

# SAB 393 & RPOS 397: Model European Union & Study Mission in Belgium

## Dr. Johannes Karreth (Faculty Advisor)

Office: Humanities B-16

Office hours: T&Th, 10:30am–11:30am, M 7:00pm–8:15pm, and other times by appointment via email.

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Course website: <http://www.jkarreth.net/model.eu.html>

This syllabus outlines the expectations and requirements to receive course credits for participating in UAlbany's *Model European Union* (MEU) Student Club and the MEU study mission to Belgium during the academic year 2015-2016.

## Course description and objectives

The SUNY Model EU Study Mission in Brussels, Belgium, is a 12-day, 3-credit Study Abroad experience that includes participation in the transatlantic Model EU simulation, as well as an extended and intensive week of scholarly inquiry into the policymaking process of the European Union.

The primary purpose of SUNYMEU is to better educate American students about the European Union while giving them an opportunity to interact with students from EU member and candidate states. Over 140 students, drawn from all over the SUNY system and our European partner institutions will participate in the simulation at Vesalius College in Brussels, Belgium in January 2016. Students will be assigned a role as a representative of a delegation (an EU country or the Commission), as heads of government, foreign ministers, European Commissioners, or as members of the Press Corps.

Through the conference, students will:

- learn about the the basics of EU institutions
- develop an understanding of how national interests and EU rules combine to create policies at the EU level
- learn more about the political system, parties, and interests of an EU member country they represent
- become familiar with conducting international negotiations

Through the study mission, students will:

- learn about two core policies at the EU level: immigration policy and external action
- observe and study the complexity of multi-level governance in the EU and in an EU member state
- encounter Belgian and European civil society organizations
- develop and complete a research project in the area of immigration policy or external action, investigating in more detail problems and solutions to a specific policy challenge

## Registration

Students enroll in SAB 393 at SUNY-New Paltz for three credits for Winter Session 2015-16 and in RPOS 397 at UAlbany for zero credits for the 8 Week-2 term in Fall 2015. Please follow these steps:

1. Sign up as a participant at a MEU club meeting by **October 12, 2015**
2. Register for RPOS 397 (for zero credits) at UAlbany for the 8 Week-2 term by **October 20, 2015**. I will distribute permission numbers in the club meeting on October 19.
3. Register for the Model EU conference & study mission with SUNY New Paltz and pay all required fees by **October 20, 2015**. Please use this link to register: [https://studioabroad.newpaltz.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program\\_ID=1179](https://studioabroad.newpaltz.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=1179)
4. Apply for the Rockefeller College International Programs Study Abroad grant (1-2 grants of up to \$500) by **October 25, 2015**. Details will be provided in an email on October 15. You will need to have registered for the study mission with SUNY New Paltz to be eligible for these scholarships.

## Instructors and points of contact

Dr. **Johannes Karreth**, assistant professor of political science at Rockefeller College, is the faculty advisor for the MEU club. He attends all club meetings in Albany and will travel to Belgium with the students. He is the first point of contact for any questions about the EU, the MEU conference. All assignments are submitted to and graded by him.

**Zakhar Berkovich** ([zberkovich@albany.edu](mailto:zberkovich@albany.edu)), Rockefeller College's Director of Undergraduate Student Services, is advising the Model EU Club on all administrative issues and the first point of contact with questions about registration, enrollment, and logistics. He will travel to Belgium with the students and accompany the study mission.

Dr. **Kathleen Dowley** ([dowleyk@newpaltz.edu](mailto:dowleyk@newpaltz.edu)), associate professor of political science at SUNY New Paltz and Director, SUNY Model European Union, is the academic director of the study mission. She will be leading students' site visits to EU institutions, NGOs, and other points of interest during the study mission.

## Course requirements

To receive 3 credits and a letter grade for SAB 393, students are required to complete the following requirements:

1. Participation and attendance in all UAlbany Model EU student club meetings: 10 weekly 1-hour meetings between September 28 and early December
  - Required to receive course credit. One "freebie" absence - no other exceptions!
2. Preparation and active participation in SUNY Model EU simulation
  - 20% of the overall grade
3. Background paper on their alter ego's country politics, institutions, parties in power, salient political concerns, depth of integration with EU institutions and policies
  - 25% of the overall grade
  - Due on December 9 via Blackboard
4. Annotated questions for site visits
  - 10% of the overall grade
  - Due before each site visit via Blackboard *and* email to ([jkarreth@albany.edu](mailto:jkarreth@albany.edu))
5. Participation in site visits
  - Attendance at all meetings/site visits, prepared and professionally attentive

- 15% of the overall grade
6. Final paper on topic and question approved of by Dr. Karreth prior to departure from NY
- 25% of the overall grade
  - Final paper due on January 31 via Blackboard.

## Materials

Required and supplementary reading materials will be posted on the Blackboard page for this course.

## Grading

A	100 - 93	B+	89.99 - 87	C+	79.99 - 77	D	69.99 - 60
A-	92.99 - 90	B	86.99 - 83	C	76.99 - 73	E	59.99 - 0
		B-	82.99 - 80	C-	72.99 - 70		

## Course policies

Students earn the right to represent UAlbany at the conference through diligent preparation.

Students enrolling in this course commit to paying the necessary expenses to attend the Model EU conference. The faculty advisor and the officers of the Model EU Club will make every possible effort to secure financial support from Rockefeller College and the University at Albany, but students will need to fund at least part of the expenses for attending the conference themselves. Current information about costs and support is available from the Model EU Club officers.

## UAlbany policies

**Disability accommodations.** Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, systemic, cognitive, learning and psychiatric disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please notify the Director of the Disability Resource Center (Campus Center 137, 442-5490). That office will provide the course instructor with verification of your disability, and will recommend appropriate accommodations. In addition to notifying the DRC, please contact the faculty advisor as soon as possible if accommodations are potentially required.

**Academic honesty.** All students of the University at Albany are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of our institution. Please familiarize yourself with this policy at ([http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate\\_bulletin/regulations.html](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html)). Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. The policy also precludes submitting material that was previously submitted in another course. **If you are involved in plagiarism, the penalty will be failure in the course and you will be reported to judicial affairs. In this one regard there are no second chances. If you are not sure if something violates standards—ask. If you are not sure whether to cite or not to cite—cite.** Every student must complete the following tutorial: (<http://library.albany.edu/usered/plagiarism/index.html>).

## Schedule

This schedule is preliminary and subject to change. The latest version of the syllabus is always posted at <http://www.jkarreth.net/files/karreth397.pdf>.

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*Fall 2015*

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**Regular meetings on Mondays, 8:30pm, Humanities Building 111**

### September 28

Introduction to the club & course. Pre-fresher on the history & functions of the European Union

### October 5

Overview: Controversies and challenges in the European Union

### October 12

Decision-making at a (M)EU summit: The European Council, Foreign Ministers, Economics/Finance Ministers, COREPER II, and Press Corps

### October 19

Core institutions of the EU and their tasks: Commission, Council, Parliament, and Courts

- Reading & homework assignment distributed via email

### October 26

A “real” EU Summit: The European Council meeting from June 25-26, 2015

- Reading & homework assignment distributed via email

### November 2

Current EU policy issue 1: The refugee crisis

- Reading & homework assignment distributed via email
- Teams begin working on responses to official agenda drafts

### November 9

Current EU policy issue 2: EU-Ukraine-Russia relations

- Reading & homework assignment distributed via email
- Teams continue working on responses to official agenda drafts
- Drafts of alternative agenda items due

## November 16

Current EU policy issue 3: State of the Economic and Monetary Union

- Reading & homework assignment distributed via email
- Teams finish working on responses to official agenda drafts - alternative agenda items due via Email

## November 23

Parliamentary procedures: Purpose and how they work

- Reading & homework assignment distributed via email

## November 30

Current EU policy issue 4: TBD

## December 7

Wrap-up and final preparations for the MEU Summit

- Finish background paper on your alter ego, submit by December 9

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### *Model EU Conference and Study Mission*

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**January 4–16, 2016. Brussels, Belgium.** For details and schedules, see [ModelEU2016-Brochure.pdf](#) and [Study Mission 2016 Overview.pdf](#).

## Disclaimer

Last updated: October 12, 2015. This syllabus is a general outline for the class and may be modified as the course progresses. Students are responsible for closely reading the class rules and procedures in this syllabus.

The latest version of the syllabus is always posted at <http://www.jkarreth.net/modeleu.html>.