

Shepherd University
History / Political Science
SUMMER SESSION 2018

May 20 - June 14 in Europe

To apply:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Europe17

This study abroad course takes students to Europe for 23 days and features visits to:

- Belgium: Brussels, Bruges and surroundings
- The Hague
- Barcelona
- Geneva / Alps
- Siena/Florence
- Rome
- Greece: Athens and Santorini

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.

Students will also have the opportunity to visit some of the world's greatest historical monuments like the Coliseum in Rome, the Vatican Museum, the Uffizi Gallery, the Sagrada Familia and the Acropolis. Lectures will be given on site 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
- Organizational Structures
- Culture
- Architecture
- Food
- People

Facts

- All majors are welcome - we like diversity
- Taken for 3 Political Science and 3 History credits
- Summer Financial Aid is available for students taking six credits in the summer.



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, but 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 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 the former WWII concentration camp of Brendonk.

Examples of what we will be doing for trip

Barcelona

In Barcelona we will consider the political and social implications of the divide between the Spanish and Catalonian 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 volleyball, or people watching from one of the many cafes. Barcelona is the capital of Catelona who is in the process of trying to gain independence from Spain. We will study this dynamic.

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

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 at a café on one of the many squares or searching for an outdoor concert.

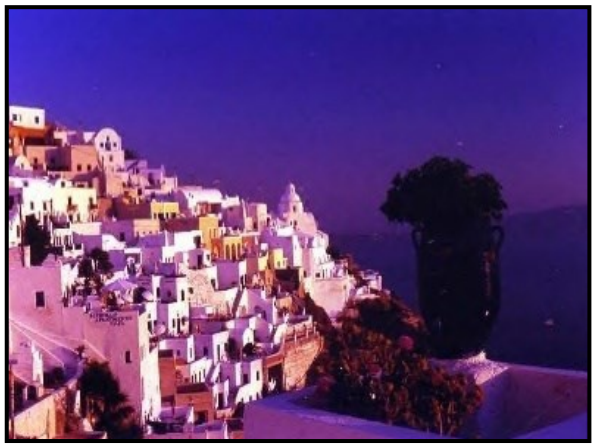


Athens



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 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: Greek Islands



You will be given three days to do whatever you want. This year you will have free time in Santorini. Santorini is famous for being a departure point for its cliffs, volcanic caldera and ruins. It is also famous for its beaches and, if you can afford it, nightlife. In early June, lodging tends to be very reasonably priced and abundant.

Geneva and Chamonix

We will be staying in and near Geneva, Switzerland for three nights. Geneva is home to many of the centers of modern European government and international commerce. We will have an opportunity to visit the World Trade Organization, International Red Cross and UN High Commission on Refugees. We will spend two nights in the Alps where students will have the opportunity to take the lift up the highest mountain in Europe (Mt. Blanc) and hike part the way down (the lower part – the higher part has snow!!.)

The Instructors



Dr. Sally Brasher, Dr Mark Sachleben, and Dr. Niel Brasher will be conducting the program. Sally is a professor in the History Department at Shepherd University in West Virginia. 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. Mark and Niel are professors in the Political Science department at Shippensburg University. Mark teaches international and comparative politics. 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.

Logistics

Program Costs: Program costs (includes: airfares, lodging, bus transportation, field trips, entrance fees, activities, some meals) are $3750. **In addition, students need to pay tuition for the six credits**. Students taking 6 cred- its in the summer are eligible for financial aid loans--- including program costs. Students must secure their own passports.

Application

A $350 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 checks out to Shippensburg University and give them to Dr. Sally Brasher

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 probationary students) and have a good attitude, 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 other 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 rate. 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 that 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, 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 their 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.





Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact:

Dr. Sally
Brasher 114D
Knutti
sbrasher@shepherd.edu

Dr. Niel Brasher
cnbras@ship.edu

'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

