

the **epic** ADVANTAGE

Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Experience

EPIC ADVANTAGE: SUSTAINABLE CITIES IN EUROPE

Dates: May 16 - June 5, 2019

Credits: 3 credits (credit/no credit)

Leaders: Thor Hogan, Jay Roberts

Application Deadline: October 15, 2018



Description of Experience and Research:

This course provides students with an experiential education opportunity, focused on visiting three European cities that are leaders in finding urban-oriented solutions to climate change. Students will visit London (a leader in vertical density), Copenhagen (a leader in urban mobility), and Freiburg (a leader in sustainable district planning). We will also make a brief stop in Paris (a leader in horizontal density). Once on the continent, the class will take several long-distance train excursions – using this as a chance to talk extensively about the differences between American and European transportation infrastructures. There is no prerequisite for this course. The expected size of this class will be 12-16 students. The course would be particularly appealing to students studying environmental studies/science, politics, history, international affairs, urban planning, architecture, design, and geosciences – but we have taken students from a wide variety of other backgrounds in the past and they have thrived on the course.

Location:

- London (5 full days): We will spend several days with retired designer David Thompson, visiting redevelopment projects in the Docklands, Southwark, King's Cross, and Olympic Park.
- Freiburg (5 full days): We will spend several days with faculty from the Innovation Academy visiting Freiburg's pedestrian-only historic core, the Rieselfeld District, the Vauban District, the Weingarten District, and the village of Freimarkt in the Black Forest.
- Copenhagen (6 full days): We will spend several days enjoying bike tours with architects and/or urban planners from the Danish Architecture Center visiting a Harbor South, Harbor North, Carlsberg brewery redevelopment, Inner City, Orestad, and Norrebro.

Faculty:

Thor Hogan is an Associate Professor of Politics and Environmental Studies, where his research focus is the intersection between American political history and environmental policy. Thor led this class in 2010, 2014, 2015, and 2017.

Jay Roberts is a Professor of Environmental Education, where his research focus is experiential education and place-based learning. Jay has led dozens of other off-campus experiences with students during his nearly twenty years at the college.



Expectations for Students:

By the end of the program students should have an intermediate understanding of the history and contemporary reality of both urbanism and climate change, while obtaining a solid overview of cutting-edge approaches to using the former as a solution for the latter within a policy context. Most days will involve a morning tour with a local architect or urban planner, a free afternoon to pursue cultural activities, an early evening discussion, and a free night – there will be several free days sprinkled throughout the three weeks. The overarching research project for the course will be writing a group paper that endeavors to create an Urban Dwellers Bill of Rights. Over the first three weeks, students will begin formulating lists of potential rights that should be guaranteed for all people living in cities. During the final week, what will likely be a quite large list of possibilities will be whittled down to 10-12 to include in the actual group paper. Students will then organize themselves to draft 3-4 pages on each of the rights, explaining why each provides both individual and collective benefits. There will be one assigned book for the course, Peter Calthorpe's *Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change* (although students are also encouraged to read Climate Central's *Global Weirdness*). There will be a great deal of additional research required on-site, but this will all be achievable using online sources.

Dates of Experience:

May 16 - June 5, 2019

Application Dates:

October 15, 2018

Applications can be received from students starting on Sept. 15, 2018. Application window closes on Oct. 15, 2018.

Link to Application:

Apply in Handshake

Preparation:

Students will be required to take a 1 credit EPIC Advantage Orientation seminar during the Spring 2019 academic semester. This seminar will provide the necessary background and travel logistics for students to maximize the experience. Class meeting dates/times will be determined in the future.

Student Eligibility:

Rising Sophomores, juniors, or seniors are eligible to apply.

Cost to Student:

This experience is funded as an EPIC ADVANTAGE opportunity. Funding includes travel, room and board, and other expenses required by the program. Passports and immunizations as well as other personal expenses will be covered by students. Students who are accepted and withdraw after January 15, 2019 must reimburse the college for all expenses committed on their behalf.

Program plans subject to change.

Program Policies: <https://earlham.edu/academics/off-campus-study/program-policies/>