

PLSC 499 -- **Study Tour: European Political and Economic Institutions**

Description: During their six weeks on the program “The Politics of European Integration” in Maastricht, students will take a ten day study tour to political and economic institutions in four major European cities – Frankfurt, Strasbourg, Paris, and Brussels.

Requirements: Attendance of all scheduled activities on the study tour is mandatory. In order to receive three credits for this course, students are required to keep a journal which answers basic question about the institutions they visit. Students are expected to dress in a respectable fashion during official visits (business casual), and comport themselves with manners. Rude or boorish behavior is not acceptable and will be lead to a deduction of points from your participation grade. Professor Iqbal will also report back on which students participated in a constructive and intelligent fashion. Participation will count ten percent of your grade.

Journal entries for each institution are to be handed in the day following the visit upon boarding the bus to Professor Iqbal, There are no exceptions to this. Failure to hand in an assignment on time will lead to a score of zero on that part of the assignment.

Journal Assignment

Format. Students are free to pick any format which they feel effectively conveys the information required by the assignment as well as any additional information students feel is relevant or interesting. The journal needs to put the information required in a form that effectively conveys it to the grader (Prof. Bernhard). Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are important means to this end.

Content. All journals need to contain, at minimum, basic information on the institutions that the study tour visits. Here is a list of questions which constitute the basic information each journal must include –

What is the name of the institution, where is it located?

What is the purpose of the institution?

What do you know about its history?

What is the source of the organization's authority?

What have you been able to find out about its internal organization and authority structure?

What are the most important issues confronting this institution at this time?

What issues will this institution need to confront in the future and what are its prospects for success?

This information above is the minimum necessary to do well on the assignment. Students are encouraged to reflect on larger themes about Europe that emerge from their travel, conversations with other program participants, acquaintances in Europe, or the kinds of random thoughts that we are apt to have when travelling in a new environment.