

## **POLI 882: TAM/CES Fall 2021 Friday Lecture Series**

In person (GEC 4003) and/or on zoom – 12:00pm – 1:30pm (unless otherwise noted).

### **Course Profile**

POLI 882 is a one-credit course designed to enhance students' understanding of transatlantic, EU, and contemporary European perspectives through lectures from and discussions with experts in the field. This lecture series will draw on the knowledge of TAM alumni, UNC faculty, and other visiting scholars or professionals. Lectures will take place in person and on zoom. Please note that the speaker schedule is subject to change.

### **Course Requirements**

Attendance at the Friday lectures is required. If you miss one lecture, I won't ask any questions. Try to save up this free pass for when you are in a tough spot. If the unavoidable occurs and you explain to me that it was indeed unavoidable, and you miss two or three lectures, you can watch the video of the missed lectures (assuming the speaker agrees to be filmed) and provide a short summary and/or critique of the talk. After that, your grade may suffer if you miss any more lectures.

Some speakers will provide an advanced copy of the lecture or a relevant article. TAM students are encouraged to read these selections before the Friday lecture. Most of the readings will be sent to you via the tam2021 listserv and/or posted on Sakai. Each week, one to three TAM students will be responsible for introducing the speaker at the Friday lecture. This short presentation must include more substance than a mere list of degrees, achievements, and work experience. Please put some effort and creativity into finding out about the speaker's interests and work. This may require some outside reading and hopefully, communication with the speaker. This piece is the main assignment for this class. Please also generate a few questions for the speaker before each lecture.

Failure to do the work involved in your speaker presentation or to comply with the attendance norms will result in an F. Please take these requirements seriously.

### **Fall 2021 lecture line-up:**

**Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>:** Class logistics session with Sarah H.

**Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>:** Brandon Bohrn '19 "Transatlantic Trends 2021"

Brandon Bohrn works as manager of transatlantic relations at the Bertelsmann Foundation, a transatlantic think tank based in Washington, D.C. Specifically, he manages the German-American relations portfolio and other projects focused on strengthening transatlantic ties. His work has been featured by several U.S. and European news organizations including The Washington Post, Politico, EURACTIV, Reuters, The Guardian, die Süddeutsche Zeitung, and Deutsche Welle.

As a Fulbright and DAAD scholar, Brandon has worked and studied on both sides of the Atlantic. Previously, he interned with the foreign policy team of a U.S. senator and in two U.S. diplomatic missions in Germany. Brandon completed the TransAtlantic Masters Program (TAM) in political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. He is also a graduate of The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina.

**Friday, September 3rd:** No lecture – Labor Day weekend.

**Friday, September 10th** – Anna Schoon, PhD candidate at the Centre for British Studies at the Humboldt University of Berlin.

"EU Politburo" or "Truly European Literary Authority" - How 'European' is the European Union Prize for Literature (EUPL)?

The first part of this title refers to two quotations. The first one by Adam Thorpe expressing his reservations against EU involvement in literary matters; the second one is by Pascale Casanova who explored European literature as a 'literary space in the making', as 'Europe' is currently lacking 'literary authorities' considering themselves as primarily European (she poses the question whether the EUPL and other European literary prizes could be such authorities).

This talk will focus on what makes the EUPL so interesting, namely the tensions between literature and politics in this specific context. To what extent does it promote EU identity engineering and to what extent does it promote 'legitimate' literary texts and authors? The answer is, of course, it somehow does both, which points to the complex interplay of interests in the EU as well as European literature (understood as such a literary space in the making as proposed by Casanova). The last point in particular can be of interest for a Euro-phile, US-based audience.

Anna Schoon is a PhD student at the Centre for British Studies at the Humboldt University of Berlin. Having graduated from Mannheim University (B.A.) and Saarland University (M.A.) in 2012 and 2015 respectively, she pursued her interest in interdisciplinary research and European literature with a research project on the European Union Prize for Literature (funded by the Berlin Senate Elsa Neumann scholarship from 2017-2019).

**Friday, September 17th** – Hanna Kiiver – EU Commission Fellow - "European labor market statistics - comparable and meaningful data during the COVID-19 crisis"

In her talk, Dr Kiiver will discuss data comparability, and how to use (European) official statistics. Specifically, she will take labour market data in the US and the EU as an example, and show how small differences in the calculation of indicators that ostensibly have the same definition (e.g. the unemployment rate) can lead to different interpretations of what is happening in the labour market.

Hannah Kiiver is an EU Fellow at CES for the academic year 2021-2022. She joined the European Commission in 2007, and currently is the deputy head of the unit in charge of labor market statistics at Eurostat. Hannah earned her PhD at the University of Utrecht, working on causality in econometrics, and spent six months with a Marie Curie fellowship at PSE (École d'Économie de Paris). She is currently finalizing an MSc in epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Hannah's research interests are sample survey methodology, comparability and harmonization in labor market statistics, and occupational epidemiology. Her research during her stay at CES will

focus on the policy relevance and quality of experimental labor market transition estimates from the EU Labour Force Survey.

**Friday, September 24th** - “Germany, the EU, and the Energiewende; Towards a More Just and Sustainable Europe”. On zoom, we will host a panel discussion with Profs Jon Lepofsky and Greg Gangi (both UNC); further panelists pending.

Germany continues to lead the way in mitigating global climate change through decarbonization, transitions to renewable energy, and related shifts towards sustainability. Likewise, from the EU-level European Green Deal, to the vast array of policies and practices within individual municipalities across Europe, European leaders and residents are reimagining a sustainable future at multiple levels of governance and civil society. This has only increased as stakeholders across the private and public sectors work to recover from the coronavirus pandemic. Additionally, the focus on Europe's environmental sustainability in the midst of a global climate crisis increasingly includes a stress on making Europe more socially inclusive and expanding economic opportunity for all. Indeed, documents such as the European Commission's Cohesion Policy and the New Leipzig Charter (adopted at the recent Informal Ministerial Meeting on Urban Matters) highlight, Europe's sustainable development should be built upon a foundation of cities and regions which are not just green and blue, but also productive and just. Despite significant innovations and progress towards environmentally sustainable development, such efforts have not always lead to greater environmental justice or equity for all Europeans (sometimes even exacerbating already existing disparities). This panel will examine the examples, opportunities, and challenges emerging from Europe's on-going efforts to mitigate climate change and foster a more green, productive, and just Europe. We will highlight examples from Germany, such as Hamburg and Essen – both named European Green Capitals – urban farming in Berlin, or the city of Emden, which is committed to 100% renewables.

**Friday, October 1 (and into the weekend for individual sessions) - Abby Sabo '03 – Federal Careers (Security and Defense) – NOTE location GEC 2008/10**

Aberdeen works for the US Department of Defense. She is a 2003 graduate of the TAM Program. After completing the core module in Chapel Hill, NC, she studied at Sciences Po, while also interning at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, then finishing the program in Bath, England. Abby deployed to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq in 2003-04 as a Defense Contractor. After her deployment, she worked at the National Archives, declassifying documents for public release and reviewing book manuscripts written by prominent American figures who had once had security clearances. Ms. Sabo joined DIA as a government civilian in July 2007 as a Foreign Disclosure Officer. She was able to use her French skills, honed during the TAM program, and she assisted the U.S. Embassy in Paris by translating critical information. At the time, there were no analyst vacancies on the Europe Team, so Abby was encouraged to begin covering West Africa as a Political-Military All Source Intelligence Analyst for DIA from 2008-2011. She was then selected to work as a Defense Liaison Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Niamey, Niger from 2011-2013. Ms. Sabo received the Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Medal (the second highest award a DIA Civilian can receive) from the DIA Director at Agency HQ's in Dec. 2013 for superior efforts during two years in Niger, successfully responding to unprecedented challenges in one of the most austere environments in the world. Ms. Sabo was selected for a

second tour as a Defense Liaison Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Yaounde, Cameroon from 2013-2015. Ms. Sabo received a Franklin Award from the U.S. Ambassador to Cameroon at an Embassy-wide award ceremony in July 2015 for superior efforts assisting a Foreign Service Officer in a crisis situation.

**Bonus portion at 3:30pm with Alex Holmgren '13 (Commercial Service) on zoom.**

**Friday, October 8th** – “The German Elections 2021 and the End of the Merkel Era: What’s Next?” On zoom, we will host a panel discussion with Profs Christiane Lemke (Hannover and UNC), Helga Welsh (Wake Forest University), Konrad Jarausch (UNC), and Dominic Nyhuis (UNC).

The 2021 German elections will have far-reaching consequences for domestic politics as well as for the future of Europe. The weakness of traditional mainstream parties, including the Social Democrats but also the CDU, the rise of the Greens and the challenge from the far-right leave prospects for the next coalition government uncertain. The following questions will be addressed: How do we explain the decline of major parties? What is behind the rise of the Greens and which role will they play in the future? What is the most likely government coalition and which direction will the new government follow? What is the impact of the elections on Europe and the European Union? What is left from Angela Merkel’s legacy?

The event will begin with a short keynote from Prof Lemke and then we will hear a response from each panelist. Then, we will open the floor to questions and discussion with the audience.

**Friday, October 15th – Eva Palackova '09 – European People’s Party – zoom**

**No talk title yet, but lecture will focus on environmental policy and climate change.**

**Friday, October 29th – Alumni Panel – Carolina Inn 5pm.**

**Friday, November 5th – Sergul (Tasdemir) Nguyen '11 (zoom) – “How do international news outlets cover refugee crises? A critical view on the challenges and contradictions in journalistic practice”**

Sergül Nguyen is a Lecturer at the Department of Media and Communication of Erasmus University Rotterdam and a PhD Candidate in the same field at Galatasaray University, Istanbul. As part of the UNC-TAM program she received her European Studies (M.A.) degree from Sciences Po Paris in 2011 and she holds a B.A. in Sociology from Bogazici University, Istanbul. Her PhD research focuses on the limits of cosmopolitanism in international news media, more specifically on how the BBC World News frame the Syrian refugee crisis. Her research interests include (news) framing, journalism in the digital age, media ethics, crisis communication and the relationship between journalism & public relations. She has experiences as an educator, researcher, and practitioner in the fields of journalism and communication. Before joining Erasmus University in 2020, she worked as a Lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences Utrecht. She was a visiting fellow at Cardiff University School of Journalism, Media and Culture Studies in 2018. From 2011 to 2014 she worked for the news channel CNN Turk as a

correspondent covering local and foreign news. She then transferred her skills in journalism into corporate communications and worked for the Turkish conglomerate Sabanci. Outside academia, she still retains a vast and strong network with the professional field by contributing to two prestigious digital media platforms (Journo and NewsLabTurkey) that aims at enhancing journalism in Turkey; here she writes about the future of journalism, media and technology.

**Friday, November 12th – Bertelsmann Foundation event on zoom with Sam George, filmmaker**

“Out to Vote” is a short film Sam made about voting – specifically in Baltimore, Maryland, following formerly incarcerated individuals who, having successfully fought to regain the right to vote, have become community leaders fighting for democratic participation in their community. We will screen the film together and then discuss it with Sam.

**Friday, November 19th – zoom - Miguel Pinto Luz, Deputy Mayor of Cascais, Portugal**

“Leadership in a Pandemic”

This talk will be on leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic and how forward-thinking leaders can make cities more resilient economically, structurally, socially, and environmentally. Deputy Mayor Miguel Pinto Luz has been developing a new vision for the future of cities and has successfully implemented strategies in Cascais. He is internationally recognized for this work, having been invited as a keynote speaker around the world on the topic of Smart Cities and the future of democracy.

<https://www.worldcorporategolfchallenge.com/miguel-pinto-luz-investing-cascais-vision/>

Mary Clare Freeman ‘15 will moderate the event.