The idea of the “world economy” as a single, interconnected entity only entered widespread discussion in Europe and North America after World War I. This course explores the diverse ways of imagining and ordering the world economy since then and what Europe’s place has been within it, from imperial economies to national economies to a supposedly “globalized” economy to recent tilts of the European Union away from the United States and toward China and Russia. We will see how ideas such as development, modernization and globalization have dictated falsely universal models, but have also served as emancipatory idioms for previously marginalized individuals and populations. We will demystify economic arguments and learn to study economic texts for their content, but also as political and cultural documents.