

University of Victoria
European Studies Program
EUS470 - Field School in European Studies
(CRN 31481)

Instructor:

Keith Cherry

Email: kcherry@uvic.ca

We acknowledge and respect the ongoing title and jurisdiction of the Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ peoples, on whose territory the University of Victoria stands. We acknowledge that this Field Course will visit lands which are also deeply shaped by the colonial encounter, and which are beneficiaries of the power structures and resources flows colonialism creates. We strive to reflect upon the complex ties that connect these lands to the lands on which we work, learn, and live.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course constitutes the academic element of the EU Study Tour offered by the Network for European Studies (Canada) and administered through the University of Victoria (UVic).

The course has 3 primary components:

- 1 – The Model EU (May 12-13th at the University of Victoria)
- 2 – The European Community Studies Association Canada Conference (May 14th and 15th at the University of Victoria)
- 3 – The European Study Tour (commencing in Brussels with a Meet and Greet from 17:00-19:00 on Sun, May 17 and concluding on the evening of Fri, May 29. Students check out of their Tour accommodation the morning of Sat, May 30).

These components, along with the associated assignments, are designed to build on one another. Students will begin participating in the Model EU, developing a feel for the diplomatic and policy environment of the EU, and the ECSAC conference, where they will hear cutting edge academic analysis. Students will submit two Reading Reflections based on conference papers. Students will then depart for Europe for the Study Tour. The Study Tour program includes visits to some of the institutions of the EU, such as the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Court of Justice of the EU, and the European Central Bank. There will also be visits to some of the other bodies and agencies of the EU, and possibly the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Canadian Mission to the EU. Finally, students will submit a Experiential Reflection analyzing their experience as a whole.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will learn structure and activity of the European Union, a significant regional inter-governmental organization as well as an unprecedented form of governance in an increasingly

globalized political environment. Students explore the *practical* aspects of European integration, European Union institutions and operations, as well as EU foreign relations (with special emphasis on Canada-EU relations).

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

- Recognize and understand the concepts and terms associated with the practical or applied work of European Union institutions and intergovernmental organizations in Europe.
- Recognize, identify and explain the character, purpose and activities of major institutions of the European Union.
- Recognize and explain the relationships and interactions between EU member states, the European Union, and non- member states (with a particular focus on Canada).
- Recognize and articulate how the study of regional intergovernmental organizations relates to the discipline of political studies and other social sciences.
- Demonstrate written and oral communication skills in assignments which focus on problems and issues of the European Union.
- Apply these learning outcomes to a variety of issues and problems, in order to demonstrate understanding of the subject matter.

TOPICS FOR 2026

The EU Study Tour has two permanent themes:

- 1) The Institutional Architecture of the EU
- 2) Canada-Eu relations

However, each edition of the EU Study Tour also introduces topical themes to frame some of the seminars and discussions. These themes are not *exclusive*, and many more topics and themes will come up during the program. The theme for this year is:

European Security, broadly conceived. This theme has many possible dimensions, including military conflict, terrorism, or transatlantic relations; but also includes less conventional threats such as cyber security, energy and supply chain dependence, climate change and its effects (e.g. migration flows), political extremism, fascism and authoritarian governments or political movements, civil unrest, and economic instability.

RECOMMENDED READINGS: Participants have varying levels of knowledge about European integration. A certain amount of knowledge is assumed in order to participate in the EU Study Tour, such as a basic history of the EU and a conceptual understanding of the relationships between major EU institutions. If necessary, students can familiarize themselves with these topics by reading the appropriate chapters in the following textbook:

Amy Verdun, Achim Hurrelmann and Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly (eds.), *European Union Governance and Policy-Making: A Canadian Perspective*, 2nd edition, 2023, University of Toronto Press.

REQUIRED READINGS: Participants in this course are expected to complete all required readings prior to the beginning of the field school. See Brightspace for more information.

EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated via the following:

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| • Model EU | 25% |
| • 2 ECSAC Reading Reflections (May 6 th and 18 th) | 30% (15% each) |
| • Study Tour Participation* | 30% |
| • Final Experiential Reflection (June 20) | 20% |

***Note that participation includes submitting pre-departure documentation in a timely fashion.

Mandatory Course Components:

All components except the Model EU are mandatory.

Failure to complete any of the mandatory course components will result in a grade of “N” regardless of your cumulative percentage on the course according to the grading scheme above. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Model EU:

Students will be graded on their participation in Model EU prep sessions, their prepared remarks during the Tour de Table, and their performance during the Model EU negotiations.

The Model EU is worth 25% of the final grade. A grading rubric is in Brightspace.

Participation:

Based on timely submission of pre-departure documents, evaluation of student involvement in the ECSAC conference, and evaluation of student involvement in the Study Tour, as provided by the Director of the Tour. Participation is worth 25% of the final mark. A grading rubric is in Brightspace.

ECSA Conference Reading Reflections:

Students will attend the Young Researcher Network events on May 14th and the European Community Studies Association Canada (ECSAC) conference on May 15th.

In preparation for the conference, students will write two Reading Reflections, one on the theme of “Canada-EU Relations” and one on the theme of “European Security”. For each reflection, students will:

- choose **2-3** relevant conference papers.
- submit a **~700-900word** reflection discussing the papers and relating them to the relevant Study Tour theme (Canada-EU relations, EU Security). Students may also connect conference papers to their other readings, or to their experiences during the Model EU.
- develop **2-3** learning goals to help focus the student’s Study Tour experience. What topics within each theme do you want to know more about? Are there specific questions that you’d like to ask when we visit particular institutions? Are there connections between topics,

tensions between institutions, or policy contradictions that you'd like to explore? How and where will you do that? The idea is to be clear about what, specifically, you hope to learn on the Tour. Students will return to these learning goals in their Experiential Reflection.

Students will submit their first Reading Reflection no later than **May 6th** and their second by **May 18th**.

Reading Reflections are worth **30%** of the total mark (15% each). A rubric is available on brightspace.

Final Experiential Reflection:

Each student must submit a final Experiential Reflection at the end of the tour. The idea to explore what you have learned and how your thinking has developed.

- The Experiential Reflection should be approximately **~1000 words**.
- The Experiential Reflection should draw on all three elements of the course: the Model EU, the ECSA Conference, and the Study Tour.
- Students will discuss which parts of the course were most useful and important for them and why.
- Students will make specific reference to the learning goals developed in their **Reading Reflections**. What did you learn about the questions/topics you identified? What did you think of the answers you got? Did some questions go unanswered? Why?
- Students will also reflect on their own professional, political, and personal trajectories: how does your learning during the course relate to your own career goals, political aspirations, or academic interests? Have these changed over the course of the Tour? How has your understanding of Europe changed? Your political positions? Your policy preferences?
- The idea is to reflect back on the experience, explore what you learned from it, and think how it will impact you going forward.
- Experiential Reflections should make specific references to particular site-visits, seminars, conference panels, MEU experiences and group discussions.

Your Experiential Reflection is **due June 20th** and is worth 20% of the final grade. A grading rubric is in Brightspace.

COURSE POLICIES

Accessibility Statement

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible. CAL staff members are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course. More details:

<https://www.uvic.ca/accessible-learning/index.php>

Commitment to Equity, Inclusivity, Diversity and Anti-Racism

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members both on and off campus. For more details see: <https://www.uvic.ca/vpacademic/about-contacts/equity-diversity-inclusion/index.php>

Concessions and Documentation

Students may ask for an academic concession, such as an extension for an assignment for personal or medical reasons. For details: <https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-concessions-accommodations/request-for-academic-concession/index.php>

A Note on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Actions such as plagiarism, **using AI**, falsifying materials, cheating or aiding others to cheat violate University policies on academic integrity and are considered serious offences. See the UVic Policy on Academic Integrity:

<https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/index.php>

COVID-19 Protocols

The scientific research on COVID-19 provides abundant evidence that vaccination protects the vaccinated and those around them but also that it slows the transmission of COVID-19 and reduces the risk of new variants popping up. If a student misses a seminar due to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, that student is asked to contact the Tour Director as soon as possible via the instructor's main email address (kcherry@uvic.ca). For details on COVID-19 protocols see: <https://www.uvic.ca/covid19/health-safety/index.php>