



# Europe in Crisis: Refugees, the Euro and the Floundering European Union

Presented by: Paul Warwick

Thursday  
 April 14, 2016

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Valle Verde - Social Room  
 900 Calle De Los Amigos

The 'European project' emerged from the ashes of post-1945 Europe. Even though its first steps were primarily economic – most notably the establishment of the Common Market in 1957 – its ultimate objective has always been political: to make warfare unthinkable on the European continent. From this objective flowed a steady progression of further steps towards 'ever closer union': the creation of a common currency (the Euro), the removal of border controls between many member-states, the emergence of a European Court of Justice as the ultimate judicial authority, and the establishment of a powerful European Parliament elected simultaneously by citizens in all member-states. All the while, its geographic embrace expanded from an initial six countries to today's 28.

Seen in this light, the movement towards European integration seems both extraordinary in its achievements and virtually unstoppable in its trajectory. Yet, in the last decade, not only has the momentum halted, but the accomplishments have come under serious challenge. Firstly, there was the so-called 'democratic deficit': the perception that governance in the European Union is remote, incomprehensible, intrusive, and fundamentally undemocratic. Then there were the debt crises in Greece, Spain, Portugal, and Ireland, threatening to unravel the Euro and the institutions and policies that support it. And most recently, there is the massive influx of refugees from Syria and North Africa, which not only challenges the resources of states but also the willingness of their peoples to accommodate outsiders. The upshot is a questioning of the European project on a level scarcely imaginable a few years ago.

This class will survey the evolution of the European project from its modest origins, examine the challenges it has faced in recent years and the steps it has taken to deal with them, and evaluate its prospects for the future.



**Enrollment Form: Refugees- April 14, 2016**  
**VISTAS Members \$18, Non-members \$27**

**Note: At-The-Door Registration is an additional \$5.00**

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check# \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration form to:  
 VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc., P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228

**Deadline for registration: April 7th**

**Biography:** *Paul Warwick* received his bachelor's degree at McMaster University (Canada) and his MA and PhD at the University of Chicago. He is the author or co-author of six books and numerous scholarly articles, mainly having to do with European politics. He currently is a professor of international studies and political science at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada



## VISTAS Calendar

Seminar/Event	Inclusive Dates	Time	Venue
Documentary Film Club	3rd Thurs Monthly	2:00 pm	Maravilla Theater
Opera	Sun, March 6	1:45 pm	Granada Theater
Art & Poetry	Mon, March 7	1:30 pm	Valle Verde Social Rm
Short Stories	Wed, Mar 9, 16, 23, 30	1:30 pm	Private Home
Grand Jury	Wed, March 9	9:30 am	Vista del Monte
Victory & Defeat Part 2	Thurs, Mar 10, 17, & 24,	1:30 pm	Goleta Library
Catherine the Great	Mon, April 11, 18, 25	9:30 am	Valle Verde Social Rm
European Refugee Crises	Thurs, April 14	1:30 pm	Valle Verde Social Rm
Kindertransport	Tues, May 3	9:30 am	TBD
Africa	Tues, May 10, 17, & 24	9:30 am	Goleta Library