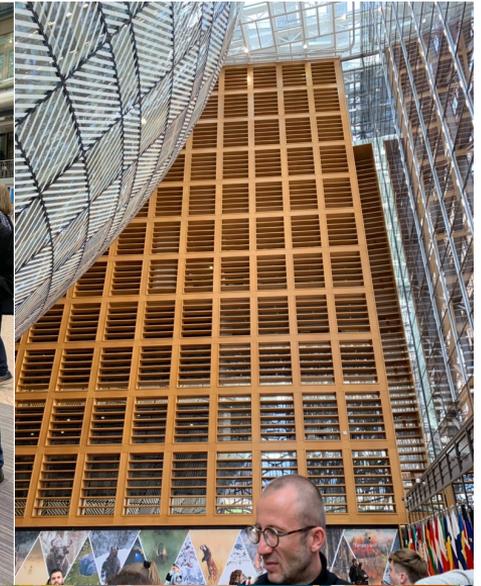


POL2097: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FINAL PROJECT

**Hannah Schwaeble, Delaney Rice, Dhruv Maroo, Kathryn
Heurman, Olivia Mesecar, Parker Cellura, & Theresa
Whitely**

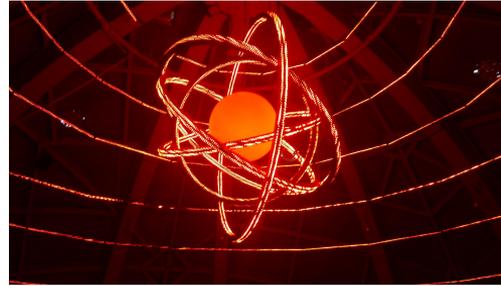
MAY 4TH: EUROPE DAY EVENT

Starting the day with a walking tour given by our very own Prof. Ivanov, we spent a majority of our day touring the European Council and the Council of the European Union. We interacted with EU officials representing several member states and visited the European Council room, the Europa building forum, and the Justus Lipsius Atrium. All the events were focused on increasing awareness about the work of the EU and the upcoming EU Parliament elections.



MAY 5TH: HOUSE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY MUSEUM & BUS TOUR OF BELGIUM

We spent the morning touring the House of European History, which presents a thoughtful chronology of European history from the myth of Europa to postmodern challenges. During a scenic bus tour of Brussels, we stopped for pictures at the Parc du Cinquantaire and toured the Atomium, which holds exhibits about human rights, beautiful views, and incredible artwork! We ended the day with a welcome dinner.



MAY 6TH: EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND COUNCIL

We started the day off getting three presentations by employees of the EU Commission, and we were able to have an amazing question and answer session on the current issues facing the Commission. Then we were able to go to talk to a high ranking official in the Commission about his duties and what the everyday duties of Commission members were.



MAY 7TH: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT & ROLE-PLAYING GAME @ THE PARLAMENTARIUM

We spent the morning touring the European Parliament and attending an info session. We were able to view the hemicycle (though it was under construction) and take photos. We then participated in a role-playing game at the Parliamentarium in which we were separated into 4 different parties and worked as members of Parliament to pass 2 different resolutions.



MAY 8TH: NATO SHAPE

In the morning, we said goodbye to Brussels heading for the NATO Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium. We were shown around by an amazing guide, who gave us a presentation on NATO and its missions. Then, we had a Q&A with an American Sargent who specialized in US-Russia relations.



SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED POWERS EUROPE

8 MAY 2019



UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI



He was very impressed with our questions, spending an extended amount of time with us. After the Q&A, we left SHAPE for the Hague in the Netherlands, passing through the Flemish speaking part of Belgium and Waterloo.

SHAPE is a NATO headquarters. Therefore, no unofficial pictures were permitted. Also, the names of the military personnel we met cannot be published



MAY 9TH: OPCW, ICTY (NOW CALLED MICT) & BOAT TOUR OF THE HAGUE

We kicked off our first day in the Hague by going to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and saw the Nobel Peace Prize they won for all their hard work! We then went to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and passed the infamous Europol along the way! We wrapped up the day with a boat tour of the inner city and got to experience the reallllly low bridges that characterize the Hague!



MAY 10TH: PEACE PALACE, ICJ, & ICC

We began our day with a guided tour of the the Peace Palace and learned of its rich history, along with that of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). From there we made our way to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and received a formal presentation on the importance of the work they conduct. All three institutions were highly regarded by both students and faculty in attendance as we were informed of international legal norms and procedures.



MAY 11TH: AMSTERDAM (FREE DAY)

Things we did:

1. Independent bike tour of the city
2. Getting lost multiple times (T'was fun)
3. LOTS of great shopping and fantastic eating!
4. Plenty of sight seeing and cultural experiences



PRO TIPS FOR TRAVELING

- Pack plenty of layers, an umbrella, and a water bottle (water is expensive)
- Don't go out by yourself
- Take advantage of your Metro card and city bus pass
- Don't be afraid to try new foods, talk to the locals, or experience new things!
- In Den Haag, don't walk in the bike lane. Bikers can and will run over oblivious pedestrians
- Enjoy every minute! This trip is a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience
- Don't panic if your flight is delayed

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

Dhruv

I LOVED this trip. It was amazingly educational, appeased the international affairs nerd in me, and helped me gain a deeper understanding of the various international institutions we visited. The visit to NATO SHAPE in Mons, Belgium had me at the edge of my seat, constantly asking questions and taking notes, and helped tremendously with my research paper. The Hague is by far my favorite city in the entire world. You can feel the power of the institutions radiating through the city and its beauty and serenity can be felt everywhere you go.

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

Kathryn

This trip was truly a once in a lifetime experience. My dream job is to work in the FBI and because of this I wanted to learn more about international institutions; especially those relating to criminal justice. Also, on a personal level I was able to visit family friends in Brussels that I hadn't seen in over a year which was one of the highlights of the trip. My favorite educational part of the trip would have to be the visit to NATO SHAPE and The House of European History Museum. This trip allowed me to meet so many new people and forge stronger bonds with those I was already friends with. I loved this class and trip and would strongly recommend it to anyone who asks me about it! :)

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

Parker

This trip was an incredibly valued experience for me both personally and educationally, and fully surpassed any and all expectations I held for it beforehand. Getting first hand testimony from advocates of so many varying international institutions was invaluable to helping shape not only my understanding of how they individually and collectively impact regional and global politics but also as to how I hope to play a part in related pursuits. From asking difficult questions regarding recently strained NATO-Russian relations in a NATO military institute to an expert on the subject, to participating in a simulation of international policy legislation; the experiences I had on this venture are ones that I will treasure forever and the information attained are tools I will utilize in my professional career for many years to come. Additionally, I would like to thank all faculty and staff who played a part in facilitating this trip, especially Dr. Ivanov.

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

Hannah

This trip was an amazing opportunity for me. Not only did I get to travel to Europe (which is one of my lifelong dreams), but I was able to meet so many new people while learning more about topics that I am passionate about. Visiting NATO SHAPE in Mons, Belgium was one of the most interesting parts of the trip for me. I had never been on a military base, and it was interesting to learn more about NATO and see soldiers from so many different nations interacting. Out of the cities visited, The Hague was most definitely my favorite. From the canals, to the beach, to the various international institutions, the Hague amazed me at every turn.

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

Olivia

I absolutely loved the entirety of this trip! Visiting international institutions we had learned about in class, hearing firsthand about their work, and exploring Brussels and the Hague (Den Haag) were incredible experiences. I explored my Dutch heritage and expanded my knowledge of policy, diplomacy, culture, and legal history (some of my favorite topics). I also found it fascinating to see the EU's fight against climate change reflected in my environmentally friendly surroundings. My favorite parts of the trip were visiting the House of European History, the European Council, the Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons, and the Peace Palace. Over the course of ten days, I learned a TON, made several friends, resolved to become fluent in French, and identified Den Haag as my dream home.

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

Delaney

This trip was an amazing experience. It allowed me to go abroad and study one of my favorite topics in International Affairs, international institutions! As a big fan of the United Nations, this trip went along seamlessly with my interests in the area of diplomacy and supranational governance. I most enjoyed our days exploring the European Parliament and visiting SHAPE. The European Parliament is such a fascinating institution. It was awesome to learn about their voting procedures and parties at the Parliamentarium. This experience may have prompted me to google “jobs for non-EU citizens at the EU”. Similarly, our Q&A with the American expert on Russia was an incredible experience. He was so engaged and willing to answer our questions which was unexpected due to the top secret nature of NATO. Also, I got to travel to Europe with some of the best friends I have made at university. I will forever be grateful for this wonderful experience!

Thank you to Dr. Ivanov for facilitating this trip! Thank you for all your hard work and planning! We had a great time!

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

Theresa

This trip was my first study abroad experience and I could not have hoped for anything better. I made amazing friends while being able to visit some of the world's most prominent European and international institutions. My favorite part of the trip was visiting the Peace Palace in The Hague and being able to sit down with a representative and discuss the structure and issues the International Court of Justice faces. I also really enjoyed the European Parliament and getting a presentation that was not only factual but also very enjoyable. On our day off I was able to go to Amsterdam with a group of people and it was more fun than I could have imagined! I am so happy I was able to take this trip, as traveling abroad has been a goal of mine for a long time, so I could learn about subjects that I am passionate about while making amazing friends and memories along the way!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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- DR. LAURA JENKINS
- LAUREN BOSSELAIT
- NEIL CHOUDARY
- AND OUR UHP ADVISORS!