Political Science Department
Europe Summer Travel Study Program for 2015
Provisional Itinerary and Schedule

Buckingham Palace

Here is some provisional information about the 2015 Political Science Department travel-study program. Please keep in mind that we have not finalized all the arrangements for this program. However, this syllabus may enable you to get a sense of our itinerary.
Our program will begin with an orientation meeting in London on Tuesday evening, June 23 at 7:00 pm. Our program will conclude with a final examination, in Paris, France on Thursday, July 16. Your hotel checkout in Paris will be Friday, July 17.

We are fortunate that our program will be in Paris for France’s major national holiday, Bastille Day, which will take place on Tuesday, July 14. We will have suggestions as to how you can best enjoy this marvelous occasion.

What is our Itinerary?

**London, England.** Our program begins on Tuesday evening, June 23rd, in London, England where we remain for about one week. Our last class day in London is Monday, June 29th. Because of various program activities and travel days, your weekend in England (Saturday-Sunday, June 27-28) may be your only free weekend during the trip.

**Brussels, Belgium.** On Tuesday, June 30th, we travel to Brussels Belgium. From a political science standpoint, Brussels in one of the most important cities in Europe. It is the capital of the European Union; it is the administrative headquarters of the NATO Alliance; it is the capital of Belgium and it is an important provincial capital within the Belgian federal system. While in Brussels, we will visit the European Union.

**Amsterdam, Netherlands.** We leave Brussels for Amsterdam on Saturday, July 4th. While in Amsterdam, we will plan a visit to the International Criminal Court, which is in the capital of Netherlands, The Hague, and a cruise along the canals that define the geography of this fascinating city.

**Paris, France.** We leave for Paris on Wednesday, July 8. Paris is one of the world’s most amazing cities with an infinite variety of things to do, places to visit and cultural patterns to experience. We plan a visit to an
exquisite French chateau, Vaux le Vicomte on Saturday evening, July 11th. Our program ends with hotel checkout on Friday, July 17th.

**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 program also provides for a number of group excursions connected with the academic subject matter. These may include a river cruise on the Thames to the town of Greenwich, a visit to the European Union, the visit to the International Criminal Court and/or the International Court of Justice in The Hague, and the Vaux le Vicomte. We also plan to arrange an Amsterdam canal cruise and a Seine River cruise. Several of our excursions will be to European gardens.

**How Much Should I Plan to Spend?**

Students must be prepared to cover the following costs. 1. Round-trip travel from the United States to Europe; 2. 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 individual students spend obviously varies greatly. Although we make every effort to keep our program costs as low as possible, we presently anticipate that the core cost of this program will be approximately $5,600 to $5,800. In addition, you should plan to spend a minimum of $50 to $60 per day out-of-pocket; that is, approximately $1,500. This amount should be adequate to cover the cost of meals, laundry, internal transportation costs not covered by the
program, museum entrance fees and trips that are not provided by the program.

Some students find that even with the most careful budgeting, their daily expenses exceed that amount. Many of Europe’s major museums have entry fees and even public transportation can be costly. Although several of our hotels have rooms with small 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. To find out exactly how much 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.

Although financial aid is available, it may not cover more than a small portion of the total cost of this program. One difficulty is that you may not learn about your financial aid package before you are required to pay for the core 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 this as you begin to plan your summer 2015 academic and work schedule.

We are doing everything possible to address these issues. However, in the end you may need to plan to cover a substantial balance out of personal or family funds.

**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 there. Therefore, your very first step in preparing for this trip is to check on your passport to make sure that it will be valid for entry in the countries we are visiting. 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. However, if you will be traveling on the passport of another country than the U.S., you should inquire well in advance as to any special visa requirements for the countries we will be visiting.

Travel Guides

We suggest that students purchase a travel guide for the countries we visit. A good travel guide contains valuable historical, cultural and political information, often in readable and succinct prose, as well as information about the most interesting places to visit. The best approach is to pay a visit to a bookstore that has a large travel section. The time you spend browsing the travel guides can be a valuable part of the trip. Numerous web sites also provide helpful travel information.

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. Some students use internet technology to make phone calls, by using such services as Skype. If you choose not to bring a laptop computer, this will not be a problem: there are internet cafes practically everywhere. Perhaps your roommate will let you share a computer.
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, although 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. If you credit card only has the magnetic strip, which is still used in this country, you may not be able to use it in Europe. 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, 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. If you uncover helpful information, and feel like sharing it, we can post it on the class web site. Many students prefer to use Skype or some other internet-based phone system.
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.

Course Syllabus for Political Science 153A.

West European Government and Politics

Mr. Lofchie

Houses of Parliament
I. **The British Political System** (June 23 to June 29.)

After our orientation on Tuesday evening, June 23rd, we begin to discuss 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 a high degree of party discipline; British political culture and how it contributes to Britain’s stability, and the British party system including elections.

**Core Reading.**


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**David Cameron, British Prime Minister**
Houses of Parliament
House of Commons
The Queen Visits Parliament

2. Belgium: June 30 through July 3.

We depart for Brussels on Tuesday, June 30 and will remain in Belgium through Saturday, July 4 when we depart for Amsterdam. During our stay in Brussels, we plan to the European Union. We are exploring a group visit to a museum named In Flanders Field, which is located in the town of Ypres. Alternately we may visit the historically important town of Bruges.
While in Belgium, we will visit 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 Field Museum*, which presents a powerful history of the horrors of how this war fought.

**In Flanders Fields Museum**
Images of World War I
3. **The Netherlands Political System** (June 4 to July 7)

After completing our visit to Belgium, we will consider the Netherlands political system. Our topics will include the Netherlands electoral system, which features proportional representation, the Netherlands party system, policy issues in Netherlands politics including immigration, and the consensual basis of Netherlands democracy. A major topic will be the sustainability of the Netherlands welfare state.
King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima
Core Reading.

The Dutch General Election of 2012, in Wikipedia;


4. France: Wednesday, July 8 through Friday, July 17.
We depart the Netherlands on Wednesday, July 8 for Paris, where we will remain until the end of the travel-study program. The first class will be devoted largely 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


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 Thursday, July 16.

Checkout from our hotel will be on Friday, July 17.

Seine River at Midnight