

East Carolina University
Department of Political Science
East Carolina University, Summer 2022 (Session 1)
POLS 1050: POLITICS AND GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

Instructor: Dennis McCunney, Ph.D.
Office: Main Campus Student Center 306J
Telephone: 252-328-2802
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dmccunney/>
E-Mail: mccunneyw@ecu.edu
Office hours: Available by appointment

Note: This section of POLS 1050 counts as 3 credit hours towards a 6 credit hour program in May 2022 in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Overview of POLS 1050:

The circumstances of international politics change constantly. To understand change, we must first understand the continuity provided by the complex network of political, economic and cultural relationships, and institutions that structure events, both within and between countries. Further, as it is for policy-makers, we must explore ways to analyze change effectively, so that we can understand where change is taking us and what we might do about it. A critical issue is why countries behave as they do: how can we better appreciate the goals and actions of other countries? To answer this question, this course uses a study abroad in Northern Ireland to allow students to engage with a community and participating university to learn about other cultures and teach about their own around the theme of “Peacebuilding and Reconciliation.”

Description of Study Abroad Component (in partnership with Stranmillis University, Belfast – Northern Ireland):

After decades of violent political conflict, Belfast is now a city transformed. This course allows students to explore peacebuilding and reconciliation within the city of Belfast and various locations throughout Northern Ireland. Students will spend time in local communities, hearing first-hand accounts of the history, faith and culture of this beautiful but wounded land. There are opportunities for intercultural learning throughout and students will hear personal accounts from leading peacebuilders, including local historians, politicians, church, police and community leaders, journalists, artists and musicians. Students will explore concepts of truth, mercy and forgiveness in relation to reconciliation, whilst discovering the challenges that remain as Northern Ireland continues to grapple with its troubled past.

The pioneering reconciliation work of the Inter Church Youth Link: NI will form the basis of an in-depth case study and there will also be an opportunity to visit the world renowned Corrymeela Community on the beautiful North Coast. Students will not only

be required to engage in the local community through service-learning (an innovative partnership between ECU CLCE, Amizade, and YouthWorks) and to develop understanding of the local government, politics, culture, language, history, and artistic characteristics of Northern Ireland, but will also be required to reflect on the areas of divisiveness in their own communities and contexts and seek opportunities for peacebuilding and points for reconciliation.

Course Objectives:

1. Introduce central concepts and concerns of international and comparative politics (Northern Ireland).
2. Provide the opportunity to understand, explore and appreciate the nature of international politics through interaction with people from other countries (Northern Ireland).
3. Foster international partnerships through study abroad to prepare people for future international interactions.

General Education Program Student Learning Outcomes for Social Sciences:

Students who have completed the General Education Social Sciences requirements can:

SO 1: Apply discipline specific knowledge in the social sciences to explain the key factors that shape social institutions, structures, and processes that shape human behavior and social interaction.

SO 2: Explain how cultural and historical contexts influence individual behavior, society or culture.

SO 3: Apply discipline specific theories and modes of inquiry in the social sciences to analyze social contemporary behavioral or cultural issues.

Global Diversity Requirement:

Global Diversity Goals:

1. Students understand how cultural beliefs and values shape people's perceptions and impact global decisions and actions.
2. Students apply critical thinking skills to evaluate global issues and events from multiple perspectives.

Course format: Students will participate in a study abroad experience in Northern Ireland in partnership with Stranmillis University. Students will have the opportunity to engage with local community organizations as well as study the intersection of politics and culture through co-taught lessons with both ECU and Stranmillis faculty. Students will be required to participate fully in all community-related service experiences and will be required to complete an online reflective module.

Course expectations:

- (a) complete assignments in a timely manner
- (b) actively participate in the learning process

(c) express needs to the instructor through appropriate and timely communication.

General information:

Academic integrity – All students are held to the Honor Code of East Carolina University. Any violation of the Honor Code will be reported. It is your responsibility to be aware of East Carolina University's Academic Integrity Policy. This policy is available online and in the university catalog. Any forms of cheating or plagiarism are included.

Academically violating the Honor Code consists of the following:

- A. Cheating -Unauthorized aid or assistance or the giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work.
- B. Plagiarism -Copying the language, structure, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and adopting same as one's original work.
- C. Falsification -Statement of any untruth, either spoken or written, regarding any circumstances relative to academic work.
- D. Attempts -Attempting any act which if completed would constitute an academic integrity violation as defined herein.

Support for students with disabilities – East Carolina University seeks to fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a covered disability must go to the Department for Disability Services located in Slay 138 to verify the disability before any accommodations may occur. The telephone number is 737-1016.

Student Code of Conduct – All participants in this study abroad course are expected to adhere to the ECU student code of conduct at all times during the program's duration.

Pre-Service Reflection & Preparation Module

Session #1

Overview & program goal setting

- **Topics/goals:** Teambuilding; overview of program goals; participant expectations
- **Readings:**
 - [“Helping, fixing or serving?” by Rachel Naomi Remen](#)
 - [Sumka et al.’s \(2015\) *Working Side by Side* chapters 1 & 2 \(pp. 7-30\) -- alternative breaks definition and history of alternative breaks](#)
 - [Amizade Northern Ireland handbook](#)
 - [“Moving beyond flexibility” by Karen Kupusta-Pofahl](#)
 - [“Becoming more human, building a better world” by Eric Hartman](#)
 - [“American students abroad can’t be global citizens” by Talya Zemach-Bersin](#)

Session #2

What is community-based global learning?

- **Topics/goals:** international service-learning and global learning
- **Readings:**
 - [McKittrick & McVea’s \(2002\) *Making Sense of the Troubles*, chapters 1-2](#)
 - [Conroy’s \(1987\) *Belfast Diary \(1987\)*, chapters 3-4](#)
 - [“To hell with good intentions” by Ivan Illich](#)
 - [Sumka et al.’s \(2015\) *Working Side by Side* chapter 24, 25, 26 \(pp. 299-333\) -- chapters on “going global”](#)
 - [“White privilege: Unpacking the invisible knapsack” by Peggy McIntosh](#)

Reflection Module Assignment (due June 14, 2022)

My hope is that your time abroad is enriching --- academically, socially, and culturally. Part of a successful immersive study abroad experience is the ability to critically reflect on that experience and articulate it well to others. Consequently, in order to complete the language and culture requirement of the core curriculum through study abroad, you must write a reflection paper. Although there is no page limit on this paper, in order to adequately reflect on the cultural aspects of your experience a minimum four double-spaced page reflection paper is required. College-level writing that has been spell-checked and proof read is expected.

Preparation:

1. Plan in advance for this paper by keeping a journal, mementos, or correspondence.
2. Spend some time brainstorming: review specific events, striking conversations, sights, sounds, and even smells.
3. Try to sum up your experience in a sentence or two. Is there a word, phrase, or theme that captures it?

Analysis:

In your paper reflect on some or all of the following questions:

1. In what ways is the culture where you studied different from your own?
2. How is this culture similar to your own?
3. What, if anything, shocked you?
4. How does this culture define "learning" or "knowledge"?
5. How have cultural differences made you more aware of your own culture---of its benefits, limitations, strengths, or biases?
6. In what ways might your own culture/society benefit by learning from that of others, specifically from the one in which you studied?
7. How do cultural differences allow others to view you differently than you view yourself?
8. You must address the following question: How might your experience abroad affect your future --- with regard to academic, social, career, and/or personal choices?

Course Schedule:

Week	Activities/curriculum
Week 1 - ECU Service-Learning program module in partnership with Amizade & YouthWorks	Sample Itinerary: Day 1 Transfer to Belfast, Northern Ireland - Arrival to Dublin or Belfast airport - Transfer to lodging in Belfast - Lunch - Program Orientation - Tour of Peace Walls and Murals - Dinner Day 2 Belfast, Northern Ireland - Breakfast - Hosting by the Lord Mayor and Tour of City Hall - Lunch - Conflict Resolution Workshop with Ivan Cross

- Dinner
- Introduction to Youth Centres
- Reflection

Day 3

Belfast, Northern Ireland

- Breakfast
- Brendan McFarlane & the Hunger Strikes
- Lunch
- Visit to Republican Museum
- Dinner
- Service at Youth Centres

Day 4

Belfast, Northern Ireland

- Breakfast
- Loyalist Perspectives with John Hoey
- Lunch
- Visit to Ulster Museum
- Dinner
- Service at Youth Centres
- Reflection

Day 5

Belfast, Northern Ireland

- Breakfast
- Peacebuilding Session with Brian McKee
- Lunch
- Visit to Crumlin Gaol
- Dinner
- Service at Youth Centres
- Reflection

Day 6

Belfast, Northern Ireland

- Breakfast
- Free Morning
- Lunch
- A Dissenting Voice: Dee Fennell
- Dinner
- Service at Youth Centres

Day 7

	<p>Belfast, Northern Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breakfast - Antrim Coast - Lunch - Antrim Coast - Dinner - Reflection <p>Day 8</p> <p>Belfast, Northern Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breakfast - Visit to Belfast Market - Lunch - Closing reflection at Belfast Castle - Dinner - Traditional Music
<p>Week 2 - Stranmillis Peacebuilding and Reconciliation program (part 1)</p>	<p>Class and work on paper</p> <p>Content:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Northern Ireland: People and Place 2. History of 'The Troubles' 3. The role of faith in conflict 4. Politics of peace – the Good Friday Agreement 5. Truth and reconciliation <p>Paper: Write one 2000 - 2500 word paper on one of the topics below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The role of justice in rebuilding post conflict societies 2. Critically assess the impact of the churches on the Northern Ireland peace process 3. What role do schools have to play in building a shared future for all?
<p>Week 3 - Stranmillis Peacebuilding and</p>	<p>Class and work on paper</p> <p>Content:</p>

Reconciliation program (part 2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Justice and peacebuilding2. Policing and transitional justice3. Civic society and peacebuilding4. Conflict resolution5. Culture making peace
------------------------------------	---