

POLS 4996/CRN 88473 STUDY ABROAD

“European Union History, Culture, and Contemporary Institutions”
(3.0 credit hours)

This course is required of all student participants, with the exception of graduate students (who will register separately for POLS 8996 research hours).

The purpose of this course is to award credit based up the experiential learning components of the study abroad program. Grades are earned according the extent and quality of student participation in the full range of planned institutional visits, professional excursions, and cultural activities.

A faculty member from the University of Strasbourg will serve as Academic Liaison and Instructor for this course, and he/she will report student grades to the Program Director at the conclusion of the semester. The Instructor’s primary role is to provide intellectual background, context, and analysis to complement the scheduled site visits and professional excursions. This should occur through (1) briefings held at the Château de Pourtalès prior to planned site visits, (2) accompanying students on site visits, and (3) facilitation of post-visit group discussions. These three components should be designed to connect the experiential components of the study abroad in a meaningful way by encouraging critical thinking and the comparison/evaluation of student observations. Note: Instructor’s role is not to substitute for the CEPA coordinator(s) who will facilitate the logistics of all site visits and travel.

Learning Outcomes

Through observation, exposure, and discussion...

- 1) Students should gain an understanding and appreciation of the historical and cultural foundations of the contemporary European Union and its institutions.
- 2) Students should gain an understanding and appreciation of the ways in which the contemporary European Union and its institutions impact national cultures and identities, commerce, and the arts.
- 3) Students should be able to differentiate (purposes, procedures, policy jurisdictions) between the key institutions visited in France, Belgium, and Luxembourg. They should understand why and how some European institutions have memberships that extend beyond the 27 states of the EU.
- 4) Students should gain an understanding and appreciation for the national (and even sub-national/regional) differences that remain important today, even after six decades of European integration.
- 5) Students should be able to compare what they observe of European culture, history, and institutions with their existing understanding of culture, history, and institutions in the United States.
- 6) Students should be able to engage in critical thinking—through oral and written communication—about what they observe and experience in Europe.

Grade Distribution:

- Attendance at all scheduled academic events	75%
- Submission of a written journal (documenting observations from site visits)	15%
- Postings to academic blog	<u>10%</u>
	100%