Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

GRAD 5954: Future Professoriate: Global Perspectives
Graduate Seminar & Study Abroad Program

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OVERVIEW
Leaders in the academic and business communities argue that it is time to create new models and new methods of training for the future professoriate, who will become the faculty and academic leaders of tomorrow. Higher education requires our future faculty and academic leaders understand and embrace global higher education. The Preparing the Future Professoriate – Global Perspectives Program (GPP) was started by the Graduate School at Virginia Tech in 2005. Offered through Virginia Tech’s educational facility (Center for European Studies and Architecture (CESA)) in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, the program is an intensive educational study abroad program that includes visits to various universities in Switzerland, Italy, France, and Germany. GPP is an integral part of the Graduate School’s Transformative Graduate Education (TGE) initiative and serves as an elective course for the Future Professoriate Graduate Certificate.

In 2010, a bilateral program was established with Universität Basel. Since then, graduate students across various academic disciplines from both universities participate in global seminars, visit to European and USA universities, and collaborate for a culminating Global Graduate Seminar at the Swiss Embassy in Washington, DC.

PURPOSE
The Global Perspectives Program enables graduate students to examine differences in academic practices and to develop innovative and effective approaches that foster international awareness and education. This program provides a firsthand experience that helps each participant acknowledge differences and embrace a perspective beyond one’s own country of origin. Through the PFP Global Perspectives experience, participants enhance their knowledge and understanding of global higher education, gain a cultural understanding of higher education diverse contexts, engage with new colleagues across academic disciplines, and grow personally and professionally through shared experiences.

During the trip, participants gather firsthand knowledge about global higher education through our (a) visits to selected European universities, (b) discussions with faculty, administrators, and students, and (c) dialogue among the group members. Monthly gatherings are held prior to departure and seminars occur daily during the trip.

PREREQUISITES
Students interested in participating must enroll and successfully complete two courses: GRAD 5104: Preparing the Future Professoriate (3) and GRAD 5114: Contemporary Pedagogy (3). The program is highly competitive and requires those interested to submit a letter of application. Approximately 14 individuals are selected each year.
PARTNER INSTITUTIONS
- Universität Zürich (Zürich, Switzerland)
- Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich (ETH) (Zürich, Switzerland)
  - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich
- Universität Basel (Basel, Switzerland)
- Université de Strasbourg (Strasbourg, France)
- Politecnico di Milano (Milan, Italy)
  - Polytechnic University of Milan
- Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana (SUPSI) (Manno, Switzerland)
  - University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Italian Switzerland
- Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) (Lugano, Switzerland)
  - University of Italian Switzerland

IMPORTANT DATES
- Spring Semester 2014 — pre-trip seminars (at least one per month)
- Sunday, 25 May 2014 - Thursday, 5 June 2014 — VT GPP in Europe
- Wednesday, 18 June 2014 - Thursday, 19 June 2014 — UniBasel GPP visits Virginia Tech
- Wednesday, 18 June 2014 — GPP Reception @ VT (evening)
- Thursday, 19 June 2014 — VT & UniBasel GPP Work Session (morning)
- Friday, 20 June 2014 — Global Summit @ Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, DC

GENERAL SCHEDULE (SEE ITINERARY FOR DETAILS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>arrive in Zürich, opening seminar, dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 May 2014</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>visits to UZH &amp; ETH</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 May 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>depart for Basel, visit UniBasel</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 May 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>depart for Strasbourg, visit Uni Strasbourg, return to Basel</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 May 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>depart for Riva San Vitale</td>
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<td>29 May 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>depart for Milano, visit PoliMi, visit The Last Supper, return to Riva San Vitale</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 May 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>cultural excursion to Bellinzona (regional capital &amp; UNESCO heritage site), lunch @ Castelgrande</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 May 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>seminars and free time</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 June 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>visits to SUPSI &amp; USI</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 June 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>UniBasel GPP group arrives, GPP summit @ CESA (afternoon)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 June 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>GPP summit @ CESA (morning), UniBasel GPP group departs, VT GPP group presentations (afternoon), VT GPP group final dinner</td>
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<td>4 June 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>depart CESA</td>
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<td>5 June 2014</td>
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RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS
- Review assigned readings, materials, and other resources available through Scholar
- Attend gatherings, seminars, and guest lectures
- Develop individual learning outcomes
- Identify and complete individual project pertinent to GPP experience
- Write a short, publication-ready paper for inclusion in the GPP Manual 2014
- Share perspectives through the syndicated GPP Switzerland blog
- Maintain a self-reflection journal
- Active participation during group discussions in preparation for Global Graduate Education Summit at Swiss Embassy (2014 theme — Future of Higher Education)
- Participate fully in the visits to selected universities and regional cultural sites
- Serve as ambassadors for Virginia Tech
- In addition, participants will need to adhere to all requirements of the VT Study Abroad office, completion of required forms, purchase of health insurance, etc.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS
The Graduate School will cover expenses for travel, accommodations, and most meals during the study abroad portion of the experience. In addition, the Graduate School will cover $800 toward the flight to Europe. These financial arrangements are provided to remove financial resources as a criterion for participation.

SEMINAR TOPICS
Seminars will be held throughout the experience. Readings and materials are posted in Scholar. Topics will vary but are likely to include the following:
- Understanding partner universities
- student demographics
- student life
- faculty hiring, tenure, promotion
- faculty roles and responsibilities
- degree requirements
- tuition and fees
- graduate education, degrees, assistantships
- research funding
- university organization, structures, funding
- technology use
- etc.
- The Bologna Process and trends in European higher education
- European University Association (EUA) and pertinent initiatives
- Exploration of topics facing global higher education, such as:
  - ethics and professional integrity
  - teaching and learning
  - open access
  - diversity
  - etc.
- Understanding of educational systems in Switzerland, France, Italy, and Germany
- Group Discussions
  - discussion of individual learning objectives and individual projects
  - briefings before each university visit and cultural experience
  - debriefings after each university visit and cultural experience
TEXTS AND READING MATERIALS
No textbook exists for GPP. Instead, readings are selected from a range of academic and popular literatures. You will find assorted PDFs, URLs, and other materials organized by topic at our Scholar site. Blogging and other activities provide space for deeper analysis of broad themes and specific topics. It is critical that you not only read the material, participate during seminars, and blog actively (and often), but also dig into readings and engage during visits to fully explore how concepts conflict, connect, etc.

SOME WEBSITES YOU SHOULD ROUTINELY BROWSE:
University News:
   Chronicle of Higher Education - www.chronicle.com
   Inside Higher Ed - www.insidehighered.com
International University News:
   EUA - www.eua.be
   University World News - www.universityworldnews.com
Organizations:
   American Association of University Professors (AAUP) - www.aaup.org
   Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) - https://www.aplu.org/

SEMINAR AND DIGITAL ETIQUETTE
Thoughtfully and critically engaging with colleagues is a skill that will benefit you in all facets of life. Therefore, you are encouraged to utilize this course (and other courses) to refine such interpersonal communication abilities. Dialogue (verbal, written, or otherwise) is a critical component of academics, industry, and society in general. Knowing how to critically and respectfully discuss complicated (and often controversial) ideas is something all academics (among others) should be readily able to do. You will not always agree with your colleagues’ perspectives. Nevertheless, it is important to be able to thoughtfully and thoroughly explain why and how you disagree. Moreover, in the event that yours is the perspective in debate, it is equally important to be able to thoroughly explain why you hold such a perspective. For this course, all dialogue should effectively incorporate reading materials (those already in Scholar or others added to the conversation during discussion) and other resources. Simply stating that you disagree is insufficient. Be (constructively) critical. Be thought-provoking. Be challenging. Be helpful. But be sure to be nice.

BLOGGING
This is your space to think out loud, more deeply explore things we are reading, digitally engage with GPP colleagues, and share things (news, videos, multimedia, etc.) that are tangential to GPP.¹ Since we meet rather infrequently, the blog is a very useful space to discuss and explore topics outside of seminar. For the most part you are expected to develop unique themes and content for your posts. You should plan to contribute often and meaningfully to the blogging environment. Use the blog (blogs.lt.vt.edu/pipswitzerland) as a space to ask questions (of the instructor, the GTA, each other, and outside readers) and share information as we explore global higher education. Again, the blog is designed to promote digital conversation about global higher education and your individual and collective places therein. Therefore, you will need to not only create your own posts, but also comment on colleagues’ posts. Please refer to the document titled “GPP blog - getting started guide” in Scholar for blog setup instructions.

HELP!!
If you are at any time in need of assistance, please feel free to contact Dean DePauw and/or Justin via phone/email or schedule a meeting. Questions are, as always, welcome and encouraged.

¹ When contributing to your blog, please exercise as much creative freedom as you like. There are various modes and methods for constructively engaging with seminar materials and sharing tangential content that will enrich the communal learning experience. Understanding the rules and expectations of different genres is an important component of effective communication. Perhaps important is knowing when, how, and why to bend or break established conventions. If anyone is interested, we can talk more about this topic ad infinitum.