EXPLORING CENTRAL EUROPE

WROCLAW, BERLIN, PRAGUE, BUDAPEST, VIENNA

SUABROAD SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
THROUGH COMPARATIVE STUDY in six countries and their urban centers, you will explore some of the most rapidly changing regions in Europe. Your home base will be Wroclaw, the European Capital of Culture in 2016. In Berlin and Dresden, you’ll study Germany’s attempts to forge a new path of leadership while confronting its Nazi and politically divided past. In Budapest, you will investigate how one of the most beautiful cities in the world is confronting the refugee crisis. In Prague and Bratislava, you will consider how the Czech Republic and Slovakia have taken independent paths to European integration. Stays in Vienna and Krakow offer very different perspectives on the continent’s imperial past and its present-day open borders.
You’ll be a part of a learning community that is based in the heart of Central Europe and that travels to Prague, Budapest, Berlin, Krakow, Bratislava, and Vienna. You’ll investigate sites tied to WWII, the Holocaust, and Soviet totalitarian rule. Explore the big questions of the 21st century—how people from different national and ethnic identities, with different languages, cultures, and traditions, are able to live together after wars and other kinds of violence and trauma. Learn about the complexity of issues related to history and social justice in comparative ways.

You’ll join a close cohort of students, learn from dynamic faculty, and design your own individual research project. You’ll have the opportunity to pursue exciting internship opportunities at institutions working in the areas of civic engagement, human rights, culture, politics, and the environment. Write for Urban Labs, a publicly accessible website that gives you a voice in the deliberations about Europe’s past, present, and future.
“As I immersed myself in my studies and traveled throughout Central Europe, I began to fall in love with the study of political science and international relations. I learned to question everything, and to think critically about any and all information presented to me. I am forever grateful to this program for opening my eyes to the world and the opportunities available to me.”

Katelyn Olsen
Biology and political science major
Syracuse University
Traveling Learning Community

Negotiating Identities Across Europe’s Borders

ANT/GEO/HST/IPR/PSC/WRT/CRS 300.1 (3 credits)
This intensive traveling course offers an opportunity to interact with different cultures and places on Europe’s frontiers. In cities and in remote villages, you will encounter the dilemmas of European identities built on memories and current challenges of changing historical and sociopolitical conditions. You’ll also complete hands-on ethnographic assignments that culminate in an action research project (see Urban Labs, at right) as well as final research papers. You’ll explore and compare:

Wroclaw, Poland
Prague, Czech Republic
Budapest, Hungary
Berlin, Germany
Krakow, Poland
Vienna, Austria
Bratislava, Slovakia
Dresden, Germany

Urban Labs

While traveling and studying in Europe, you will be an action researcher contributing to a publicly accessible website called Urban Labs. Using the cities and sites you visit as laboratories for the study of local history, identity, and memory, you will creatively reflect on your travels, interviews, site visits, observations, and exchanges, and share your experiences, photographs, and research with the world. As an Urban Labs contributor, you will collaborate with others, and inspire action too. This way, you will have a voice in deliberations about Europe’s history, but also its future.

Visit www.urbanlabsce.eu to read the contributions of recent students:
• The Hidden Truth Inside East Berlin
• Message from Wroclaw: Solidarity with Mizzou
• The Creation of a National Identity through Militarization
• My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding or My Big Fat False Portrayal

How does a region with a complex, divided, and violence-ridden past find ways of recognizing and coming to terms with this past while also moving forward?

How can political and legal frameworks be set to not only launch, but ensure lasting reconciliation efforts?

What role can students and teachers play in local processes of restorative justice and building a more just future?

How has membership in the European Union promoted reconciliation in Central Europe?

How do internal migrations and the refugee crisis pose challenges for future integration?
Living in Wroclaw

**GOOD TO KNOW**

“Wroclaw” is pronounced VRAHTS-wahv.

At times in its long history, Wroclaw has been a part of the Kingdom of Poland, Bohemia, Hungary, the Austrian Empire, Prussia, and Germany.

Living in Poland is inexpensive! Food and goods are much cheaper than in the U.S.

A local produce market is located close to your housing, which allows you to purchase healthy, fresh food without spending much money.

**WROCLAW, POLAND, WILL BE YOUR BASE** in Central Europe. With 640,000 people, Wroclaw is the fourth-largest city in Poland, located very close to the borders with Germany and the Czech Republic. You will live in a beautifully renovated building in the historic center of the city, which has excellent access to the city’s public transportation network. Wroclaw is famous for its dynamic cultural life (concerts, operas, music clubs, galleries, museums, theaters, and alternative art scenes), for which it earned recognition as the European Cultural Capital of 2016. You will live in a historic neighborhood filled with cafes, galleries, and small restaurants where you can immerse yourself in city life.

There are a variety of sports facilities in proximity to the dorm, including health clubs, gyms, and swimming pools. Wroclaw has an inexpensive and efficient system of public bicycle rentals, which you can use to get around the city or to enjoy free time in one of Wroclaw’s many public parks.
Academic Program

Required Courses

Negotiating Identities Across Europe’s Borders
ANT/GEO/HST/IRP/PSC/WRT/CRS 300.1 (3 credits)

East Central Europe in the 20th Century
HST/PSC 300.2 (3 credits)

Electives

Exploring Culture and Society in Transition: Gender, Sexuality, Class, and Race in Poland
ANT/QSX/WGS 300.2 (3 credits; students must enroll in this course or PHI/PSC 300.3)

Discord and Unity: Engaging the Contemporary World Through Ethics and Philosophy
PHI/PSC 300.3 (3 credits; students must enroll in this course or ANT/QSX/WGS 300.2)

Civil Society East and West
PSC/SOC 380 (3 credits)

Language Study

Polish I
POL 101 (4 credits) optional

Survival Polish
POL 180 (1 credit) optional

Other Courses

You may be able to take courses at Polish universities related to psychology, history, political science, sociology, and anthropology, among others. If you wish to take an additional course, you will need to have it approved prior to your arrival in Wroclaw.

Independent Studies

Independent studies are highly individualized research projects designed to fulfill a major or minor degree requirement. Past examples include:

- A comparative study of mental health services in Poland and the United States
- A comparison and assessment of environmental policies in Germany and Great Britain
- The history of women’s resistance during the Holocaust

Internships

While abroad, you may wish to undertake an internship for professional development as well as to remain engaged in causes and issues of importance to you. SU Abroad staff will assist you in finding the right internship or volunteer site.

REPRESENTATIVE INTERNSHIPS

NOMADA
A prominent Human Rights NGO working with Roma

The Ferdinand Lassalle Centre for Social Thought
A progressive think tank

The Polski Theatre Wroclaw

Szalom Alejchem
The Jewish elementary school in Wroclaw

ATUT Bilingual Primary and Secondary School

The International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education at the University of Lower Silesia

European Commission in Wroclaw

House of Peace
NGO focused on urban revitalization and community projects

Museum of Architecture in Wroclaw
Faculty and Staff Support

IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Program Director Hana Cervinkova is a professor of cultural anthropology and the founding director of the International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education, a center for practice and scholarship at the University of Lower Silesia in Wroclaw. She has been an academic partner of Syracuse University Abroad for 13 years. Dr. Cervinkova co-teaches Negotiating Identities Across Europe’s Borders with Poland-based U.S. journalist Dr. Juliet Golden, a specialist in Central European history and international education.

You will meet and work with other experts during field trips and guest lectures and in independent studies, internship, and volunteer settings.

IN SYRACUSE

SU Abroad’s focus on support is underscored by the role of the Assistant Director, Student Services, in our office. Bridget Hughes works to provide families with resources for health, safety, and academic matters both prior to and during students’ time abroad. She can assist with health and wellness preparations, adjustment concerns, stress management, or academic accommodations, as well as other issues.