In order to advance the Department of Political Science’s plan for internationalization, two faculty members – Rodd Freitag (Political Science) and Jason Spraitz (Criminal Justice) – traveled to the University of Stirling in Scotland to meet with various representatives of the university and to learn of its culture as well as the culture of the surrounding region. In the department’s application for funding to UWEC’s Council on Internationalization and Global Engagement (CIGE), we indicated that we wanted to develop ties with Stirling’s Division of History and Political Science as well as their Criminology Division. The knowledge gained through these relationships should allow our department to better promote and increase study abroad experiences among our Political Science and Criminal Justice majors. The trip took place between March 21 and 27 during Stirling’s spring semester; Kate Lang, Chair of the History Department at UWEC accompanied Freitag and Spraitz.

Maria Cid-Castilla, Internationalization Manager for Development & External Affairs at Stirling, developed our itinerary. Throughout the trip, we met with four representatives from the Development & External Affairs office including: Cid-Castilla, Amy Easton (Internationalization Officer), Stephanie Niven (Head of International Affairs), and Jo Hagerty (International Exchanges Manager). Our schedule also included meetings with: Richard Oram (Head of School of Arts and Humanities); Alasdair Ross (Senior Lecturer – Environmental and Medieval History); Holger Nehring (Chair in Contemporary European History); Paul Cairney (Professor of Politics and Public Policy); Andrew Glencross (Lecturer in International Politics); and William Munro (Lecturer in Criminology). We attended a lecture on Comparative European Politics given by Tim Peace. Finally, we met with four students (one UWEC student currently at Stirling and three Stirling students who will be studying at UWEC during the 2015-16 academic year).

Through these meetings we were able to learn valuable information that we can pass along to our UWEC students. The following will break down this information by sections: academics for Political Science majors; academics for Criminal Justice majors; extra-curricular activities for all students; and cultural and social opportunities for visiting students.

**Academic Opportunities for Political Science Majors.** Our meeting with Paul Cairney and Andrew Glencross was helpful in clarifying the courses appropriate for UWEC Political Science majors. The advanced level, elective modules (usually taken in semesters 5-8) typically fit well into our comparative government, international relations, and political theory subfields. For each of our different degrees—the standard (Liberal Arts) Political Science degree and the comprehensive Political Science major with an emphasis on World Politics or Legal Studies—students can generally choose from any of our subfield offerings to meet requirements. This allows us to substitute most courses taken elsewhere into our subfield requirements. The curriculum at University of Stirling is especially rich in international relations and comparative government topics. We would encourage students to take the Scottish Politics and Government course (or Politics and Policy-Making in Scotland) if at all possible to enhance their cultural experience while studying and traveling in Scotland. Paul Cairney and Andrew Glencross preferred our students to take this advanced module over the introductory The Politics of the British Isles taken by all Politics majors at Stirling sometime in semesters 1-3. They believed the core course would
not be challenging enough for our students. It would be helpful to us in advising students to have some UWEC student feedback on whether the introductory course provided a positive learning experience for them.

**Academic Opportunities for Criminal Justice Majors.** Our meeting with Bill Munro was very productive. He had syllabi for several modules printed for us, many of which would be attractive to Criminal Justice majors. Modules that appear equivalent to our lower level offerings include: Social Differentiation; Social Problems; Understanding Social Policy; and Crime and Criminal Justice. Munro told us that these modules are typically taken by students in their first and second years. Upper division modules that easily could be transferred as core requirements by Criminal Justice majors include: Punishment and Society; and, Criminological Theories and Applications. A number of modules also could be transferred as elective requirements for our majors, these include: Women, Crime, and Justice; Crimes of the Powerful; Crime, Risk, and Modernity; and, Global Markets and Crime. Finally, the Division of Criminology offers a module during Stirling’s International Summer School titled Crime and Justice in Scotland: The Criminal in Scottish Society that could be transferred to UWEC as elective credit.

Given the variety and content of these courses, studying abroad at the University of Stirling would allow our Criminal Justice majors the opportunity to take several elective courses in the fields of criminal justice and criminology that we are unable to offer them through our Criminal Justice Program given our modest number of faculty. Munro also indicated that the Division of Criminology is a member of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR). The SCCJR often holds conferences and panels at universities throughout Scotland that criminology students can attend; many of these symposia are held at the University of Glasgow and the University of Edinburgh.

**Extra-Curricular Opportunities.** The University of Stirling is Scotland’s University for Sporting Excellence; as such, the university has over 40 sports clubs that are open to international student participation. In addition, the university has the following athletic facilities on campus: a multi-use sports hall, squash and tennis courts, a 50-meter swimming pool, artificial and grass pitches, a cycling studio, fitness/strength/conditioning suites, and a 9-hole golf course. For more information on sporting opportunities see the Student Sport Guide ([http://www.stir.ac.uk/media/schools/sport/sportcentre/documents/Student%20Sport%20Brochure.pdf](http://www.stir.ac.uk/media/schools/sport/sportcentre/documents/Student%20Sport%20Brochure.pdf)).

The University of Stirling also has over 60 student clubs and societies that international students can join. Of relevance to Political Science and Criminal Justice majors are the following: Social Science Society ([https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/clubssocieties/societies/7463/](https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/clubssocieties/societies/7463/)), Politics, and Law. The Stirling Students’ Union website has a comprehensive list of all clubs: [https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/clubssocieties/societies/](https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/clubssocieties/societies/). These societies represent an opportunity for study abroad students to meet Stirling students, socialize, volunteer, and add diverse group membership experiences to their resumes.

**Cultural and Social Opportunities.** The University of Stirling is located approximately 3.5 miles from the city of Stirling. Students can make the trek on foot or by bus, which operates service every 15 minutes from various points on campus. Stirling is a city of 45,000 people and
contains numerous opportunities for shopping, dining, and night life. Students also have the opportunity to visit the Stirling Castle, which is one of the most important castles in Scottish history. In addition, students can visit the National Wallace Monument and cross the Stirling Bridge.

From the Stirling city center students are able to travel by bus or rail to other cities in Scotland, England, and Wales. Stirling is 32 miles from the Edinburgh Airport and 38 miles from the Glasgow Airport if they are interested in taking short trips to Northern Ireland, Ireland, or other European countries.

Report prepared by: Jason Spraitz and Rodd Freitag