Study Abroad: Multilevel Governance in Europe
INR 3214

Summer 2012
M – F noon- 3pm?
Room: TBA?

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Phone: 305-348-2323
Office: SIPA 403
Office hours: by appointment

Course Description

This course examines the policies and current political issues in Europe/the European Union as an international actor in global politics. It requires basic knowledge of EU politics. The focus will be on the policies of the EU as well as the individual member states in its relations to other important nations, regions and international organizations. The evolution of Europe as a coherent actor, and the tensions between individual states in the pursuit of global influence through the EU will be highlighted. The course will include a combination of lectures, discussions and student presentations.

By combining educational travel and on-site visits to international agencies and organizations, students will delve into the complexities of multilevel regional governance in Europe. The visits of European Union institutions in Brussels & Strasbourg, the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, as well as the UN organizations in Geneva are key to learning about regional governance and will consist of informational lectures and dialogues with field & policy experts. Students will, after an orientation session and introductory course module at FIU, be visiting these major European organizations:

v United Nations Offices (UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF etc), in Geneva
v Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights & EU Parliament, Strasbourg & transit via Paris
v European Commission, EU Council and Non-governmental organizations in Brussels

The course will start with an introductory module at the FIU campus and then continue in the second half with travels through Switzerland, France & Belgium (mix of historical excursions and institutional visits):

• Part 1 (May 7-22, 2.5 weeks): Introduction to European political systems and multilevel governance institutions
• Part 2 (May 26-June 12, 2 weeks): Travel in Europe (Geneva (Switzerland), then Strasbourg and via Paris to Brussels, Belgium), where we will stay at hostels.
Course Objectives

The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with the analytical tools to understand the current state of politics in Europe. In this course students will:

1. gain a good understanding of the institutional makeup of the European Union;
2. become familiar with the workings of the European Union and its impact on member states;
3. become equipped with theoretical knowledge necessary to explain the evolution of European integration

Required Text: (available in the FIU bookstore or through online bookseller)

John McCormick. EU Politics (Palgrave, 2011)

Jorgensen, Knud Erik. The EU and International Organizations (Routledge, 2009).

Recommended:


Plus: consultation/subscription of think-tanks such as: www.euractiv.org, www.euobserver.com

Course Requirements:

Class Participation

Each student is expected to attend the classes at FIU and be attentive during the travel period, as well as to contribute online, having read the assigned literature and prepared to actively participate in online discussions & assignments. In addition, the student is asked to participate in all excursions during the multicity trip. There will be a midterm-exam after the theoretical first part, which will count for 30% of the grade (plus, 20% for participation).

Research Paper/Project

Students are expected to write a research paper on a European topic of their choice in contemporary European/EU/UN politics, which should demonstrate (local) research and a critical analysis based on the literature and knowledge gained throughout the course. It is worth 50 % of the grade. It should be around 12-15 pages in length, double-spaced and follow standard writing and citation guidelines (see recommended style guides above). An outline presentation is due during the travel session. Plagiarism (= citing of text without a source or copying from the internet) is unacceptable and ‘Turnitin’ will be used!
**Grading/Evaluation System:**

Students will be evaluated on the following grade scale:

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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**Reading Assignments and Examination Outline**

**Week of Mon, 5/7:** Course overview/Intro

European integration & the EU

A history of European geopolitics

The Foreign Policies of selected EU member states

The EU as economic power

The EU as development & humanitarian actor


EU as security community & military actor

**Week from 5/14:** Relations with potential member states

The EU’s Neighborhood Policy

The EU’s Neighbors

Promoting Values Abroad

EU Foreign Policy-Myth or Reality Review