IB201: Business in the European Union Excursion

Spring, 2013
Robert B. Bennett, Jr.
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Phone: 940 9502
Home Phone: 574 9833 (Please do not call after 9:00 p.m.)
Office Hours: TR: 2:00-3:30
Or By Appointment
Note: Because of meetings, I occasionally have to be out of my office during scheduled office hours. Therefore, it is best to call ahead.

Important dates to note:
January 4-13: Excursion to Germany
March 29: Last day to withdraw.
April 15: Final Reflection paper due.

Course Description and Objectives:

The course analyzes the business environment in the European Union while taking a look at the economic, political, legal, and cultural aspects of the European Union and selected member countries. It examines current economic, political and social developments in the area and discusses implications for business inside and outside of Europe. This excursion to Europe is designed as an optional accompaniment to LE210: Business in the European Union.

Student Learning Outcomes. By the end of the course, students should have expected of themselves:
1. To continue development of skills of expository writing.
2. Developed increased awareness and understanding of the recent history, economies, cultures, and politics of the European Union, from a business perspective.
3. Gained an appreciation for the complexity and diversity of the European Union.
4. Developed increased understanding and expertise in one country in the European Union.

Description of Excursion:

We have been working with SRH Fachhochschule in Heidelberg, Germany to plan an array of activities and site visits. The trip will include a tour and some activities in the town of Heidelberg itself which is a beautiful, old university town in Germany, which served as the headquarters for the US occupation forces following World War II. We will also visit some representative German businesses, including a bus manufacturing company, a brewery, and SAP. We will also spend a day visiting Strasbourg and the European Parliament there. There will also be opportunity for you to enjoy some of the local culture, in both Heidelberg and Strasbourg.

IB201 is a one credit-hour excursion course arranged and sponsored by Butler University which will provide one academic credit upon completion of the excursion and the other course requirements. I will be accompanying the group. Students will be responsible for purchasing an airline ticket to and from Frankfurt, Germany, on the flights designated or approved by me. Students should not make plane reservations until notified by the faculty that the course has a minimum of 8 participants enrolled in the program. Otherwise, the course may have to be cancelled pursuant to university policy. Students will be notified on or before November 15, 2012 if the requisite enrollment is not reached and, in that event, all deposits will be refunded.
Ground transportation, room, local excursions, honoraria for local speakers, travel medical insurance and most meals, etc., will be included in a program fee of $995, $200 of which will be payable upon enrollment and the remainder will be charged to registrants’ student accounts. Because Butler University will be making nonrefundable commitments to local service providers, the program fee will be nonrefundable, even if the student withdraws from the course or does not attend.

Students will need to obtain a passport and will be expected to provide a waiver of liability. Students will be subject to Butler’s Code of Conduct while they are abroad.

Please Email me a copy of your confirmed reservation as soon as possible after November 15, 2012. Note that prices for airline tickets fluctuate dramatically and will tend to rise as the date approaches, so you should book immediately.

Please deliver to me (HB228) the following items:
1. Executed enrollment form with $200 deposit.
2. Copy of passport.
3. Confirmation of airline reservation.

I will be in touch soon about some organizational meetings of the group.

Note that this course is offered concurrently with IB495: Business in the European Union. Each course is intended to stand alone, but be mutually enriching. For those who can, I encourage you to enroll in both.

Resource Materials:

Readings Packet available at bookstore.
Blackboard Readings.

Academic Honesty

Students are advised to review carefully the following statement on academic honesty taken from the Butler University Student Handbook:

\[ \text{Academic Integrity:} \]

\[ \text{Butler University is an academic community. It exists for the sake of the advancement of knowledge; the pursuit of truth; the intellectual, ethical, and social development of students; and the general well being of society. All members of our community have an obligation to themselves, to their peers and to the institution to uphold the integrity of Butler University. In the area of academic integrity, this means that one’s work should be one’s own and that the instructor’s evaluation should be based on the student’s own efforts and understanding. When the standards of academic integrity are breached, mutual trust is undermined, the ideals of personal responsibility and autonomy are violated, teaching and learning are severely compromised, and other goals of the academic community cannot be realized.} \]

\[ \text{Students must be fully aware of what constitutes academic dishonesty; claims of ignorance cannot be used to justify or rationalize dishonest acts. Academic dishonesty can take a number of forms, including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitation, and interference:} \]
Cheating includes receiving or giving help on papers, experiments, reports, compositions, projects or examinations without the instructor’s permission. It also includes submitting part of or all of the completed assignment of another student as one’s own work. Of special note and concern is the use of purchased research papers. It is a violation of the regulations of Butler University for a student to purchase a term paper. Cheating is also using unauthorized materials and aids, such as books, one’s own notes or those of another, and calculators during an examination.

Plagiarism is the fraudulent misrepresentation of any part of another person’s work as one’s own. Submitting any writing, including take-home exams, that does not properly acknowledge the quoting or paraphrasing of another person’s words, or that fails to give proper credit for another person's ideas, opinion, or theory is plagiarism. Any unacknowledged use of sources to which one is indebted including but not limited to be, music, video, audio, theatre projects, compositions, web site, and computer software constitutes plagiarism.

Fabrication is the falsification or invention of information or data in reports, lab results, bibliographies, or any other academic undertaking.

Facilitation involves assisting someone in an act of academic dishonesty.

Interference includes the theft, alteration, destruction, or obstruction of another student’s work. Interference may take the form of the theft, defacements or destruction of resources, e.g. library periodicals and books, so as to deprive other students of information.

The requirements of academic integrity also extend to academic activities involving computers and networks.

A person who violates the standards of academic integrity undermines the values integral to the educational mission of Butler University. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense, harming both the community and the perpetrator, and Butler University has, accordingly, adopted procedures for dealing with possible instances of academic dishonesty.

Students will be expected to adhere to the standards in this statement as well as the highest standards of honesty, good faith and fair dealing. All material which is submitted should be original for this course and should be prepared by the individual(s) to whom it is assigned. Students are encouraged to use primary and secondary resources, but only with appropriate citation to sources. Students discovered violating these standards will be assigned a zero for the particular assignment and will face sanctions which may include further reduction in the overall course grade, failure in the course, expulsion from the course, or expulsion from the University. **Students will be expected to affirm on each assignment that they have not given or received any assistance on the assignment unless otherwise stated, nor have they witnessed anyone who has. Any test or assignment not bearing such affirmation will not be accepted.**

Grading Policy

Only numeric scores will be recorded until the final semester grade is compiled. Subject to the absentee policy outlined below, a final numeric grade will be determined as follows:

**Attendance, participation, overnight writes, etc.:** 60%

**Final Reflection Paper:** 40%

Final grades will be assigned based upon the following scale:
A 90 or above  
B over 80 but less than 90  
C over 70 but less than 80  
D over 60 but less than 70  
F below 60  

Class Discussion  

Involvement in class discussion is a critical element of the course. The free and candid exchange of views will be encouraged and rewarded. Obviously, a prerequisite to knowledgeable classroom discussion will be adequate preparation for class. Absent exceptional circumstances, students are expected to attend all classes and all group meetings and excursions during the time in Europe.

Final Reflection Paper:  

Students will write a 6-10 page, double-spaced paper that integrates their experience in Europe with the discussions and the assigned readings. This paper should include personal reflection. Questions to reflect on which may form a basis for the paper: How has this experience shaped you as an individual and a professional? How has the experience differed from, confirmed or supplemented your pre-conceptions about Germany or Europe? How would living in Europe be different/better/worse than living in the United States? What could the United States learn from Europe? How did the businesses that you saw differ from those in the US? Are there businesses that you saw that could work in the US? Are there US businesses that should expand to Europe?

The final reflection paper is due no later than April 15 at 5:00 in HB228. Please also submit a digital copy of the paper to rbennett@butler.edu.

General Writing Notes:

1. Please use 12 point type.
2. Assignments must be typed by the student turning in the assignment using appropriate word processing software.
3. Students should E-mail me (rbennett@butler.edu) each writing assignment and turn in a hard copy on or before the date it is due and retain one for their files.
4. The assignment will be graded for substance, organization, clarity, creativity (extra credit for humor), grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Dire consequences await students who fail to "spell-check" their papers. Pet peeves: Avoid using weasel introductions like “I believe....,” “I feel....,” “It is my opinion that....,” etc. Formal writing should also avoid the second person (i.e., “you”) and contractions. Be alert for homonyms like “principle” v. “principal,” “lose” v. “loose,” etc. Also, make sure that there is agreement between subject and predicate, nouns and pronouns, nouns and possessives; e.g., when you refer to a group or an institution, it is an “it” not a “they.” Failure to attend to these mechanical issues will cost at least a letter grade deduction. It is a good idea to lay aside an initial draft for a couple of days before revising. Students should use a topic paragraph to introduce the paper and topic and supporting sentences within each paragraph.
5. Include the certification of academic honesty indicated above.
6. Writing assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date indicated in the syllabus. Writing assignments may be turned in early, but assignments that are turned after the beginning of class or that are discovered under my door or in my mailbox after class are late. Assignments which are turned in late will be subject to a severe grade penalty.

ADA Academic Accommodations
It is the policy and practice of Butler University to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification from Student Disability Services is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please discuss it with me and allow one week advance notice. Otherwise, it is not guaranteed that the accommodation can be received on a timely basis. Students who have questions about Student Disability Services or who have, or think they may have, a disability (psychiatric, attentional, learning, vision, hearing, physical, medical, etc.) are invited to contact Student Disability Services for a confidential discussion in Jordan Hall 136 or by phone at extension 9308.

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