

□ Cross-Border Economic Integration □

Study Abroad in Sweden and Denmark

Summer 2013, May 11-31, 2013

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Course Description

The course aims to introduce students to economic, political, and cultural interactions in a cross-border region. We visit and examine the Öresund region (southwestern Sweden and eastern Denmark) as a case study of cross-border economic integration. Special focus will be placed on the importance of innovation, creative thinking, pragmatic entrepreneurship and good interaction between the public and the private sectors. Additionally, this is an introductory course in the study of the Scandinavian Model as well, through an innovative educational approach combining a full-immersion stay together with a balanced theoretical and practical learning.

Course Competencies

At the conclusion of this course it is expected that students will be able to understand, critically analyze academic, policy and popular sources of literature regarding cross-border economic integration and binational economic development. Students will be able to express themselves concisely in writing about course topics.

Course Requirements

This course involves reading/audio-video assignments and writing assignments.

- Students will read book chapters, academic journal articles, newspapers articles and other reports which will be provided to students prior to trip departure.
- Students will be required to watch instructor generated video presentations as well as watch other videos and listen to audio presentations related to the course prior to trip departure. Links to these videos will be provided on course website.
- Students will be required to keep a journal while on the trip. Of importance to note will be places visited, dates and names of all people met and contact information, if possible and general impressions.
- Students will be required to write a 1500 word essay that compared and contrasts the Öresund region with the Brownsville-Matamoros region. Points to compare and contrast should be approved by instructor.

Course Topics

- The European Union (Institutional Construction, Economic and Political Framework) with particular focus on the Scandinavian countries (including the Nordic Cooperation within the Nordic Council).
- The Scandinavian Model (Similarities and Differences: Sweden & Denmark; State, Civil Society & Market...) and the Scandinavian main business development patterns.
- The Market's profile (Organizational Aspects, Sectors of importance, areas of specialization...).
- Innovation, Education, Emerging & Green Technologies, Leading Industries and Services in Scandinavia, and the Interaction between the Public and Private Sectors.
- Top Companies, Fields of Competitiveness, and the New Challenges.
- Transnational/Cross-border issues in relation to economic development and integration: the Öresundsregion as a case study... (In addition to border territorial issues other types of border topics are addressed: sociocultural, the legal, the political etc.).

Course Key Terms

Cross-Border Regions, Economic Integration, Transnational Dynamics, Innovation, Emerging Technologies, Business Development, Economic Development, Cooperation, European Union, Scandinavian Model, Sweden Economy, Danish Economy, Political Systems, Economic Public-Private Partnerships, Pragmatic Entrepreneurship, Globalization, International Relations, Market Analysis, Nordic Council, Öresund Region

Course Schedule

May 13-30, 2013

Special Topics in International Business: Cross-Border Economic Integration