

## SYLLABUS—International Study, SAEUR 301 02, Europe in Transition

International Study Program of Truman State University—May 12 to May 29, 2015

### I. Catalog description and credit hours of the program

Europe in Transition is an international study program combining study and field trips related to the economic changes of the European Union, as well as cultural and historical aspects. This is an inter-disciplinary program. Participants will have the opportunity to observe the current European transition through special field trips. Cultural aspects and historical sights of the countries will be observed. The group will learn how to travel in Europe. An appreciation and acceptance of cultural differences is necessary.

Credit hrs--6.0 hrs. For attending pre-departure lectures, reading, studying, making a group presentation, traveling, attending all sessions, portraying a good attitude, and writing a quality paper with a minimum of 25 pages. The course meets the intercultural perspective requirement for the LSP.

- II. Prerequisites—Student must have a desire to broaden his/her horizons, experience history and international culture first-hand, and visit France, Belgium, and Italy.

### III. Objectives

- A. To promote a knowledge and appreciation of other cultures. This will be accomplished by
1. attending lecture by guide regarding life in Belgium, France, Italy and their cultures.
  2. attending lecture on general introduction (cultural & historical)
  3. attending lecture on education
  4. attending lecture on current monetary situation
  4. attending lecture on the political situation today
  5. attending lecture on the problems of an export-oriented economy
  6. attending lecture on religion
  7. visiting churches and cathedrals
  8. presenting by small groups to class
- B. To study how culture influences marketplace transactions. What difficulties are caused by differing cultures? Speakers will specifically be asked questions about how culture influences marketplace transactions in their country and what difficulties are caused by differing cultures. Sometimes the speaker may be unaware and students will have to make appropriate connections. Discussions after the visit will facilitate making these connections.
- C. To study the economic changes which are happening as a result of the elimination of trade barriers and boundaries in the European Union.
- D. To develop an awareness about the governmental situation and political situations.
- E. To study the implications of the changes in the European Union for the United States.
- F. To view historic sites in the countries visited.
- G. To learn travel skills in and between European cities.
- H. To become part of a team of students and faculty.

#### IV. Expectations of students

The intercultural outcomes will be emphasized by each student by outside reading on the following topics: values and cultures, history and religion of Belgium, France, and Italy. Notes supporting these readings will be collected. While traveling, cultural experiences should be noted in the journal.

Students will read about the European Union, the cultures of the countries on the itinerary, and various sites arranged to visit. The readings from 25 sources, several of which may be from periodicals such as *EUROPE* or *THE ECONOMIST*, should be completed before departing for the travel portion of the experience. Evidence of this reading will be notes taken by the student. A group presentation will be given before departure. While traveling, each student will maintain a journal, which will reflect upon the experiences in which we participate.

Upon returning, each student will write a quality paper with a minimum of 25 pages. In the paper—the student should tie together all that has been learned about the European Union and Belgium, Italy, and France both through reading and the scheduled visits while in Europe. The paper should summarize key experiences, not reiterating all that is in the journal, but reflecting on where the student has been and what the student has learned that made an impression and may change his/her life. The required elements of the paper are specified in the grading sheet. The student should turn in notes from readings, a journal, and final paper.

#### V. Reading List--See attached.

#### VI. Basis of student evaluation (grades)

Grading will be on an A-F basis. The grade will be dependent upon full participation in all activities, pre-departure lectures, visitation to the various sites, etc. The student must complete readings from at least 25 sources, maintain a journal, write a quality paper of 25 pages or more, and have them in the hands of the professor by July 1, 2015.\*

\*Interim grades are due about the time summer school starts. Therefore, an incomplete grade will be issued at that time and the grade changed late in July, after the professors have had the opportunity to grade papers. Grades will be mailed by Truman State University at the end of the summer session.

## Reading List

- Brittan, Samuel. 2004. Europe Ten Years From Now: What Are the Chances the Structure of the European Union As We Know it Will Largely be the Same? *The International Economy* (Summer).
- Dahrendorf, Ralf. 1998. Disunited by a Common Currency – European Monetary Union. *New Statesman*, 20 February.
- Gray, Madison J. 2005. Sightsee by Day, Party by Night. *Associated Press*, 6 April.
- Green, Laurence. 1998. From Membling to Pourbus: The Forgotten Period – Bruges, Belgium. *Contemporary Review* (Oct.).
- Kallmer, Jonathan S. 2004. The Draft European Constitution. *Contemporary Review* (Jan.).
- Trichet Jean-Claude. 2005 Key Issues for Monetary Policy: An ECB View. *Business Economics*, 40, January.
- Wikitravel: The Free Encyclopedia. 2014
- Morrow, Ann and John Power. 2004. Art for Travellers: Itlay: The Essential Guide to Viewing Italian Renaissance Art. New York: Interlink Books.
- Muscat, Cathy, Ed. 2004 Museums and Galleries of Florence. Maspeth, New York: Insight Guides.
- Wikipedia. Geography of France. 2014.
- Wikipedia. Geography of Belgium. 2014.
- Wikitravel: The Free Encyclopedia. 2014
- Wikipedia. Geography of Italy. 2014.
- Eyewitness Travel Guides – France. Dorling Kindersley Limited, London. 2014
- Eyewitness Travel Guides – Belgium. Dorling Kindersley Limited, London. 2014
- Eyewitness Travel Guides – Italy. Dorling Kindersley Limited, London. 2014