

EC/IN 368: Economic Policy Analysis from a European Perspective

Berlin, Summer 2012

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Economic Policy Analysis from a European Perspective

- The course was first offered Summer 2011.
- One student's recent comment: *"As an Economics major, I found your course to be one of the most interesting and rewarding classes I have taken at Boston College."*
- The course counts as a 300-level EC elective (200-level if you have not taken 201/202), an elective for International Studies majors, and a CSOM Economics elective.
- The course focuses on economic policymaking both in theory and application.





- The course is offered in collaboration with prestigious research institute DIW Berlin (Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung), located in Berlin–Mitte.
- Current economic policy issues in Europe, the EU and Eurozone are highlighted in perspective with the theory of economic policy.
- DIW researchers provide their perspective on current research and policy issues in a series of guest lectures.
- Students are responsible for seminar participation, and produce short essays critiquing and evaluating each of these presentations.
- The seminar meets each weekday for three hours in the afternoon.



- Students live in a hostel convenient to the excellent Berlin 24/7 transport network, and receive a transit pass for the duration of their stay. They also have privileges to visit the university cafeterias (Mensas), which are cheaper than BC Dining.
- The course schedule leaves ample time for organized group events and sightseeing, cultural events and social events.
- The BC program fee includes several group trips to historical/cultural sites in the Berlin region.
- Last summer, students enjoyed a guided tour of the Reichstag, including the Bundestag chamber and the Norman Foster dome, which provides great views of the city.







A refresher course on the economics of supply and demand was provided by an after-class visit to Berliner Republik, an innovative pub where the price of beers vary in real time depending on what's selling.



We also enjoyed a weekend afternoon's tour of the world-famous Pergamon Museum, one of the components of Museumsinsel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.







EC 368 and Prof. Sondermann's German class combined for a day trip to Potsdam, a city near Berlin which is home of the Prussian emperors' palaces, including the famous Sans Souci.









Last summer, students enjoyed two symphony concerts, one in the historic Konzerthaus with Daniel Barenboim as soloist, and a second by the Berlin Philharmonic in their modern venue.





Many other interesting sights await in Berlin, from the historic Nikolaikirche near Alexanderplatz, Berlin's oldest church:



to the ultramodern Sony Center in Potsdamer Platz:



This summer, with one more weekend during the course, I hope to also organize a day trip to either Leipzig or Dresden, both cities of great cultural and historical significance.

I hope you might have the opportunity to join the seminar next summer, and learn more about economic policymaking in one of the key locales for the European Union's deliberations over the future of the Euro and the EU.

For more information on EC 368 / IN 368, please see the feature story on the Econ home page, <http://www.bc.edu/economics>

