

Workshop: Literature, Statecraft and World Order

Programme (tbc) 26/2 – 29/2

Monday 26/2

Morning:

- Introduction of the workshop
- Crises and wars in Middle East and Ukraine: political contexts, literary roots

Afternoon:

- Class discussion: the minds of Putin and Netanyahu (from their own words)
- Alexander the Great and the Iliad: how that book inspired his life. Does it happen today as well? Do today's leaders read books? What kind of books?

Tuesday 27/2

Morning:

- Bismarck and the invention of story-telling; the Ems's telegram; the battle of narratives in politics; how strategic communication work in the European Union;
- Class discussion: which are the narratives of today, the narratives of your generation?

Afternoon:

- Quotes from the books On War by von Clausewitz and The Art of War by Sun Tzu;
- Ukraine and Taiwan: clash of forces versus patient accumulation of relative advantage

Wednesday 28/2

Morning:

- Catherine the Great and the philosophers of the Enlightenment

Afternoon:

- Class discussion: was Catherine the Great an enlightened despot or just a despot? Does Russia belong to the East or to the West?
- Introduction to Europe: The Aeneid by Virgil at the heart of the European idea

Thursday 29/2

Morning:

- Ten models of Europe: from the original myth to today's European Union

Afternoon:

- Class discussion: today's Europe
- Wrap Up