

Summer Travel Study Program 2009: Preliminary Program



Buckingham Palace

Political Science Travel Study for 2009 Provisional Schedule and Readings

This is a provisional schedule for the summer 2009 Political Science Department travel-study program taught by Professor Michael Lofchie and Professor Barry O'Neill.

Welcome to the UCLA Department of Political Science Western Europe travel-study program. Students who enroll in this program will have the opportunity to visit four European countries: England, Belgium, Netherlands and France. The purpose of the trip will be to study the political institutions of the countries in order to better understand their interactions and foreign policies.

The program will begin with an orientation meeting at our hotel in London, England at 7:00 pm on Wednesday evening June 17th. Our program will conclude with a final examination, in Paris, France on Monday morning, July 13th. Final check-out from our hotel in Paris will be on Tuesday morning, July 14th. Students who wish to remain in Paris to attend Bastille Day, which is Tuesday, July 14th, will need to make a separate arrangement to do so.

Course Credit

This travel-study program offers credit for two courses. Students will receive credit for one 4-unit course in comparative government (Political Science 153A, West European Government and Politics) and one 4-unit course in international relations (Political Science 127A, Atlantic Area in World Politics).

Political Science 199 Option

All students may also enroll for an optional individual study Political Science 199 for up to 4 units. The topics for the individual studies research projects are generally worked out

during the course of the trip in consultation with one of the instructors. Since this option would give the student a possible total of 12 upper division academic units, many students regard it as a highly desirable aspect of the travel-study program.

For full information about this program, as well as the many other UCLA travel study opportunities, please visit the UCLA Summer Sessions web site, which is www.summer.ucla.edu/travel.

The final examination for the two classes will be held on Monday, July 13th will be based on materials that are covered in our lecture/discussions, assigned readings and our group outings to such places as NATO and the Dutch Parliament.

Travel Guides.

In addition to course readings, we would suggest that students avail themselves of the opportunity to purchase travel guides for each of the major cities and/or countries we visit. These are London, England; Brussels, Belgium; Amsterdam, Netherlands; and Paris, France. The best travel guides contain valuable historical, cultural and political information, often in readable and succinct prose as well as vital information about the most interesting places to visit and how to get there. We would suggest that you pay a visit to a bookstore that has a large travel section. A good travel guide is an excellent investment and can contribute greatly to enhancing the quality of your trip. Indeed, you may find that you use your travel guide for years after your initial visit.

Laptop Computers.

A laptop computer can be extremely useful and we encourage students to bring one along if at all possible. All of the hotels we stay in now provide internet connections, which are extremely useful for students who wish to access the class readings, begin research for their Political Science 199 projects or find supplemental travel information about such things as train and airline schedules. A laptop computer would also permit easy access to your e-mail and some students have also begun to use internet technology to make phone calls, using such services as Skype.

Provisional Syllabus:

Political Science 153A

West European Government and Politics

[This course will be taught by Professor
Lofchie.]



Houses of Parliament

1. The British Political System (June 17th to June 24th)

During the first week of our travel study class we will cover the British political system. Among the topics we will consider are the following: British parliamentary institutions and how they contribute to a powerful executive; British political culture, and the British party system including elections.

Required Reading: British Political Institutions

Michael Roskin, "[**Part I, Great Britain.**](#)" (2009). This is the chapter on Britain of his widely used textbook, *Countries and Concepts: Politics, Geography, Culture*.

The [Price-Laski Debate](#) on the Presidential System.

Suggested Reading:

British Political Culture: The Way Things Were.

Harry Eckstein, "[The Sources of Leadership and Democracy in Britain](#)," [Chapter 4 of Patterns of Government (Random House, 1962).]

British Political Culture: The Way Things Are.

Catherine Mayer, "[How Diana Transformed Britain](#)."



2. Belgium: June 24th through June 27th.

We depart for Brussels on Wednesday, June 24th and will remain in Belgium through Saturday, June 27th, when we depart for Amsterdam. During our stay in Brussels, we plan to have a visit to NATO headquarters and, if possible, a group tour of the historic town of Bruges. If possible, we will have a guest lecture on the Belgian political system.



The Canals of Bruges

3. The Netherlands Political System (June 27th to July 2nd.).

After completing our visit to Belgium, which will be mostly concerned with international subject-matter including such as NATO, we will visit Netherlands. We will consider the Netherlands political system including the Netherlands electoral system, which features proportional representation, the Netherlands party system, policy issues in Netherlands politics, and the consensual basis of Netherlands democracy.



Netherlands: Houses of Parliament

Required Reading:

Wikipedia, [Politics of the Netherlands](#) (2006).

Suggested Reading:

Rudy Andeweg and Galen Irwin, [Governance and Politics of the Netherlands](#) (Palgrave, 2002).

Suggested Reading:

Topical Issues: Race and the Dutch Welfare State.

Jane Kramer, [The Dutch Model: Multiculturalism and Muslim Immigrants](#), New Yorker, April 3, 2006.

Burkhard Bilger, "A Reporter at Large. [Why are Europeans Becoming Taller Than Americans?](#)" (April 5, 2004).

Ian Buruma, "[Letter from Amsterdam](#). Final Cut; After a Filmmaker's Murder, the Dutch Creed of Tolerance Has Come Under Siege." (New Yorker, January 3, 2005.)

Christopher Caldwell, "[Daughter of the Enlightenment](#)," New York Times Magazine, April 3, 2005.

4. France: Thursday, July 2 through Tuesday, July 14th.

We depart the Netherlands on Thursday, July 2nd for Paris, where we will remain until the end of the travel-study program.



Eiffel Tower

3. **The French Political System** (July 2nd to July 14th).

After completing our visit to the Netherlands, we will travel to Paris, France on Thursday, July 3rd. We will consider the French political system including the history of political instability in France from 1789 to the present, cultural factors that may help explain that history, and the institutional arrangements of the Fifth French Republic that are intended to rectify the instabilities of the past. We will also consider aspects of French politics today.



French President, Nicolas Sarkozy

Required Reading:

[**The History of French Regimes.**](#)

Michael Roskin, "[**France.**](#)" (2009), or

Wikipedia, [**The French Presidential Election of 2007.**](#)

Wikipedia, [**The French Legislative Election of 2007.**](#)

Suggested Reading:

Tom Reiss, "[Laugh Riots: The French Star Who Became a Demagogue.](#)" (New Yorker, November 19, 2007).

Laurence Wylie, [Village in the Vaucluse](#) (Harvard, 1957), pp. 37-97. See esp. pp. 52-54, and 84-87. Key incident is described on p. 86.

David Rieff, "[The Battle Over the Banlieus](#)" (New York Times, April 15, 2007).

Adam Gopnik, "[Is Paris Finally Having its Crisis?](#)" (New Yorker, August 22, 2005).

Jane Kramer, [A Tale of Two Frances](#), The Economist, April 1, 2006.

James Traub, [La Femme](#), New York Times Magazine, May 14, 2006.

Laurent Cohen-Tanugi, "[The End of Europe?](#)" (Foreign Affairs, November-December, 2005).

This year, Bastille Day, France's major national holiday, falls on Tuesday, July 14th. Because of this, our end-of-class schedule is as follows.

On Saturday, July 11th, we will have a final examination review session for both courses.

The final examination for our two classes will be held on Monday morning, July 13th. Check-out from our Paris hotel

will be on Tuesday morning, July 14th. Students who wish to remain in Paris for Bastille Day celebrations will need to make a separate arrangement to do so.

Bastille Day Parade

