

# POLI 391 – THE FOUNDATIONS OF LAW AND GOVERNMENT

INSTRUCTORS: Dr. Kirk A. Randazzo

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this class is to provide students with an opportunity to explore the evolution and development of law and government in a cross-cultural context. Specifically, we will examine particular legal and governmental institutions that regulate policy and resolve disputes both domestically and internationally. A portion of the class will be conducted in the United States with the remaining portions taught in London, Brussels, and The Hague.

Over the course of the semester students will:

- Compare theories of law, governance, and democracy across different political and cultural norms and apply this knowledge to a set of global and national-level legal issues, contexts, and processes.
- Compare the evolution of institutions in the United States to those in other countries by exploring the values, beliefs, and perspectives underlying and informing the institutions in these countries.
- Develop critical-thinking skills, problem-solving strategies, and the capacity to cope effectively with ambiguous or unfamiliar situations.
- Gain experience and insights related to careers in law and government.

## REQUIRED READING

Required readings consist of a series of articles from professional law and political science journals. All readings are available on Blackboard.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The course assignments and assessment criteria have been crafted to help students identify and fulfill the course objectives. Accordingly, evaluation in this course will be based on the following components:

Attendance	20%
Participation in Class	20%
Written Paper	60%

*Attendance:* Attendance is mandatory, especially for events scheduled in overseas. All students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the material in an intelligent manner.

*Participation:* The instructors will rely on a modified Socratic method and classes will consist of a series of questions, which the students are expected to answer. On occasion we will ask for volunteers to apply the readings to certain hypothetical situations. At other times, we will select specific individuals to answer questions. Students will be graded according to their willingness to participate and their responses. This is not a class for the shy; quietly sitting in the back of the room will translate to a low participation grade.

*Written Paper:* Each individual is expected to write a paper linking the experiences abroad to material read and discussed in class. Papers will be 10-12 double-spaced pages, with 12-pt font and one-inch margins, of substantive text (title page and references do not count as substantive text). While the specific

topic is open, students are expected to relate aspects of the class/trip to particular theories on law and governance.

### GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

We expect all students to behave professionally in this class. You will be held responsible for all material covered in the readings and the class discussions. We will not tolerate disruptive behavior, including (but not limited to) reading newspapers, talking during lectures, use of cell phones or pagers during organized activities or classes, and insulting classmates or the instructor. Additionally, we expect all students to arrive promptly, prepared for the topic to be covered, and to remain throughout the scheduled session. It is disrespectful to the instructors and the other students when individuals show up late or are not prepared to participate in the class discussion.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: We anticipate approximately three contact hours per Columbia session pre-departure and a minimum of five to eight contact hours per day while abroad.

<i>Pre-Trip:</i>	<i>2 pre-departure meeting in <b>Spring Semester</b> (dates TBA)</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Register via Study Abroad Office</li><li>▪ Distribute Syllabus and Introduction</li><li>▪ Understanding different cultures</li></ul>
June 1	Depart for London, England
June 2	Arrive in London
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Go to hotel, walking tour of surrounding area.</li><li>▪ Evening dinner and CIS orientation</li></ul>
June 3	Breakfast at Hotel (lunch and dinner on your own)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Visits to Inns of Court and Royal Courts of Justice (attend hearing)</li><li>▪ Class lecture on-site</li></ul>
June 4	Breakfast at Hotel (lunch and dinner on your own)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Visits to British Supreme Court and U.S. Embassy</li><li>▪ Class lecture on-site</li></ul>
June 5	Breakfast at Hotel (lunch and dinner on your own)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Visits to British Parliament and NautaDutihl (int'l law firm)</li><li>▪ Class lecture on-site</li></ul>
June 6	Breakfast at Hotel (lunch and dinner on your own)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Visits to British Museum and Tower of London</li></ul>
June 7	Breakfast at Hotel (lunch and dinner on your own)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Free Day in London</li></ul>
June 8	Breakfast at Hotel (lunch and dinner on your own)

- Train to Brussels (pick up Coach to The Hague)
  - Visit EU Parliament and Parliamentarium
  - Class lecture on-site
- June 9                      Breakfast at Hotel (lunch and dinner on your own)
- Visit ICC (attend hearing) and ICJ
  - Class lecture on-site
- June 10                     Breakfast at Hotel (lunch and dinner on your own)
- Visit to ICTY (attend hearing) and Dutch Parliament
  - Class lecture on-site
- June 11                     Breakfast at Hotel (lunch on your own)
- Free day in Amsterdam
  - Group Farewell Dinner (canal cruise)
- June 12                     Breakfast at Hotel
- Transfer to airport in Amsterdam and return to U.S.
- June 13                     Research/Library Day
- June 14                     Research/Library Day
- June 15                     Research/Library Day
- June 16                     Research/Library Day
- June 17                     Research/Library Day
- June 18                     Research/Library Day
- June 19                     Final Papers Due

### **Costs for Trip**

Total cost for trip: \$3,195 not including tuition.

#### **This includes:**

- On-site transportation in Europe, also for all course activities (buses, trains, etc.)
- Accommodations
- Excursions and entrance for course visits
- Breakfast everyday
- 2 Formal Dinners
- Liability insurance
- Classroom space

#### **This does not include:**

- Airfare to and from Europe (class website will be available for booking flights)
- Course Tuition (3 credits)
- Lunch and Dinner (with the exception of the 2 group dinners)
- Study Abroad Administrative Fee (\$150)
- Any optional excursions during free time

- Any charges made at hotels such as entertainment, room service, laundry service, etc.
- Passport
- Overseas Medical Insurance (\$30 fee that is required by USC)

**Timeline:**

Nov. 22

- Application due/Register for Class
- Application fee of \$350
- Sign up for trip through Study Abroad Office online

Jan. 17

- Waivers/Health Forms, etc. due
- First installment due (\$1,597.50)
- After this date, no refund will be given!

Feb. 14

- Remaining balance due (\$1,247.50)

March/April

- Pre-Departure meetings – Location/Time TBA

June

- Leave for London on June 1

**FOR PAYMENT INSTALLMENTS: Please either mail a check made out to USC or BRING to Ms. Wende Miller:**

Department of Political Science  
 c/o Ms. Wende Miller  
 349 Gambrell Hall  
 University of South Carolina  
 Columbia, SC 29208

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Questions may be directed to the Department at (803) 777-3109, or Dr. Randazzo (randazzo@mailbox.sc.edu). Students accepted will be required to attend two meetings before the trip to cover all information including travel, lodging, packing essentials, etc. Students will be expected to actively participate in the entire program.