

Undergraduate Certificate in West European Studies

Center for West European Studies/European Union Center

The Center for West European Studies

Western Europe has historically played a central role in international politics, economics, and social and cultural development. The creation, development and expansion of the European Union and simultaneous reassertions of national, cultural, and ethnic identity make the study of Europe both exciting and vital to understanding broader global themes.

The Center for West European Studies (CWES) coordinates undergraduate, graduate, and professional education related to Western Europe. CWES became a National Resource Center, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, in 1994. In July 1998, the center was chosen to be a European Union (EU) Center and is now one of only fifteen in the United States. With these two grants, CWES has supported the development of new courses on Western Europe and the EU, which are offered in departments and schools throughout the University.

The Undergraduate Certificate

The Certificate is designed to enable students to combine a major in any discipline (including one in the sciences) with an **interdisciplinary** set of courses related to Western Europe. It integrates language study with the study of the region where the language is spoken. The Certificate also provides a credential to demonstrate that a student has achieved a high level of proficiency in a West European language and a specialization in addition to the major.

Certificate Requirements

Certificate requirements have three components: 1) language proficiency, 2) area studies courses and 3) study abroad. The requirements are as follows:

1) **Language proficiency requirement:**

Two courses beyond the fourth semester level (or equivalent) in French, German, Italian, Spanish or Portuguese; **OR** completion of the fourth semester of one West European language plus two semesters of a second language, as long as one or both are "less commonly taught" languages offered through the LCTL Center under the designation "Linguistics." (Currently, Irish Gaelic, Swedish, and Modern Greek are available.)

2) **Minimum of Five West European Studies Courses (15 credits):**

- One in the student's major department (if available) and no more than one course in the student's secondary major or minor
- The remaining courses in at least two departments outside the student's major/minor
- One of the five courses must be on 20th century Western Europe
- Two of the five courses must be from the humanities, and two from the social sciences.
- Two of the courses must be at the 1000-level
- Students are encouraged to choose courses according to a *theme* to ensure intellectual cohesion. Examples of themes: European Union studies, International Affairs, Cultural Development of Europe.
- Students must earn a C or better in classes counting toward the CWES Certificate.

3) **Beginning with April 2005 graduation, study abroad in Western Europe is required.**

Study, research, or a service-learning program of any length in a West European country is acceptable. Exceptions will be made for students who can demonstrate economic hardship; for these students, a substitute activity may be required.

Certificate Advising

In order to obtain maximum benefit from the program, students are encouraged to enroll in the program as early as possible in their academic careers, preferably during their freshman year. To enroll, the student completes an application, which is available on the web site or at CWES. Students must obtain approval for each certificate course to ensure all requirements are met.

Stephen Lund, the Assistant Director, sees students in his office. Students may make an appointment by phone or email; this is especially advisable during busy times of the year, such as the registration period. (See below for contact information.)

West European Studies Courses

CWES Certificate courses are offered in a wide range of departments and schools. Each semester prior to registration, CWES produces a booklet of approved courses, which is available at CWES as well as on the CWES webpage (www.ucis.pitt.edu/cwes). A list of approved courses can also be found in the back of the Schedule of Classes under the heading "Special Programs."

CWES / EUC Lectures and Events

Each month, CWES sponsors an *Undergraduate Coffee & Culture* program, which includes a lecture, CWES advising announcements, and a casual reception. In addition, students are invited to attend all other CWES/EUC lectures. Lectures are announced in the monthly calendar, which certificate students receive electronically. Most lectures are held in 4217 Posvar Hall.

In addition, CWES sponsors *Europe: East and West Undergraduate Research Symposium* (www.ucis.pitt.edu/URSymposium; cosponsored by the Center for Russian and East European Studies) and the Model European Union (www.ucis.pitt.edu/cwes/meu.html) each spring. Students in any major are invited to participate.

Study Abroad

CWES strongly encourages its students to take advantage of the variety of opportunities to study in Western Europe and now **requires** study abroad for students graduating in April 2005 or later. The Assistant Director offers general advice about studying abroad, but refers students to the Study Abroad Office (802 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7413) for more in-depth advising. All courses for the certificate must be approved by the Assistant Director prior to the student's departure.

Scholarship for Study Abroad in Germany

CWES offers the Kessler Fellowship for study or research in Germany. This competitive award is offered every other year in the amount of \$1,000. Any Certificate student who is studying German and has at least a 3.0 QPA is eligible to apply. Applications are available in February.

For additional information about the Certificate or CWES, please contact:

Stephen Lund, Assistant Director
4216 Posvar Hall
Tel: (412) 648-7422
e-mail: slund@ucis.pitt.edu

Mary E. Ober, Graduate Student Assistant
email: mes72@ucis.pitt.edu

CWES/EUC Main Page:
Opportunities for Undergrads:
Virtual Library for EU Studies:
Library Research Advisor page

www.ucis.pitt.edu/cwes
www.ucis.pitt.edu/cwes/opportunities
www.library.pitt.edu/subject_guides/westeuropean/wwwes/
www.ucis.pitt.edu/cwes/advisor.html