Content

Course Code	Course Name	Semester	Theory	Practice	Lab	Credit	ECTS
RI426	Germany in European politics: From the past to the present	8	3	3	0	3	5

Prerequisites	
Admission Requirements	

Language of Instruction	French
Course Type	Elective
Course Level	Bachelor Degree
Objective	The aim of this course is to analyse Germany, one of the key actors in the European regional system, and its role in the transformation of Europe. This process is examined in its political, economic and intellectual dimensions, providing an in-depth analysis of Germany as a major actor in international relations and the European political scene.
Content	This course offers a historical analysis of Germany's evolution and its role in Europe, from Antiquity to the present day. It successively examines the Germanic peoples and kingdoms, the Reformation and the Wars of Religion, the power struggles between Prussia and Austria in the eighteenth century, and the European revolutions of the nineteenth century. It then explores German unification, Weltpolitik, the Weimar Republic, Nazism and the Second World War. The course also examines German foreign policy during the Cold War, followed by the place of reunified Germany in Europe under Chancellors Kohl, Schröder and Merkel. Finally, it analyses the Zeitenwende in Germany under Scholz and Merz.
References	• Cornelius Tacitus, La Germanie, Nabu Press, 2010. • Jules César, Guerre des Gaules, Les Belles Lettres, 1997. • Herwig Wolfram, The Roman Empire and Its Germanic Peoples, University of California Press, 1997. • J. B. Bury, The Invasion of Europe by the Barbarians, Open Road Media, 2024. • Martin Luther, Les 95 Thèses. • Ernst Bloch, Thomas Münzer : théologien de la révolution, Union générale d'éditions, 1975. • John Breuilly, Austria, Prussia and the Making of Germany : 1806-1871, Longman/Pearson, 2011. • Friedrich II (roi de Prusse), Anti-Machiavel, ou, Essai de critique sur le "Prince" de Machiavel, 1740. • Madame de Staël, De l'Allemagne, Paris, 1852. • Frederick C. Beiser, Enlightenment, Revolution, and Romanticism: The Genesis of Modern German Political Thought (1790-1800), Harvard University Press, 1992. • Friedrich Engels, Révolution et contre-révolution en Allemagne, 1852. • Katja Hoyer, Blood and Iron: The Rise and Fall of the German Empire 1871-1918, History Press, 2022. • Colin Storer, A Short History of the Weimar Republic, Bloomsbury Academic, 2024. • Barbara Kunz, et al., L'Allemagne sur la scène internationale, Presses universitaires du Septentrion, 2017. • Hans Stark, La politique internationale de l'Allemagne. Presses universitaires du Septentrion, 2011. • Peter Watson, The German Genius: Europe's Third Renaissance, the Second Scientific Revolution, and the Twentieth Century, Simon & Schuster UK, 2011.

Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	Introduction
2	The Barbarian Face of Europe: Germanic Peoples in Antiquity
3	The New Masters of Europe: Germanic Kingdoms in the Middle Ages
4	Germany as the Centre of European Chaos: Reformation and Wars of Religion
5	Power Struggles in Eighteenth-Century Europe and Germany's Role: Prusso-Austrian Rivalry
6	Revolutions and Occupations in Europe: Germany from the French Revolution to the Revolutions of 1848
7	Midterm Exam
8	Towards the Great European War: German Unification and Weltpolitik
9	A New Germany in a New Europe: The Weimar Republic

Week	Weekly Contents
10	The Destruction of Europe and Germany: Nazism and the Second World War
11	The Division of Europe and Germany: The Cold War and German Foreign Policy, from Chancellor Adenauer to Chancellor Schmidt
12	The Reunification of Germany and Europe: The Kohl and Schröder Eras
13	The Merkel Era: Germany as a Central Power in Europe
14	Zeitenwende in Germany and Europe: Scholz and Merz