

**Communication in Europe**  
**Faculty-led trip**  
**May 12- June 2, 2020 (tentative)**

**Instructor**

Don Krause  
1203 Barnett Hall  
(660) 785-4508  
[dkrause@truman.edu](mailto:dkrause@truman.edu)  
WhatsApp: 5737957546

**Prerequisite**

Communication major or minor or with instructor approval.

**Course description**

This faculty-led experience will expose students to communication in an international setting. Students will learn from a Truman instructor, as well as Communication professors and professionals from the destination country. Areas of discussion will focus on public relations, journalism and photography. Students will learn theoretical foundations, as well as apply those concepts in various settings.

**Course objectives**

After successfully completing this experience, students will:

- Be able to describe the application of public relations
- Be able to compare public relations in America to an international setting.
- Be able to demonstrate the ability to write a news story, while adhering to commonly accepted journalism practices.
- Be able to demonstrate an understanding of photojournalism techniques through theory and application.
- Be able to reflect on and discuss journalistic practices outside of the United States

**Course philosophy**

The aim of this experience is to further enhance communication skills, while gaining an understanding of other cultures and how that affects the practice of public relations and journalism.

This faculty-led experience seeks to expose students to communication practices in a foreign country to learn both how communication practices are similar to those in the U.S., as well as different. This experience will combine theory with practice. Students will learn from the instructor, as well as professors and professionals from the host country, who are able to offer insight of the region's culture. This will allow students to gain a better understanding of communication in general, while also learning about that unique culture.

### **Textbook and course materials**

There is no textbook for this course

Readings will be made available through Blackboard. These readings will cover both Communication-related topics, as well as country-specific information. These readings will appear before the trip.

Laptop – A laptop will be necessary to complete several of the assignments.

Smartphone – A smartphone will be helpful (see below)

Camera – Students should have access to a camera. A smartphone camera is acceptable.

Audio recorder – Students should have access to an audio recorder. An audio recorder app on a smartphone is acceptable.

Students will be expected to use media in the host country, including TV news, newspapers and social media.

### **Student expectations**

Before this experience, students should have an interest in Communication and how it can be used in different culture. Students should have a basic understanding of public relations, journalism and photography.

Students should be able to understand how to operate the camera on their smartphone, as well as an audio recorder. Students should be able to move files from the device to a computer. If the device uses an uncommon format, the student should be able to convert the file to a more common format, such as a .WAV or .JPG file.

Students should be able to complete simple editing tasks, such as extracting a sound bite from an audio file or cropping a picture with an image.

### **Communication**

Blackboard will be used to house and collect materials for this course. Assignments will be posted on Blackboard and will also be accepted through this interface.

The instructor will be in contact with students throughout the experience. The instructor will also provide students with his/her cell number. Also, students will be expected to have a smartphone and provide their phone number for the instructor. The class will communicate through WhatsApp.

The instructor will provide written comments on work, as well as through in-class critiques. The instructor will make every effort to make comments in a timely manner.

### **Attendance**

As this is a condensed experience, attendance is very important and is expected for all class meetings and experiences, unless otherwise designated as optional.

If a student is feeling ill or is faced with another situation that may prevent them from attending class, the instructor must be notified in advance. This request is also to ensure safety.

After missing two required class meeting times, students will lose a half letter grade. After that, each additional two meeting times missed will result in a half letter grade penalty. A student missing more than one-third of the class sessions will receive an F.

### **Cell phones**

Students will be expected to carry a smartphone.

The instructor will make his/her cell number available to students. Students will also be expected to provide their number to the instructor. The group may use an app, such as GroupMe or WhatsApp, to make communication easier within the group.

During class and activities, the cell phone should be placed on silent.

### **ADA Compliance (not sure)**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Disability Services office (x4478) as soon as possible. For more information, see <http://disabilityservices.truman.edu/>

### **Title IX**

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I also have a mandatory reporting responsibility related to my role as a faculty member. I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct or information about a crime that may have occurred on Truman's campus with the University. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting University Counseling Services at 660-785-4014 (660-665-5621 for after-hours crisis counseling).

### **FERPA**

Education records are protected by the Family Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA). As a result, course grades, assignments, advising records, etc. cannot be released to third parties without your permission. However, you should be aware of several exceptions. For example, education records can be disclosed to employees or offices at Truman who have an "educational need to know". These employees and offices may include your academic advisor, the Institutional Compliance Officer, the Registrar's Office, or Student Affairs depending on the type of information. For more information about FERPA, see <http://www.truman.edu/registrar/ferpa/>.

### **Academic honesty**

Credibility within the media is essential. Personal and scholarly integrity are expected of everyone in the class. Failure to live up to those responsibilities, risks earning a failing grade on the assignment/examination, a failing grade for the course, and/or in serious cases expulsion for the academic program or University. The University policy on academic dishonesty as published in the Student Conduct Code and General/Graduate Catalog applies

[http://catalog.truman.edu/content.php?catoid=13&navoid=625&hl=academic+dishonesty&returno=search#Academic\\_Dishonesty](http://catalog.truman.edu/content.php?catoid=13&navoid=625&hl=academic+dishonesty&returno=search#Academic_Dishonesty))

### **Disruptive Behavior**

Behavior that persistently or flagrantly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students' ability to learn and an instructor's ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be asked to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

### **Class activities and assignments**

This class will include a variety of activities and assignments aimed at helping the student understand Communication and a new culture.

As this is a condensed course, it is important students observe deadlines and submit all work in a timely manner.

Assignments will be posted and accepted on Blackboard.

Description of assignments. Complete descriptions will be provided during the trip.

Blog posts – students will be required to set up a blog using Wordpress.com and create at least 10 posts during the trip. Posts should focus on a common theme of the experience, not simply be an online journal. Students are advised that these posts will be publicly available. Grading will be based on development of topics in each post and writing quality. Posts should be a minimum of 150 words. Blog posts will be due by:

May 14

May 16

May 18

May 20

May 22

May 24

May 26

May 28

May 30

June 1

Students may work ahead on their blog posts. Ten posts are due.

Journal – Each student will be required to post to an online journal through Blackboard created by the instructor. A total of 10 entries is expected during the trip (about one every other day). The entry should be a minimum of 100 words. These posts offer a forum for the student to discuss the trip, the experiences, expectations, etc. in a private setting. This will also allow the instructor to determine effectiveness of the trip and to make adjustments/changes, if possible.

Journal entries will be due:

May 15

May 17

May 19

May 21

May 23

May 25

May 27

May 29

May 31

June 2

Students may work ahead on Journal entries.

Reflection on public relations 4-5 pages. Grading will be based on development of topic and writing quality. Full assignment will be announced later.

Reporting - Students will work on a group reporting project. This project will use suggested story topics. Students will then develop the story, including gathering sources and writing the story. Students should take photos to illustrate the story. Stories should be a minimum of 800 words. Grading will be based on quality of written piece, quality of interviews and level of difficulty of assignment, picture quality. Full assignment will be announced later.

Photography – Students will be required to submit a variety of images.. Photographs will include elements from discussion, including lighting, composition and storytelling. Each photograph must include a cutline. Grading will be based on technical quality, cropping and storytelling. Photographs may be critiqued in the class. Full assignment will be announced later.

## **Hours**

Planned for the experience are:

80 structured hours, including class discussion and supervised work

70 autonomous learning hours, including personal reflection and unsupervised work

**Points**

Journal (10 entries X 10 points each)	100 points
Blog (10 entries X 10 points each)	100
Public Relations (reflective paper)	100
Reporting (story)	100
Photography (Eight photographs and cutlines)	100
Total	500

Grading will be:

A – 90 percent and above

B – 80 – 89 percent

C – 70-79 percent

D – 60-69 percent

F – 59 percent or below

**Schedule**

See attached