

Political Science Department

Europe Summer Travel Study Program for 2016

Provisional Itinerary and Schedule



Buckingham Palace

Here is some provisional information about the 2016 Political Science Department travel-study program. Although we have not finalized all the details of this program, this syllabus may provide you a sense of our itinerary.

Our program will begin with an orientation meeting in London on **Sunday evening, June 19 at 7:00 pm**. We conclude our program with a

final examination, in Paris, France on Tuesday, July 12. **Your hotel checkout in Paris will be the following day, Wednesday, July 13.**

France's major national holiday, Bastille Day, will be the next day, July 14. Students who wish to remain in France for Bastille Day should plan to make separate arrangements.

What is our Itinerary?

London, England. Our program begins on Sunday evening, June 19th, in London, England where we remain for about one week. We will have class each day from Monday the 20th through Friday, June 24. Saturday, June 25th is a free day. We depart for Brussels, Belgium on Sunday morning, June 26.

Brussels, Belgium. Brussels in one of the most important cities in Europe. It is the capital of the European Union; the administrative headquarters of the NATO Alliance and the capital of Belgium. During our stay in Brussels, we plan to visit the European Union, make an excursion to the Belgian city of Ypres, where there is an important World War I museum and a restored battle site from that war. One day will be a class day. We depart Brussels for Amsterdam on Thursday, June 30.

Amsterdam, Netherlands. While in Amsterdam, we will plan a visit to the International Criminal Court, which is in The Hague, the capital of Netherlands. We also plan a cruise along the canals that define the geography of this fascinating city. Sunday, July 3 is a free day. Students may wish to visit some of the many culturally important places in Amsterdam including the Anne Frank Museum, the Van Gogh Museum, and the Rijksmuseum. We depart for Paris on Monday, July 4.

Paris, France. Paris is one of the world's most amazing cities with an infinite variety of things to do, places to visit and cultural features to experience. These include the famous Louvre Museum, Versailles and

the Musee d'Orsay. We plan a group excursion on the Seine River. Saturday evening, July 9, we plan a visit to an exquisite French chateau, Vaux le Vicomte. Our final examination will take place on Tuesday, July 12. **Our program ends with hotel checkout on Wednesday, July 13.**

What do my fees cover?

Your fee for this program will provide upper division UC credit for two 4-unit courses. One course will be Political Science 153A, West European Government and Politics. The second class will be Political Science 127A, Atlantic Area in World Politics. In addition to the two courses, your program fee also covers all dormitory and hotel costs and internal transportation between countries within Europe. The fee you pay have typically provided for group excursions such as a visit to the European Union, the International Criminal Court and/or the International Court of Justice in The Hague, and Vaux le Vicomte. The excursions we arrange are subject to change from one year to the next.

How Much Should I Plan to Spend?

In addition to the fee for the program, students must be prepared to cover the following costs: round-trip travel from the United States to Europe and incidental costs such as meals, laundry and the cost of visits to museums and other places that are not a formal part of our program. Many students also plan to attend musical and theater performances while we are traveling.

The amount of money an individual student may spend obviously varies greatly. Although we make every effort to keep our program costs as low as possible, we presently estimate that the core cost of this program will be in the range of \$5,800 to \$6,000. In addition, you should plan to spend a minimum of \$50 to \$75 per day out-of-pocket; that is, approximately \$1,500 - \$1700. This amount should be adequate to cover the cost of meals, laundry, internal transportation costs not

covered by the program such as museum entrance fees and trips not provided by the program.

Some students find that even with the most careful budgeting, their daily expenses may run somewhat higher. Many of Europe's major museums have entry fees and even public transportation can be costly. Although several of our hotels have rooms with kitchenettes where you can prepare your own meals, expenses can quickly add up. Europe can be expensive: the key is to budget wisely and spend carefully.

Is Financial Aid Available for this Program?

Yes. Financial aid is available for this program but it may not cover more than a portion of the total cost of this program. In addition, the university may deduct the financial assistance you obtain for a summer academic program from the total amount of financial aid you receive for the academic year. You should be sure to check into all of these matters as you begin to plan your summer 2016 academic and work schedule.

To find out exactly how much aid you may receive and how to obtain it, you should check with your financial aid counselor and with the staff members in the Travel-Study Office, which is located in 1332 Murphy Hall.

Passports

To travel abroad you must have a valid and up-to-date passport. Most countries require that your passport have at least six months of validity remaining when you enter the country. The purpose is to insure that your passport does not expire while you are traveling. Therefore, your very first step in preparing for this trip is to check on your passport to make sure that it will continue to be valid while we travel. If you do not have a current passport, you should begin right away to obtain one.

If you will be traveling on a U.S. passport, you will be able to enter the European Union with no difficulty. No special visa is required. If you will be traveling on a non-U.S. passport, you may need to obtain a Schengen visa. For further information about this, visit the following web site, <http://www.schengenvisainfo.com/>.

Laptop Computers

A laptop computer or iPad-like device can be extremely useful and we encourage students to bring one. Each of our locations will provide internet connections. This can be helpful for students who need to enroll for Fall UCLA classes, access the class readings for this class or find supplemental travel information. An internet device would also permit easy access to your e-mail and make phone calls, by using such services as Skype.

How to Pay for Things

The best way to pay for the parts of the trip that you will need to cover yourself is with an ATM card. An ATM card will enable you to withdraw small amounts of cash in local currency (British Pounds or European Euros) as we go along. There may be modest transaction fees associated with these withdrawals.

Most places we visit will also take the more commonly used credit cards such as Visa or MasterCard. An important point: most European businesses now accept only those credit cards that have an embedded chip. Although U.S. credit cards are also shifting over to the chip system, not all have done so. Be sure to check with your credit card provider to obtain a travel credit card that has the embedded chip. The purpose of this requirement is to reduce credit card theft, which had been as common in Europe as it is here in the U.S. Carrying cash for your expenses would be the least preferred way to travel.

What about Cell Phones?

Unfortunately, there is no single answer to this question. Each individual may have a different level of need for an international cell phone while traveling with us. In addition, it seems that each of the major providers has different plans with different costs. Your best bet is to contact your own cell phone provider to find out how much it might cost to add an international capability to your present phone. Some students have simply purchased cell phones in Europe, sometimes on a shared basis.

What clothing should I bring?

It is best to anticipate a wide range of weather conditions during our trip. The weather may vary from cold and rainy to hot and sticky. The best approach is to bring lightweight clothing but with the ability to adapt to cooler and rainier conditions as these arise. We like to dress up a little bit when we go to certain places, such as our excursion to Vaux le Vicomte. Some students have arranged a bike tour along the canals around Amsterdam; that would definitely require lighter clothing.

Health Insurance. Health insurance is part of the basic fee for this program. Your enrollment in the program will also ask you to let us know if you have any medical conditions we should be aware of. Please do so. This may be important if we need to escort you to a medical facility while we are traveling.

Course Syllabus for Political Science 153A.

West European Government and Politics

Mr. Lofchie



Houses of Parliament

I. The British Political System (June 19 to June 26.)

After our orientation, we will devote five class days to discuss of the British political system. Among the topics we will consider are the following: British parliamentary institutions and how they contribute to a powerful executive and the high degree of party discipline that contrasts British parties with our own. We will also consider British political culture and how it contributes to Britain's stability.

Reading.

Charles Hauss, *The United Kingdom*. [2015].

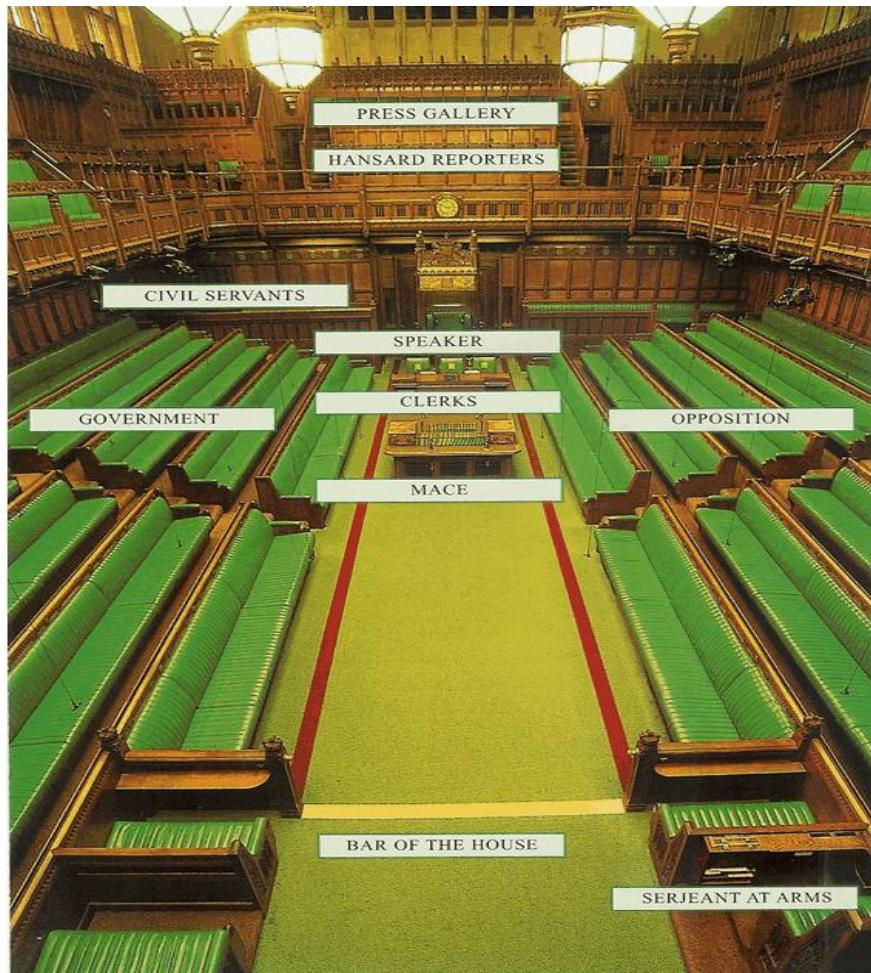
David Cameron, British Prime Minister



Houses of Parliament



House of Commons



The Queen Visits Parliament



2. Belgium: June 26 through June 30.

During our stay in Brussels, we plan a visit to the European Union and to the town of Ypres, located in the north-western part of the country. This town was in one of the most fought-over regions during World War II. More than 600,000 soldiers perished in the vicinity of this town and various cemeteries and memorials contain the graves of over 400,000. We will visit the *In Flanders Fields Museum*, which presents a powerful history of the horrors of this war.

In Flanders Fields Museum



Images of World War I





3. The Netherlands Political System (June 30 to July 4)

While in Netherlands, we will consider its Netherlands political system, which has some distinctive features. These include its system of proportional representation for the National Assembly, the multi-party system, and the consensual basis of Netherlands democracy. Major topics will include the sustainability of the Netherlands welfare state and rising anti-immigrant sentiments.

King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima



Netherlands: Houses of Parliament



Reading.

The Dutch General Election of 2012, in Wikipedia;

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_general_election,_2012

France: Wednesday, July 4 through Friday, July 13.

We depart the Netherlands on Monday, July 4 for Paris, where we will remain until the end of the travel-study program. Our first class will be devoted to an orientation to Paris and France.

The French Political System.

While in Paris, we will consider the French political system including the history of political instability in France from 1789 to the present, the cultural factors that help explain France's political process, and the institutions the Fifth French Republic as well as aspects of French politics today.

Core Reading

Charles Hauss, *France* (2015).

Michael Lofchie, *History of French Regimes*.

Vaux le Vicomte



La France Profonde



The Elysee (The French “White House.”)



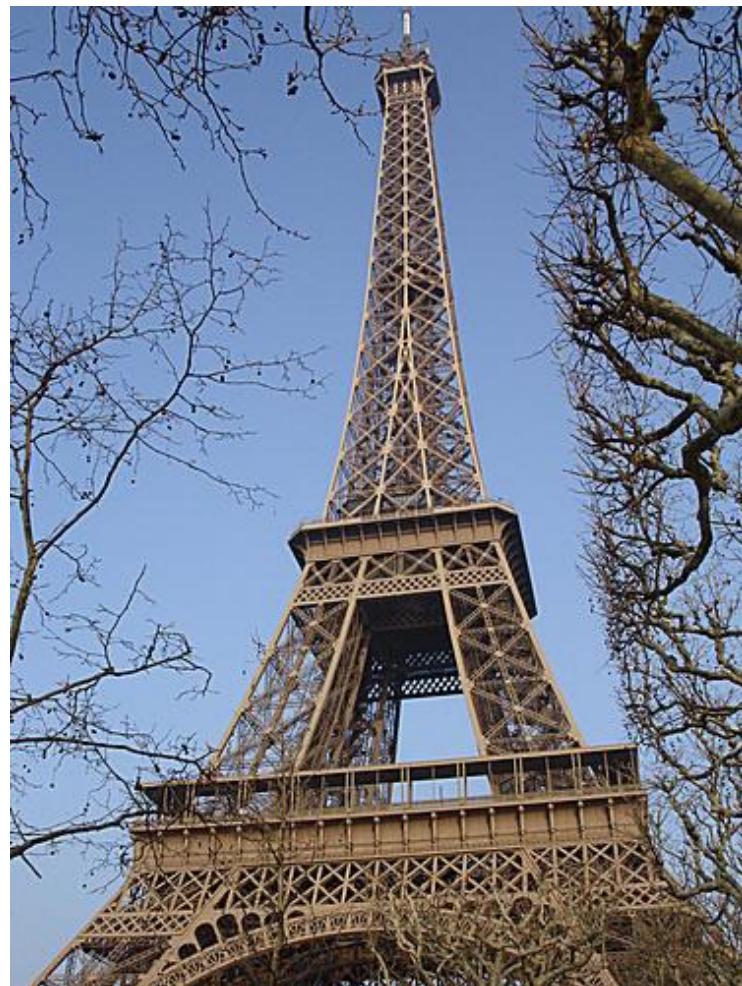
Versailles Palace Hall of Mirrors



Palais Bourbon: French National Assembly.



Eiffel Tower



Final Program Schedule

The final examination will take place on Tuesday, July 12.

Checkout from our hotel will be on Wednesday, July 13.

Seine River at Midnight

