

Human Rights & World Justice
CRJU 4490
Kennesaw State University
Study Abroad: Netherlands & Germany
Summer 2014

Instructors: Dr. Tanja C. Link & Dr. Kenneth White

Email: tlink1@kennesaw.edu; kwhite88@kennesaw.edu

Phone: 770-423-6490 (Dr. Link); 678-797-2928 (Dr. White)

Course Goals

This study abroad course is an opportunity for students to learn and apply the principles of human rights and justice under international law in both an academic and an international setting. Students will visit sites in the Netherlands and Germany related to fundamental individual rights and supranational efforts to record, protect, and prosecute those rights. Students will consider questions such as: What are individual rights? What is the basis of rights? How are rights protected? What are the past, present, and future threats to rights? Students are expected to study these questions and form informed opinions on them as demonstrated through class meetings, site visits, presentations, and a research paper.

Course Description

The study of human rights in an international setting and context with a focus on the history of fundamental rights, the various theories of rights, and the international legal framework for protecting human rights abroad. Legal cases and great thinkers are analyzed with the objective of understanding the nature of rights throughout history and modern times. Seminal cases of human rights abuses throughout history will be examined that involve nationalism and racial/ethnic violence. Emphasis will be given to the future threats and challenges to the enjoyment of fundamental rights in a global setting through the lens of the criminal justice system.

Requirements/Readings

1. Plato. *Euthyphro, the Defense of Socrates, and Crito*
2. Mill, John Stuart. *On Liberty*
3. Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*
3. United States Supreme Court opinions (posted on D2L)
4. International Court opinions and law (posted on D2L)
5. Documentaries
6. Orientation meetings prior to departure
7. Class meetings prior to departure and on the trip
8. Regular and punctual attendance and active participation during trip events and site visits

9. Presentation on a case involving the abuse of human rights
10. Journal on human rights
11. Research paper on comparative history and law between the United States and Europe

Recommended

1. Travel guide and Dutch and German dictionaries
2. Walking shoes and professional attire

Course Objectives and Study Questions

During the course and upon completion of it, students should possess an increased awareness of the nature of rights and the challenges of protecting them. Students should also have an increased awareness of the culture of Europe and the Netherlands and Germany and how those cultures compare to the United States. Students should also be able to act well in a group setting to solve social and academic problems, to organize one's time well, to maintain enthusiasm for learning, and to express informed opinions on challenging ideas in both oral and written form by analyzing and applying new information. Students should also consider the importance of being an ambassador of American culture while living, traveling, and studying abroad.

During the course and upon completion of it, students should study the following questions:

Have an awareness of, and an informed opinion on, the following questions: What are rights? What is the basis of rights? How are rights protected? What are the challenges of protecting rights on the international stage? What is the history of rights? What are the current threats to rights? What are the likely future threats to rights? What is your preferred theory of rights? How are rights protected in Europe? What are the challenges of protecting rights when crime crosses European borders? How are rights protected in international law? How do the various strategies and policies towards rights in Europe and the international community compare to the United States' strategies and policies?

Students will accomplish these objectives and address these questions through academic course work and discussion, pre-trip classes and orientation meetings, and site visits.

Grades

Final grades will be based on the following scale:

1. Journal	10%
2. Participation/Experience	30%
3. Pre-trip presentation	10%
4. On-site presentation	10%
5. Research paper on human rights	40%
<u>Total</u>	100%

Journal

Students are required to write a journal each day of the trip. There will be two types of journal entries while on the trip: personal and academic.

Personal: The personal journal will focus on one's personal (subjective) reaction to things and people encountered on the trip. It will reflect one's feelings about the study abroad experience. The personal entries may include short passages, sketches, quotations, or anything else that helps with introspective reflection of the travel abroad experience. The following formula should be followed:

1. Describe an event or observation from the day.
2. Describe one's feelings about the experience.
3. Describe the value(s) (predispositions) that were tested or vindicated by the experience.
4. Describe the takeaway opinion or conclusion drawn from the experience upon reflection.

Academic (from field trips/site visits): The academic entries focuses on facts (objective information) learned from a particular event on the trip. It will focus primarily on the site visits and class meetings held during the trip. These entries may be useful when writing the research paper, so students should bring their notebook (and pen or pencil) to all the site visits.

1. Relate the experience to a topic or idea connected to fundamental individual rights.

Participation/Experience

Studying abroad provides students a variety of experiences, from simple to complex and from personal to academic. For the program to be successful, students must fully participate in all seminars, site visits, and activities, before, during, and after the trip abroad. The pre-trip meetings are designed to orient students to the unique characteristics of the culture, e.g., social practices and foods, and the sites and facilities used for the program, as well as the common personal challenges and opportunities experienced while traveling abroad. The meetings are also designed to assist students prepare for the academic requirements of the class, e.g., hypothesis development, paper and presentations organization, and revision and editing advice (including professional citation style, e.g., APA).

There will be a number of activities and site visits during the program that require full participation by the students in terms of punctuality, attire, attention, and engagement in each seminar, class event, and/or site visit. Students will very likely experience difficulty with the culture of the host country, e.g., food, language barrier, social norms and values, and weather; therefore, students must prepare to deal with such eventualities and should treat them as learning opportunities or an *inconvenience* rather than a real problem; expect to be challenged. There will be de-briefing seminars held to evaluate events and the program and share experiences. Absences or failures to pay attention or engage in events or inability to be punctual will result in a range of negative consequences depending upon the severity of the poor participation, i.e., oral or written warning, and, after the first warning loss of points, or, depending upon the severity of the action

or non-action, no warning and immediate loss of points *up to* no warning and immediate dismissal from the program and failure of the class. Students are expected to use common sense while in the class.

There are serious potential academic and economic consequences with poor participation.

Pre-trip Presentation

Students will prepare information about the culture, justice system, field trips, etc. and present to the students going on the trip. The purpose of these presentations is to help students prepare for the personal and academic experiences one typically encounters on a study abroad trip. Students will sign up for a presentation topic to address at a pre-trip meeting. Presentations should be approximately 10 minutes in length and include some type of a visual aid.

On-site Presentation

Prepare a presentation about one of the organizations we visit or topics we cover during the trip. Presentation topics will be chosen at one of the pre-trip meetings; students should prepare their presentations prior to departure. Presentations should be between 10-15 minutes in length and lead to a discussion with the whole class, facilitated by the presenters. The purpose is to prepare the group for the site visit; emphasis should be given to developing informed questions about the site visit and proper attire/behavior while at the site.

Research Paper on Human Rights

The topic of the paper must be approved by the instructors before departure; the number of pages required is between 10 and 12 pages, not including the cover page and references. The minimum number of references is five scholarly sources (consider using JSTOR or Lexis/Nexis or EBSCOhost). The paper must be typed, double-spaced with Times New Roman font, size 12. Students should cite relevant scholarly research so as to place the experience in a broader, objective perspective and provide a bibliography of references in APA or similar format. If students are unsure how to cite, refer to <http://www.apastyle.org> and/or consult a citation resource.

Identify and discuss a perspective on fundamental individual rights and compare and contrast how that perspective is reflected in the cultural and legal mores of the host countries and the United States. Students should relate their experience abroad to the academic research and readings (8-9 pages).

Write a summary of the study abroad experience; explain the study abroad experience (2-3 pages). For example, discuss one's ability to evaluate current issues involving human rights after the trip compared to before the trip; address whether the program was good for individual learning and whether the trip would be recommended to other students. The paper will be graded according to the level of insight, analysis, interpretation, clarity, and degree of supportive research presented and discussed. Students should avoid errors of grammar,

syntax, punctuation, spacing, etc., which will result in a loss of grade levels; more mistakes will mean greater loss of grade levels. Papers must be logically organized and supported with evidence and reasoning; unsupported assertions or a lack of a systematic approach, including poor/lacking citations, works consulted, end notes, etc.) will affect the paper and result in grade reduction.

Academic Integrity

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.

Free-Time Rules

A. Students **MUST** stay in the accommodations that have been provided by the program unless they have the special permission of the Director to reside at another location during free time. If such special permission is requested and in the case that is granted by the Director, the student **MUST** provide an address and contact information (phone number, email address, etc.) for the alternate location that will enable the Director and/ or participating faculty to reach them in the event of an emergency, etc.

B. Students must be in the presence of at least one other participating summer abroad student at all times during free time when they are outside the housing accommodations. If, for some reason, this is not the case, and at some point the student is by himself / herself, the student **MUST** provide an address and contact information (phone number, email address, etc.) that will enable the Director and/ or participating faculty to reach him/ her in the event of an emergency, etc.

C. At all times when students are in their rooms within the housing accommodations provided by the program, students must **NOT** be in the presence of a member of the opposite sex or gender. If students of the same sex or gender are present in a room within the housing accommodations provided by the program, these students must not be currently engaged in an intimate relationship (i.e., of a sexual nature).

D. **ALL** of the laws, rules, and regulations that are in effect in the United States, the state of Georgia and at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, GA apply. Therefore, students **MUST**

NOT use, sell, purchase or otherwise handle non-prescription drugs, including marijuana. (“Non-prescription” drugs are any drugs for which the student does not have in his / her possession a written prescription from a licensed physician). Students MUST NOT solicit or otherwise engage in prostitution and activities related thereto. The sale, purchase, and/or use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited for students under the age of twenty-one (21).