

PMAP 8916/ POLS 4290
Professor Gregory Streib

Public Management and Policy from a Comparative Perspective *Summer 2010*

Instructor: Greg Streib (gstreib@gsu.edu)

Course Credit and Registration

This course is offered as a part of our Maymester in Europe program, based in Strasbourg, France. Undergraduates are also able to participate in this course by registering for POLS 4290, Studies in Comparative Politics. All students will earn three hours of credit.

Textbook

Schmidt, Vivian. (2006). *Democracy in Europe: The EU and National Politics*.¹ Oxford University Press. This should be available online in paperback.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to public management and policy in the European Union. Our approach is more applied than most courses on the EU or comparative politics. We will look at how democracy works in the EU, focusing on policy formulation and implementation. We will briefly overview of key EU institutions, for those who have not studied the EU before, and we will go on to focus on the EU from a policy perspective. Our goal is to enhance the knowledge of students seeking leadership positions in the US with an international dimension, whether their work is with a business, government, or a nonprofit organization. In addition to readings and lectures, students will also be interacting with European business leaders and EU policy makers. Students will also familiarize themselves with a substantive policy area of their choosing through an independent project, as well as receive leadership and career development coaching from the instructional team.

¹ See:

<http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Politics/ComparativePolitics/EuropeanUnion/?view=usa&ci=9780199266982>

Learning Objectives

- Students will demonstrate a basic knowledge of EU history and institutional structures;
- Students will be able compare and contrast the policymaking process in the EU with the US;
- Students will be able to explain how the role of EU appointed administrators compares with the US;
- Students will be able discuss differences between the business climate in the EU and the US;
- Students will be able to explain how EU policy outcomes are assessed and how they compare to the US;
- Students will be able to assess the strengths and weakness of EU and US democratic traditions;
- Students will be able to compare and contrast EU accomplishments with the US in at least one substantive policy area; and
- Students will be able to effectively prepare and present a policy argument in a position paper format.

Contacting Your Instructor

My regular spring office hours will be 2pm-4pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in room 316 of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. Meetings can also be scheduled at a mutually convenient time. I will also be answering questions via telephone during office hours. You can reach your instructor by telephone at (404) 939-1235. Stay on the line, if I am away, and you will get my voice mail. Electronic mail can be sent via the Internet to gstreib@gsu.edu. I have a number of electronic communication options for students wishing to meet with me prior to the start of this program or while I am in Europe. Online meetings are possible with Elluminate for students with a headset. I also use Google chat (greg.streib@gmail.com) and Microsoft Messenger (gstreib@hotmail.com).



Graduate and Undergraduate Requirements

The fact that this course admits both graduate and undergraduate students raises some important issues. First off, let me say that the undergraduates I work with at Georgia State University frequently have levels of commitment and judgment that rival graduate students. Likewise, they are frequently just as focused on developing their careers. Both undergraduate and graduates are welcome in this class and both groups make an important contribution. The requirements for the two groups are roughly the same,

though the paper requirements are more demanding for the graduate students. There are some structural differences in the assignments, and expectations are higher for the graduate students. We make no assumptions about the past knowledge of the EU for either group.

Course Policies

GSU guidelines on academic honesty and plagiarism will be enforced in this course, and you should be familiar with the GSU Student Code of Conduct and Policies² (, or in the Graduate Catalog, pgs. 53-56). Violations will result in a *minimum* penalty of a '0' on the assignment. If you require any special accommodation, particularly for physical limitations or learning disabilities, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can explore all available options. Students are expected to adhere to all ground rules distributed at the orientation session and they are expected to attend all excursions, site visits, and instructional blocks during the study trip.

Course Requirements

Most of the course will be contained within the study trip that will take place May 5-25, 2008. Students will also be responsible for submitting a final course project no later than July 15, 2008. The course project will be comprised of three parts:

1. *Leadership and Career Development Coaching Reflection:* Students will meet with Prof. Locklin individually at the beginning of the course to consider goals and career development learning objectives for the study trip. Students will then meet with Prof. Locklin toward the end of the trip to assess the extent to which those goals and objectives have been achieved. After returning home, students will write a 2-3 page reflective paper based on their meetings with Prof. Locklin and how they intend to apply the concepts learned in the course to their future career plans. *This paper should be submitted electronically to gstreib@gsu.edu no later than July 15, 2008.*
2. *Performance Assessment Case Study:* Professional practice in business and government in the United States is focused on results, though the definitions of success are different. Profit is the most important result in business, and governments are increasingly focused on both costs and program outcomes. For this assignment you will prepare an assessment of one of the organizations we visit. You may also examine one part of a larger organization, but you must consider the organizational dynamics as well as the outcomes. Can you identify the goals of the organization? What results are expected? How are results assessed? How are organization goals communicated to both employees and outsiders? Can you gain a sense of employee commitment to organizational

² In the in the Graduate Catalog, pgs. 53-56, or http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwdos/codeofconduct_conpol.html

goals? Are there any parallels or differences compared to your US experiences? Are there lessons that can be applied in the United States? The paper should be approximately five pages in length, and students are encouraged to be creative by supplementing the written paper with photographs or other ways of conveying your observations. Graduate students should complete the paper independently, but undergraduate students are permitted to work in teams of two. *This paper should be submitted to your instructor before our return to the United States.*

3. *Substantive Policy Brief:* Students will choose a substantive policy area on which to write a focused position paper for an audience in the United States. Your audience can be officials with a business or government. The goal is to recommend a European policy for use in the United States. You may choose any policy, big or small--education policy, environmental policy, fiscal policy, and cultural/arts, transportation policy are several options. Consider both the benefits and challenges that this policy has produced in Europe in the body of your paper. Also discuss the probable outcomes in the United States. Each paper should have a well developed conclusion. The paper must be in the format of a position paper, and the requirements of this format will be discussed in our lecture sessions. Graduate students must complete this paper independently, but undergraduate students are permitted to work in teams of two.

The final course project should be 8-10 pages in length and typed, double-spaced, using 11 or 12-point font and 1" margins. It should be submitted electronically to gstreib@gsu.edu no later than July 15, 2008. Papers submitted after that date will be penalized one letter grade for each day after the deadline.

4. *Professionalism and participation:* Students should be engaged during this study abroad program. Attendance is a given. Engagement involves asking questions, demonstrating knowledge of the class materials in our discussions, asking questions, participating actively in excursions and events, responding to discussion questions that will be provided by your instructor, and demonstrating professional behavior.

Grading

Final course grades will be determined as follows:

Course Component	Available Points
Professionalism and Participation	250
Performance Assessment Case	200
Leadership and Career Development Reflective Paper	200
Policy Brief	350
	1000

Students must earn 900+ points to receive a grade of "A," 800+ points to earn a "B," and 700+ points to earn a grade of "C." Incomplete grades will only be given for nonacademic reasons when advance arrangements have been made. In this class, a B is the expected grade for good, competent work. Grades in the A range are reserved for excellent work. Excellent work goes beyond the minimum in some important way. *Plus and minus grades will be used in this class for final course grades when a grade is within 15 percent of a lower or higher grade. For example, a final point total of 815 or less is a B-. Likewise, a score of 885 or above is B+. Note that there is no A+.*

Tentative Schedule

Day 1 >> Sat. May 8:

- Flight to Frankfurt, Germany (group flight available, but not in the package price shown here)

Day 2 >> Sun. May 9: (Frankfurt – Strasbourg)

- Arrival at Frankfurt Airport
- Transfer by private bus from the airport to Strasbourg
- 9 nights in twin bedded rooms with shared bathrooms incl. breakfast at the "Château de Pourtalès" in Strasbourg, France
- Welcome reception and orientation at the Château
- Dinner at the restaurant "Le Jardin du Pourtalès" in the early evening

Day 3 >> Mon. May 10: (Strasbourg)

- Breakfast at the Château
- Transfer by private bus during the day
- Visit to the European Parliament, that represents the citizens of the European Union member states in the morning
- Company visit in the region e.g. Socomec in the afternoon

Day 4 >> Tues. May 11: (Strasbourg)

- Breakfast at the Château
- Guest lecture by a representative of Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Strasbourg et du Bas-Rhin (Chamber of Commerce Strasbourg and Region) at the Château in the morning
- Transfer by private bus to the city center and return
- Guided boat tour of Strasbourg, the “capital of Europe” in the afternoon
- Tarte Flambée Dinner in downtown Strasbourg at a typical Alsatian restaurant

Day 5 >> Wed. May 12: (Strasbourg region)

- Breakfast at the Château
- Transfer by private bus during the day
- Company visit in the region in the morning, e.g. the smart plant in Hambach
- Guided tour of a brewery in Strasbourg incl. a beer tasting in the afternoon
- BBQ Dinner in the Tipi-Camp next to the Château in the evening

Day 6 >> Thurs. May 13: (Strasbourg - Natzwiller) - *National holiday - Ascension*

- Breakfast at the Château
- Morning lecture by your professor at the Château de Pourtalès
- Transfer by private bus to Natzwiller and return
- Visit to the former concentration camp Struthof in the afternoon

Day 7 >> Fri. May 14: (Strasbourg)

- Breakfast at the Château
- 2 hour guest lecture on “How can Europe be an Ethical Super Power” in the morning
- Free afternoon...

Day 8 >> Sat. May 15: (Strasbourg)

- Breakfast at the Château
- Free day...

Day 9 >> Sun. May 16: (Strasbourg)

- Breakfast at the Château
- Free day...

Day 10 >> Mon. May 17: (Strasbourg)

- Breakfast at the Château
- Transfer by private bus during the day
- Visit to the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in the morning
- Visit to the Koehler Papermill in Kehl in the afternoon

Day 11 >> Tues. May 18: (Strasbourg - Heidelberg)

- Breakfast at the Château
- Transfer by private bus during the day
- 2 night in twin bedded rooms with private bathrooms
incl. breakfast at a 2 star hotel in Heidelberg
- Guided walking tour of the university town of Heidelberg in the late morning
- Lunch at a restaurant in Heidelberg
- Guest lecture on a political or economic topic at the SIU Heidelberg Campus
in the afternoon (details to be discussed)

Day 12 >> Wed. May 19: (Frankfurt)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer by private bus during the day
- Visit to the Deutsche Bundesbank and its money museum in the morning
- Visit to the German Stock Exchange in the afternoon
- Free time for sight seeing and shopping in Frankfurt,
the largest financial center of Europe
- Dinner at a restaurant in Frankfurt

Day 13 >> Thurs. May 20: (Heidelberg – Moselle area - Brussels)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer by private bus during the day
- Visit to the castle Burg Eltz in Münstermaifeld in the late-morning
- Stop-over for some free time in the Moselle town Cochem...
- Visit to a family run winery at the Moselle River incl. a tasting afterwards
- Late check-in: 2 nights in twin bedded rooms with private bathrooms
incl. breakfast at a 2 or 3 star hotel in Brussels

Day 14 >> Fri. May 21: (Brussels)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Public transportation pass for the entire stay in Brussels
- Transfer by public transportation during the day
- Visit to the NATO headquarter in the morning
- Visit to the US Mission or the European Commission in the afternoon

Day 15 >> Sat. May 22: (Brussels – Bruges - Paris)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer by private bus during the day
- Free time in Bruges for sightseeing and shopping on your own...
Bruges is due to its winding cobbled alleys and the canals known as the “Venice of the North” and the city’s beautiful old town was included in the UNESCO World heritage in 2000.
- Late check-in: 5 nights in twin bedded room with private bathrooms
incl. breakfast at a 3-star hotel in Paris

Day 16 >> Sun. May 23: (Paris)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Paris Visite Pass for the entire stay in Paris
- Transfer by public transportation during the day
- Sight-seeing boat tour of Paris on the famous Bateaux Mouches in the morning
- Free afternoon...
- Guided tour of the Louvre in the evening

Day 17 >> Mon. May 24: (Paris)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer by public transportation during the day
- Visit to the OECD in the morning
- Visit to PREDA (Paris Region Economic Development Agency) in the afternoon

Day 18 >> Tues. May 25: (Paris)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer by public transportation during the day
- Visit to the American Chamber of Commerce in the morning
- Guided walking tour of the Montmartre Quarter in the afternoon

Day 19 >> Wed. May 26: (Paris)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer by public transportation during the day
- Free day in Paris... Students may take the train to Versailles or visit the Musée d'Orsay on their own...
- Farewell Dinner at a restaurant in Paris

Day 20 >> Thurs. May 27: (Paris)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer by private bus to the airport in Paris
- Departure from Paris Airport to the USA (airfare not included)