**HIST 360 : The Evolution of European Government and Society**

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**Course Description:** The course will focus on how political structures and political theory have evolved. The course will begin with an exploration of early civilizations (Minoan, Greek, Roman) and then progress to the medieval and early modern European states. It will conclude with an examination of the evolving structures of the European Union and the security arrangements under NATO. The course also looks at Europe in the context of trends of globalization, localization and human rights. The course meets in Europe and has a substantial online component. This course is paired with PSCI 432 which focuses on European Governmental and Non-Governmental decision-making and organizations.

**Course Structure**

This is a study abroad course that features an in-depth focus on Global and European governmental and non-governmental decision-making and organizations, both from a contemporary and historical perspective. The course meets in Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Greece and Spain.

The program will employ hands-on learning in order to give students an experiential understanding of the history of European political thought and political systems. This is not your typical study abroad course where students go to a foreign country and take classes at a host university. It uses a holistic approach that maximizes the international experience.

The holistic experience means students should get an appreciation of not only European economic and political systems, but also gain an understanding of European society and culture, both past and present. To achieve this end, we will not only focus on historical trends of various states, but also compare these with contemporary issues. In addition we will consider changes in culture and society as depicted in the art and architectural treasures of Europe.

**Core Curriculum Requirements**

This course will meet the competencies required under the Core Curriculum including, critical thinking, oral and written communication, collaboration and team work, problem solving, lifelong learning, civic knowledge and engagement, global understanding and respect, multicultural and diversity, and experiential learning.

The course will meet the requirements for the Second Tier of the Core Curriculum under the Social Sciences.

**Learning Objectives**:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:.

* To provide students with an understanding of the evolution of political systems from Ancient Greece to the European Union.
* To provide students with a better understanding and appreciation of the value of history and culture.
* To enhance and sharpen analytical abilities and communication skills. To make students think and re-examine their own goals, aspirations and values.
* To create an insatiable appetite for knowledge.

**Course Components:**

The three credit hour experience will be divided into five components. Each component has online lectures and reading assignments. Some have video and web casts.

 **I. Ancient Greece and Rome:**

The focus of this area will be examining the origins of European governmental structures and the philosophical underpinnings of that structure. Students will learn about the origins of the concept of democracy and republic and will study how those ideals were experience by classical Greece and Roman states. Students will complete a number of readings and complete an on-line quiz as well a written essay.

**Meetings:** While in Europe we will visit ancient sites of government such as the Agora and Parthenon in Greece and the Forum in Rome. We will also visit the ancient site of Delos in Greece.

**II. Italian City-States**

Students will complete a number of readings and lectures on the evolution of the Italian City-States tracing their attempt to recreate the ideal Roman Republic through the reality of the Oligarchies of the Renaissance period. We will discuss how the Italian Renaissance reflects the implementation of Civic Humanism in the city-states and discus those structures of the city-state that reflect this movement. There will be several short essay quizzes for this section. We will also compare the semi-independent city states of Northern Europe with the Italian City-States. We will be visiting Brussels, Bruges, and Amsterdam where we will explore their relationship with the crowns of France, Spain and Burgundy.

**Meetings**: In Italy we will visit Florence, Siena, and San Gimignano and explore how each of these cities were governed differently. We will visit the seats of government in Florence and Siena as well as museums where we will focus on the political expression of Renaissance Art and Architecture.

**III. The Church**

In this section we will explore the importance of the Catholic Church as a political entity in European History. We will look at the evolution of the papacy and the papal states and explore how this religious entity shaped the development of European political, social, and cultural systems in European history. Students will read several articles and lectures on Church history and complete an essay on this subject.

**Meetings:** Throughout the trip we will visit the great Churches of Europe and trace their expression of political power through the building of great Gothic Churches. In Rome we will visit the Vatican Museum and St. Peter’s Basilica where student will hear a lecture on the power of the Roman Church.

**Grading**

Online Quizzes 20%

Online Short Papers 10%

Journal 20%

Post-trip papers 30%

Participation 20%

Total 100%

**Evaluation**

Online Quizzes: Each online component will be accompanied by at least one quiz (almost always more) to evaluate retention of lecture and reading materials.

Online Short Papers: Almost every online component also has a short writing assignment to summarize and synthesize the material.

Journal: This is a thinking journal requiring you to react to what they are hearing and experiencing. It is not a diary. Normally it is open ended but periodically a specific question will be posed.

Post Trip Papers: These are structured to tie the course together on return. You will have a choice of 5 topics and be required to write on three. The papers will be 5 pages in length.

Participation: We have not had anyone miss anything in the past five years so this is not about attendance. It is about being an active learner. This includes asking quality questions and being engaged with speakers and the program