



**Shippensburg University
Political Science Dept
SUMMER SESSION 2012
May 14 - June 7 in Europe**

<http://webspace.ship.edu/mdsachleben/europe2012/europe2012.html>

This study abroad course takes students to Europe for 24 days and features visits to:

- Brussels
- Amsterdam/Hague

Option 1:

- Venice
- Siena/Florence
- Rome
- Athens
- Santorini
- Barcelona

Option 2:

- Berlin
- Dresden
- Prague
- Scotland
- Dublin
- Western Ireland

Plus:

Students will have an opportunity to visit the major historical and cultural sights of these cities as well as hear lectures from experts in international and European politics.

The program will employ hands-on learning to provide students with an experiential understanding of early political thought and political systems. This is not your typical study abroad course where students go to a foreign country and take classes at a host university. It is a holistic approach that maximizes the international experience.

The holistic experience means students should get an appreciation of not only the history of European political systems, but gain an understanding of European society and culture both past and present. To achieve this end, we will not only focus on historical trends of various states, but also compare these with contemporary issues. In addition we will consider changes in culture and society as depicted in the art and architectural treasures of Europe.

They will also have the opportunity to visit some of the world's greatest historical monuments like the Coliseum in Rome, the Vatican Museum, the Berlin Wall, Charles Bridge, Grand Place, Eifel Tower, Trinity College and the Acropolis. Lectures will be given on sight by the course instructors.

Interests

Students with an interest in any of the following will find this a valuable, life changing experience.

- International Politics
- Political Economy
- European History
- Art
- Sociology
- Organizations
- Culture
- Architecture
- Food
- People

Facts

- All major are welcome - we like diversity
- Taken for 6 Political Science credits
- Register through Shippensburg Extended Studies Office
- Summer Financial Aid is available for students taking six credits in the summer.



European Integration and Political Economy

(Everyone will participate in this portion)

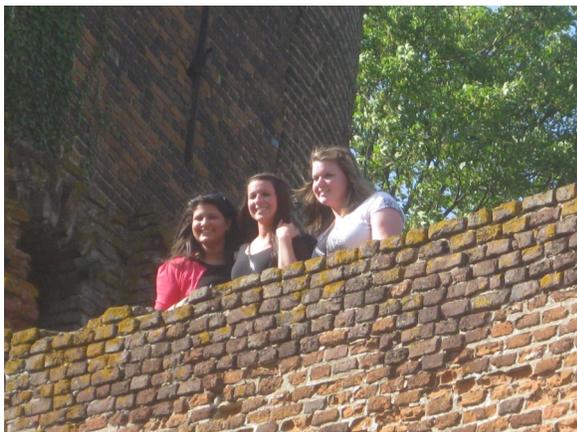
Brussels

Our arrival in Europe will be in the Capital of Europe, Brussels Belgium. Modern Belgium encompasses an area that has been claimed by all the major powers of Europe. During the Renaissance its cities, including Brussels, were part of an international commercial center and felt the influence of the great Italian, Dutch and English Renaissance thinkers and artists. Brussels is also conveniently located within a three-hour train ride to Paris, Amsterdam, and many other destinations in France, Germany, Holland, and Belgium. Today, Brussels is not only the capital of Belgium, in many ways it is the capital of Europe with many institutions having their headquarters in and near the city.

While in Brussels students will be staying with host families. These host families will all be situated around the northern suburb of Brussels in two small towns called Alsenburg and St. Genesis-Rhode.

The focus of the course in Brussels is to gain knowledge through meeting with decision-makers and visiting sites. Examples of what we will be doing:

- Taking a city tour of Brussels highlighting the political and historical developments of the famous Grand Place and tracing Belgium's role in European history overall.
- Visiting the beautiful medieval town of Bruges.
- A briefing at the European Parliament
- Several guest lecturers will discuss Belgian history and its role in modern Europe.
- We will also study the state of modern European integration with visits to NATO and SHAPE headquarters, including a meeting with NATO officers.
- Meetings with local entrepreneurs to discuss the development of and maintenance of businesses in an age of globalization.
- Visiting to the former WWII concentration camp of Brendonk.



Amsterdam/Hague

We will travel to the historic port city of Amsterdam. Student will be free to wander in one of Amsterdam's famous museums (Van Gogh Museum, Rijksmuseum, Anne Frank Haus) and/or see the numerous canals of the city. Our second day, we will be in The Hague, the center of international law and jurisprudence. Our itinerary is to receive a briefing at the International Criminal Court and a tour of the Peace Palace, which houses the International Court of Justice. If all goes well we will have the opportunity to sit in on one of the trials.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	14 Depart USA for Brussels	15 Brussels/Brugge	16 Brussels	17 Brussels	18 Brussels	19 Brussels
20 Amsterdam/ Hague	21 ICC/ Brussels	22 Depart for pt 2	25	26	27	28

Trip Option 1 Evolution of European Government and Society

Venice

The Venetian Republic was the most powerful European commercial empire in the Medieval and Renaissance world. The stay in Venice will include visits to: Ducal Palace, Grand Canal, Rialto Bridge, St. Marks Square and St. Marks Cathedral



Siena/Florence



Siena is a college town that, apart from having a beautiful and active city center called the Campo, contains numerous interesting treasures. We will discuss the various governmental structures of these Renaissance city states and enjoy their historical treasures. In addition, we will use Siena as a launching pad for Florence. Students will be given a tour of the Uffizi Gallery, which houses the major art treasures of the Renaissance. In addition they will be given tours of several palaces and

churches in the city. A favorite activity is joining the hordes of students/travelers/revelers who congregate at night at the Campo.

Rome

We will spend three days in Rome. As Ancient Rome has been the model for many of our western institutions of government, society, and culture, it is a great place to start in order to understand the heritage of European institutions. While in Rome, we will visit the site of the ancient Forum, Coliseum and other famous ruins. We'll also tour the Vatican Museum to see the treasures housed there, as well as develop an understanding of the role of the Church in European history. A favorite activity is sitting out at a café on one of the many squares or searching for an outdoor concert.



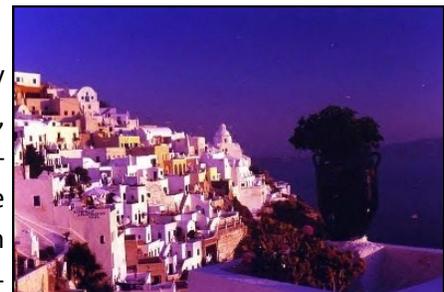
Athens



Athens is the birth place of western civilization and we will visit the Acropolis and Forum and discuss the contributions made by the classical Athenians to politics and cultures. We will also have a chance to visit the famous Plakia neighborhood with its medieval streets and busy modern nightlife. In addition we will visit the National Museum, home to an impressive well organized gallery of sculptures.

Free Time: Santorini

You will be given three days to do whatever you want. Realistically your options are to stay in Santorini (almost everybody's favorite), Naxos (known for its interesting landscapes and hiking or to carouse the famous beaches, town and (if you can afford it) nightlife of Mykonos.. You cannot go wrong with any of these choices. In early June, lodging tends to be very reasonably priced and abundant.



Barcelona

In Barcelona we will consider the political and social implications of the divide between the Spanish and Catalanian cultures. In addition we will explore the fascinating architectural treasures of Barcelona from the original Roman walls encompassing the old Medieval city to the early 20th century modernist movement architecture of Gaudi in order to view the overlapping styles and their contributions to the city over the centuries. A favorite activity is walking down the famous Rambla before heading over to the chic beaches of Barcelona for people watching, volleyball or people watching from one of the many cafes.



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		22 Venice	Venice	24 Venice	25 Florence/ Siena	26 Siena
27 Rome	28 Rome	29 Rome	30 Athens	31 Santorini	1 Santorini	2 Santorini
3 Athens	4 Barcelona	5 Barcelona	6 Barcelona	8 Home	9	

Trip Option 2

European Integration and Identity: Globalization, Politics and the New Decade



Berlin, Germany

Berlin once again became the capital of a reunified Germany when a vote was taken by parliament. From 1993 on, Berlin became one of the largest construction sites in the world. The process of putting back together a city, divided for forty years by the Berlin Wall, was a monumental task. We will examine the process of reintegration

as well as the process of developing a political identity in a country that has had a history with which many take exception.

Activities: Guided tour of the Reichstag building, home to the German Federal parliament; Pergamon Museum; Story of Berlin Museum; Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe; walking tour of Berlin; dinner at a Bavarian-style restaurant.



Dresden, Germany

As the capital of the German state of Saxony, Dresden has a unique and fascinating history. Most famously, during the Second World War Dresden was an open city that was destroyed by Allied Bombing in February 1945. What was known as the “Firebombing of Dresden” was the background to Kurt Vonnegut’s novel Slaughter House Five. The city has been rebuilt to its original splendor and is a hub for culture, music and café life.

Activities: Walking tour of Dresden, including an inspection of the city rebuilt and the legacy of forty-five years of Communism; a summer evening in the plaza of the beautiful city.

Prague, Czech Republic

Prague is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Since the collapse of the communist government in 1989, Prague has been one of the most popular destinations for travelers, especially backpackers. Journalist Alan Levy declared Prague the new Left Bank of the 1990s, meaning that it was the new center for the arts, politics and culture, supplanting Paris. Since that time, Prague has been a destination for artists, backpackers and tourists alike. Prague has been significant throughout history as the center of the Holy Roman Empire, the site of the Second Defenestration of Prague, which was the proximate event of the Thirty Years War, and more recently Prague Spring of 1968 and the Velvet Revolution of 1989.



Activities: Briefing at the Prague Post, Visit to the Jan Palach and Jan Hus Memorial, Tour of Prague Castle; Briefing at Radio Free Europe, tour of the Museum of Communism



Brandenburg Gate



Traditional Irish Pub

Scotland



As a part of the United Kingdom for three hundred years, Scotland has retained its national and cultural identity. On our visit we will learn about the current state of Scottish nationalism and politics. There is currently a drive to seek more autonomy from the central government in London. By visiting Edinburgh and Glasgow, we will engage with academics and students from Scotland to learn more about the issues.

Activities: A lecture and discussion with Dr. Murray Leith (University of the West of Scotland), time to explore the historic cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow

Ireland

Students will have an opportunity to independently explore Ireland outside of Dublin. The instructor encourages people to spend time in Galway, Cork or Waterford, but students will have an opportunity to design their own weekend and explorations. The South and the West have plenty of opportunities for music, history, hiking, walking and exploration.

Dublin

Few countries have benefited more from the EU than Ireland. It has experienced incredible economic growth but is now feeling the economic downturn as hard as any country. It has a fascinating history and relationship with the Great Britain. Here we will have a walking tour of major political and historic sites and as well as opportunities to visit:



- Trinity College
- Dublin Castle
- Book of Kells
- St. Patrick's Cathedral
- Drimnagh Castle
- Kilmainham Gaol (Prison)
- The Guinness Storehouse (it is not just all about the beer!)

Ireland did not attain its independence until 1922. Its long and turbulent history has many lessons for students of politics, including integration, economic development, human rights and identity politics. While Irish independence is relatively recent, its recorded history dates back several centuries. Dublin is a city that reflects Irish history and nationalism, as well as key aspects of Irish identity.

Activities: Briefings and tour of Dáil Éireann (Irish Parliament); 1916 Rebellion Walking Tour; Tour of Croke Park Stadium.

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		22 Prague	23 Prague	24 Prague	25 Dresden	26 Berlin
27 Berlin	28 Berlin	29 Scotland	30 Scotland	31 Scotland	1 Fly to Cork	2 Free Day in Ireland
3 Free Day in Ireland	4 Dublin	5 Dublin	6 Dublin	7 Home		

The Online Component

Before departing we will post online orientation components. This will include a survey of European history from the Roman Empire to the present, including an introduction to the various political systems and an overview of what to expect from an international experience. In addition, current trends and various cultures will be examined in order to understand the current context and the culture of the places we will be visiting. Students will obtain a basic knowledge of Political Economy and the International Governmental Organizations crucial to trade and security. An emphasis will be placed on examining the many current controversies in these areas.

The Instructors

Dr Mark Sachleben, Dr. Niel Brasher and Dr. Sally Brasher will be conducting the program. Mark and Niel are professors in the Political Science department at Shippensburg University. Mark teaches international and comparative politics at Shippensburg University. He has traveled extensively in Europe and has participated and led several academic excursions to the continent as well. His research and teaching interests include European national politics as well as the study of the European Union as an international organization. Niel teaches political economy and policy analysis. He has previously taken sixteen different university groups to Europe. He also spent two years running The American University's highly successful study abroad program in Brussels. Sally is a professor in the History Department at Shepherd University. She teaches medieval, early modern and women's history. Sally has conducted extensive research in Italy and Belgium and has taken ten different university groups to Europe.

Logistics

Program Costs: Program costs (includes: lodging, bus transportation, field trips, entrance fees, activities, some meals) are \$3390 (3490 for those taking the Italy option). There may be a \$200 surcharge for those signing up after the end of the Fall 2011 semester. **In addition, students need to pay tuition for the six credits.** Students taking 6 credits in the summer are eligible for financial aid loans--- including program costs. Students must secure their own passports.

Eligibility and Rules

Typically we attract students from a variety of backgrounds. While there are some political science and history students, they normally make up less than a third of the trip membership. There are no academic pre-requisites for this trip. We look for people who are in good academic standing (e.g. no where near probation) and have a good attitude. We are looking for students who interact well with others and have an open mind toward learning. We can and will teach you everything else. Students learn a great

deal about politics, history and economics, but they report learning much more about cultures and themselves.

We find this type of program attracts a wide variety of interesting people. They self select themselves by their eagerness to take the risk to go on such a trip and historically we have had almost a 100 percent satisfaction rates. Most report it is the most valuable learning experience they have had in college.

We are teachers and facilitators, not chaperones. Students are treated like the adults they are. We have very few rules. They mostly consist of the need to treat others (locals, tour guides, bus drivers, colleagues) with respect, attend all sessions (everybody always does), be attentive at all sessions, no drugs and no excessive drinking. Students who violate the rules will be dismissed from the program

We will be using a variety of forms of transportation. Students will be responsible for carrying your own luggage and keeping track of their personal belongings. There is a great deal of walking and hiking so students need to be in reasonably good shape.

Application

A \$250 non-refundable deposit* is required with your application. Airfare (\$1100) will be due early winter or whenever we find the best rate. Applications will be taken until the program is filled. Make your check out to Shippensburg University/Brussels Study Abroad.

Application link = <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RB8J7XW>

Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact:

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'I never thought in a million years I would make it to Europe. I come from a rural background and I was the first in my family to see what was across the Atlantic Ocean. I would not trade the three weeks I spent on this trip for anything in the world. I learned not only the fundamentals of European government, but also about myself and how I can adjust to many different situations. I feel like I can accomplish anything!'

Jessie Sigley Shepherd - University Student Government Association President

