
Friday, June 13, 2025	Montepulciano					
Saturday, June 14, 2025	Montepulciano					
Sunday, June 15, 2025	Montepulciano			Trattoria Dinner		
Monday, June 16, 2025	Montepulciano		Class, Cooking Class Group 3 (3:30 pm)		8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Tuesday, June 17, 2025	Montepulciano		Class	Trattoria Dinner	8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Wednesday, June 18, 2025	Bologna	6:00	Field Trip - Markets (w/classes), Faculty Choice (Class 1)			Bus there
Thursday, June 19, 2025	Bologna		Field Trip - Santo Stefano (w/classes), Faculty Choice (Class 2)			20 euros for transportation
Friday, June 20, 2025	Montepulciano					
Saturday, June 21, 2025	Montepulciano					
Sunday, June 22, 2025	Montepulciano			Trattoria Dinner		
Monday, June 23, 2025	Montepulciano		Class	Trattoria Dinner	8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Tuesday, June 24, 2025	Montepulciano		Class		8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Wednesday, June 25, 2025	Montepulciano		Free Day in MP - Apartment inspections, packing, etc.	Trattoria Dinner		
Thursday, June 26, 2025	Montepulciano / Rome	5:30	Flight Rome > Atlanta, Delta 67 depart 11:35 am arrive 4:35 pm			Bus to Rome