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6-7-2007

The European Union Study Tour

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JOHN C. WHITEHEAD
SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

THE EUROPEAN UNION STUDY TOUR

**Course Syllabus for DIPL 2111 SP and DIPL 6410 SP
June 7-16, 2007**

This syllabus covers the course requirements for the academic component of the European Union trip for summer 2007. Students with any questions on these requirements should contact the course professor, Dr. Courtney Smith, at smithcou@shu.edu or 973-313-6203. Students with logistical or administrative questions about the trip should contact Associate Dean Rosa Alves-Ferreira at alvesfro@shu.edu or 973-275-2560.

Course Description and Objectives

This course will examine the European Union and its role in international affairs. This will be done through a combination of traditional learning and a ten-day study tour. Students will be provided with an overview of the initial goals and historical development of the European Union as it has “widened” to include new members and “deepened” to encompass more issues and activities. The basic institutional features of this important international organization will be studied and, to the extent possible, visited during our time in Europe. Given the diplomatic dimension of this course, special attention will be paid to the various actors involved in the political processes of the EU as they attempt to design, coordinate, implement, and follow policies at the regional level. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the EU’s activities in regards to a wide range of issue areas, and to critically evaluate the future development of this unique supranational organization.

As an added bonus, our travels in Europe will provide students with the opportunity to visit some additional international organizations based in and around our home city of Brussels, Belgium. More information about the historical development and current challenges facing these other institutions will be provided once these additional visits are confirmed.

Course Materials

All students are required to read the following textbook on the European Union:

Ever Closer Union: An Introduction to European Integration by Desmond Dinan. Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2005. ISBN: 1588262081.

In addition, all graduate students are required (and undergraduates are strongly encouraged) to read the following edited volume:

The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration
edited by Brent F. Nelson and Alexander Stubb. Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003. ISBN:
1588262316.

Both of these books can be ordered at any of the following websites: amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, or Rienner.com. Students will also be provided with some additional readings at one of our pre-trip meetings. In addition, students should plan on looking at the official website of the European Union (europa.eu) in advance of our trip to assist with their pre-trip coursework and to be familiar with the most current issues on the EU's agenda.

Student Responsibilities

Class Participation (20% of course grade):

Students are required to do the assigned reading before the trip and to participate in class discussion, both before and during the trip, on a regular basis. The quality of all class sessions is greatly enhanced when students are prepared to engage the course material in a constructive fashion. This is especially true when interacting with the diplomats, officials, and other practitioners we will meet during the study tour, and students should be prepared to ask questions of each speaker. Students are also reminded that we are guests during all of our visits and that the behavior of each one of us reflects the image and reputation of the Whitehead School.

Pre-Trip Project: (20% of course grade):

Students are required to prepare a presentation for their classmates focusing on one of the main institutions of the European Union or one of the main issue areas it addresses. Students will select their institution or issue at our first pre-trip meeting (students should contact the professor to select their topic if they miss this meeting) and the presentations will be made during our second pre-trip meeting the day we leave for Europe (June 7th). The chapters of parts two and three of the Dinan text can serve as a useful reference in selecting your preferred topics.

These presentations will be about ten minutes long and they should be divided into two parts: 1) students should provide relevant background material as well as up-to-date information not covered by the course text in regards to your topic, and 2) students should indicate to their classmates the most pressing challenges facing this institution or issue and suggest possible questions to ask of the practitioners we will visit. Students should provide a one to two page handout for their classmates regarding the institution or issue they selected that can serve as a helpful reference guide during the trip.

Journal: (30% of course grade)

Students are required to complete five journal entries, one covering each of the "business days" during the program. The goal of the journals is to help students analyze and evaluate the

program material. Each entry should be at least two pages long, double spaced, and they must go beyond a simple summary of the speakers in order to get an A. For example, journals give you the opportunity to compare and contrast the arguments offered by different speakers and readings, to search for patterns, lessons, and themes regarding the performance of the European Union across different issues, to apply the concepts from the readings to the real world occurrences and processes covered by the speakers, and to pose questions for further reflection. The journals should be emailed to the professor (smithcou@shu.edu) within two weeks of the end of the program (while the material is still fresh), but they absolutely must be turned in by July 26th in order to avoid an incomplete for the course.

The Research Paper: (30% of course grade)

All students are required to complete a research paper after the trip; however, the expectations for the research papers are somewhat different for undergraduate and graduate students. Undergraduate students are expected to write a paper of about 12 pages that evaluates the activities of the European Union in regards to an ongoing issue of their choice. These papers must use at least ten sources covering EU documents, NGO reports, and high-quality current events publications. They also must include in text citations and a complete bibliography using MLA, APA, or Chicago citation style. You should discuss the scope of the issue you select, consider when and why it first appeared on the EU's agenda, and critically evaluate the activities of the EU to address it thus far. You should also consider future prospects for resolving this issue, including possible EU reforms and your own policy recommendations.

Graduate students are expected to complete a paper that is more analytical and less descriptive. Rather than focusing on the EU's activities regarding a single issue, students should try to explain some puzzle related to the EU's different levels of achievement across two related issues. Organize your analysis around the reasons for the different outcomes rather than in an issue-by-issue fashion. Uncovering these reasons for different levels of EU achievement can then serve as the basis for making some strong policy recommendations regarding the EU's future potential in regards to these issues. These papers should be about 15 pages long and draw on at least fifteen sources including high-quality academic journals in addition to the other types of sources listed above. In text citations and a complete bibliography are also required.

Students should have at least one preliminary topic in mind for their paper before we leave on the trip. During the course of the trip, the professor will have one-on-one conversations with all students about their preliminary paper topics. These topics can then be modified based on the professor's feedback and insights offered by the practitioners.

The research papers for all students must be turned in via email (smithcou@shu.edu) by July 26th in order to avoid an incomplete for the course. If you are unable to meet this deadline, please notify the professor in advance so that the paperwork for an incomplete can be filed on your behalf.

Course Policies

Please note the following course policies:

- 1) Cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled through the Whitehead School Academic Integrity Policy.
- 2) Students with disabilities should contact the Disabilities Support Services Office for special accommodations.

If you have any questions on these policies, please ask the instructor.

Course Schedule

Pre-Trip Meeting One: (to be held Thursday, May 31st from 4:00 to 7:00 pm)

Visions and Goals for the EU (Read Nelson and Stubb Parts 1 and 2, recommended)
Historical Development of the EU (Read Dinan Part 1, required)

[Select Topics for Student Presentations]

Pre-Trip Meeting Two: (to be held Thursday, June 7th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm)

Nuts and Bolts of the EU's Institutions (Read Dinan Part 2, required)
Review of EU Policies in Key Issue Areas (Read Dinan Part 3, required)
Future Challenges Facing the EU (Read Nelson and Stubb Part 3, recommended)

[Student Presentations with Handouts]

During the Trip: (June 7-16)

On each "business day" of the trip, morning briefings will be held to prepare students for the specific institutions we will be visiting that day and the issues we expect our speakers to cover. We will also have afternoon or evening debriefing and discussion sessions in order to critically evaluate the information and insights provided by the speakers.

After the Trip: (Late June and July)

No required course meetings; however, professor is available in-person, via phone, or through email to answer student questions about the journal and research paper.