DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE AND OBJECTIVES:

Europe constitutes a political, socioeconomic, and geographical reality of especial relevance in the world. Its current configuration, its political map, its cities, and its territorial organization are the consequences of a long process that has taken centuries and during which its relationship with the rest of the world has been patent.

Nowadays, Europe is undergoing a process of mutation. At an inner scale, this mutation is caused by the consolidation of the European Union and of the disappearance of the socialist group. At an international scale, on the other hand, it is caused by the configuration of a globalized and multipolar world.

The main characteristic of Europe is its internal variety together with its cultural and political diversity- consequence of its geography which covers from the Mediterranean Sea to the Arctic Ocean- and its intense and complex history.

The diversity we can find in lands, villages, people, and territories are translated into an extraordinary richness of landscapes. That makes of Geography an important element for the comprehension of European society and spaces at the same time that it is used as the tool for university teaching.

The course: Europe: Images and landscapes we offer has as its main objective the understanding of it, of the space, of the economy and of the societies that occupy it.

The main didactic tool it makes use of is the European landscapes which are to be understood as visual shapes of the rural environment, history, culture and society, that is, as meaningful images at a general and regional level equipped with exemplary value.

The syllabus is organized in ten units in which we have included a special reference to Spain in the European Union and to the European Union in the world.

Classes will be developed mainly by lectures given by the professor, but presentations from the part of the students will also be incorporated together with debate sessions on each topic. Excursions, visits, reading activities, analysis, and commentaries on the readings will also be included.
The aim is to promote the initiative and concerns of the students and to facilitate and make efficient the labor of the student; for that reasons, each session is accompanied with didactic material such as a summary of the units, diverse information, maps, photos, illustrations, etc.,

CONTENTS:

1. An Old Continent: Europe.
2. A new content: European Union and the countries from the old Soviet Union.
3. The Europeans.
4. European countries.
5. The economic and landscape dimension of the European agricultural space.
6. Importance and economic meaning of the European industry.
7. The progressive meaning of the European services in its economy.
8. An unequal economic space: Internal instability.
10. The current meaning of the European Union.

DETAILED PROGRAMME:

1. An Old Continent: Europe.
   - Fundamental geographical characters
   - The relief as a territorial and human activity base
   - Seas and the litorals’ configuration
   - Climate diversity and climate domains
   - Natural landscapes and environment

2. A new content: European Union and the countries from the old Soviet Union.
   - European political map
   - The Old Europe and the idea of a united Europe
   - The antecedents and the European process of union
   - The URRS disintegration and the geographical space of the post-soviet

3. The Europeans.
   - The population and its spatial distribution
   - The natural dynamics of the population
   - Migratory movements and the new spatial dynamics of the population
   - Structural and socioeconomic characteristics of the population. The spatial inequalities

4. European countries.
   - The meaning of the city in Europe: the urban fact and the process of urbanization
   - Characteristics of the European city
   - The city systems and the urban hierarchies
   - The European city: productive space and consumerist space

5. The economic and landscape dimension of the European agricultural space.
   - The European agricultures and the European agrarian landscapes
- The agrarian functions of the European rural spaces
- The agrarian politics and the rural development
- Decline and restructuring of the fishing activities

6. Importance and economic meaning of the European industry.
   - The European industry and the current tendencies of industrial restructuring
     - The productive specialization of the European spaces
     - Politics for the industrial development
     - Energetic resources. External dependency

7. The progressive meaning of the European services in its economy.
   - The meaning of the service activities in the current Europe
     - Means of transport: national and international roads
     - International market: exchanges without borders
     - The financial system
     - Demand for leisure and tourist modalities. Tourist spaces

8. An unequal economic space: Internal instability.
   - Spatial instabilities
   - Socioeconomic differences
   - Reasons for the inequalities and instabilities
   - Regional politics

   - The political unity of the European Union
   - Geographical differences
   - The contrasts and the specificity, unity and diversity in the European Union
   - The large regional wholes: “The Europes”

10. The current meaning of the European Union.
    - The European Union in figures. A comparative analysis
    - The European Union, a working reality
    - The meaning of the European Union in the world scenario.
    - Spain in the European Union

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR INITIAL REFERENCE:
Specific bibliography, and Internet resources for each unit will be highlighted along the whole course and in each class as well as for cartography, documentation and sources.

METHODOLOGY AND DIDACTIC ASPECTS:
The teaching activities include theoretical and practical classes together with complementary essays.

1) The theoretical classes are based on lectures on the units included in
the syllabus from the part of the professor. Each of them will consist on a detailed description of its main aspects; the explanation will be illustrated with several didactic resources (maps, photos, videos, statistics, graphs, etc.) and it will be accompanied by an outline-summary which would enable the students to follow the explanation in an orderly way so to understand it completely.

2) The **practical classes** will consist on class work and work with the teacher. The working material will be documents of any sort related to the topic studied (texts, maps, statistics, documents, press, etc.) which will have the aim of going into detail about the units and covering them from a different didactic perspective.

3) The **essays and complementary activities** will consist on additional papers. Some of them will be compulsory whereas some others will have a voluntary nature. They must include discussions, seminars, essays, etc., all of which will be developed with the help and advice of the teacher in order to increase the student’s knowledge according to his own preferences, interests and specialization.

**EVALUATION:**
As far as the evaluation is concerned, the following elements will be taken into account:

- Attendance
- Active participation and intervention in class together with the preparation of essays and complementary activities.
- Grades obtained from each activity
- Grades obtained from the partial and/or final exams (the last option only for those students who will need to do it)