

A FIELD COURSE IN SPAIN, FRANCE and ITALY

Dates: May 28 – June 6, 2012 (10 days)

\$3,279 INCLUSIVE (plus tuition for 3 credits)

The Geography Department and the Office of Continuing Education at the State University of New York, College at Oneonta are pleased to announce a field course to Spain, France and Italy in May and June, 2012. The field course trip will cover 10 days. The planned dates for the trip are May 28th through June 6th 2012. The course will be led by Dr. Kenneth Johnson and Dr. Tracy Allen; both from the Department of Geography at S.U.N.Y. – Oneonta. (In the past, they have taken academic groups to: Britain, France, Ireland, Turkey, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Italy, Greece, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Spain and Morocco.) This program is open to people of all backgrounds and ages. Students may enroll for 3 credits. Non-students are also welcome.

Course Description: Geography 294 – Spain, France and Italy: Cultures and Environments. 3 credits. Studies 294 (cross-listed as Geography 294) –Cultures and Environment of Spain, France and Italy is a 3 credit class. A field study in regional human and physical geography. Topics in this course will cover an even mix of both human and physical geography providing students with a holistic understanding of the region. Human geography topics include: cultural and historical geography, urban and regional planning, cultural architecture, rural landscapes, political geography, and economic development. Topical themes in physical geography include: plant and animal identification and distribution, formation of the physical landscape, climate, water resources, natural and cultural ecology, and current environmental issues. This is an experiential course and active participation is required for successful completion. Permission of the instructors required. **No prior coursework needed.** Every person in this program must submit a physician's statement that s/he is healthy enough to travel overseas and participate in this program.

Itinerary: Note: This is a condensed version of the itinerary. For a full itinerary and more information see the professors. A short color flyer promoting the course is available on the Geography Department homepage at SUNY Oneonta (<http://www.oneonta.edu/academics/geography>). **Day 1-** Night flight from one of the New York City area airports (probably either JFK or Newark Liberty airport). Our flight to Spain will be on a wide-body jet operated by one of the major commercial airlines. **Day 2** – Morning landing at Barcelona International Airport in Spain. Go through customs inspection and then travel by private motor coach to our hotel. After lunch Dr. Johnson and Dr. Allen will give brief lectures and conduct a walking tour of central Barcelona. Barcelona is the second largest city of Spain with 1.6 million people in the city and 5 million in the metropolitan area. Barcelona is at least 2,300 years old and is beautifully situated on the Mediterranean Sea in Northern Spain. Today, it is the capital of the semi-autonomous region of Catalonia. **Day 3** - Today, the morning will be devoted to a sightseeing tour of the major sights of Barcelona via private motor coach. On this tour, the class will be accompanied by a licensed local guide. After lunch, Dr. Johnson and Dr. Allen will give presentations on Barcelona. The late afternoon and the entire evening will be free time. The professors will help students make plans for the free time periods. **Day 4** – Today, the class will depart Barcelona on our private motor coach and will travel north through the majestic Pyrenees Mountains into France. Our first stop in France will be the spectacular, medieval fortress city of Carcassonne. This is considered the best preserved walled city in Europe today. We will take a guided walking tour of the ramparts and the winding streets of the old town. Next, depart Carcassonne and travel through the beautiful vineyard country of the region of Languedoc. Then we continue on to the region of Provence which is famous for its uniquely beautiful light and landscape which led Van Gogh and numerous other artists to settle here in the 19th century. We will spend the night in Provence. **Day 5** – This morning we will travel to the city of Avignon which in the 14th century became the official residence of the Popes of the Roman Catholic Church. We will see the enormous Palace of the Popes which was built by the King of France to induce the Popes to move to Avignon. We will visit other important buildings and engineering structures including the Pont du Gard. This is a grand aqueduct built by the Roman Empire in 19 B.C. it was still carrying 44 million gallons of water each day until just a few years ago. We will continue on to the city of Aix-en-Provence one of the greatest centers of art in the 19th century. We will explore the art, architecture, crafts and landscapes of this magical town. Finally, we will travel on to the city of Nice on the French Riviera Coast. **Day 6** – Today we will explore a bit more of Nice before driving eastward through Monaco on the Mediterranean Coast. Our next stop will be in Pisa across the border in Italy. We will briefly explore central Pisa and its famous leaning tower. Then we will continue on to Florence where we will spend the night. **Day 7** – This entire day will be spent in Florence with the assistance of a specially trained local guide. We will visit the famous Academia Museum of Art which is home to many great works including Michelangelo's magnificent statue of David. We will visit the cathedral of Florence consecrated in 1436 and noted for its enormous Renaissance dome. We will also visit the Church of Santa Croce which is the final resting place of Michelangelo, Machiavelli and Galileo. Finally, we will visit a leather workshop.

Florence has been famous for leather products for centuries. Most of the afternoon and all of the evening will be free time. We will spend the night in Florence. **Day 8** – Today we will travel to the historic city of Sienna, Italy. For centuries, Sienna was the greatest rival of Florence and so it has a great legacy of art, culture and architecture today. We will visit the magnificent Cathedral which has many great works of art. We will visit the Palazzo Pubblico, which is the city hall. We will also visit the famous Piazza del Campo, the main square of Sienna, where exciting horse races are held twice a year. Finally, we will travel on to Rome where we will spend the night and have a special dinner. **Day 9** – Today will be devoted to touring Rome with the assistance of a local guide. Some of the sites to visit include the Colosseum, the Roman Forum and the archaeological sites on the Palatine Hill. Next we will visit the Vatican Museums and the glorious Sistine Chapel. Then we will proceed to St. Peter's Basilica the world capital of the Roman Catholic church and home to many great works of art including the Pietá, Michelangelo's incomparable sculpture of Mary and Jesus. Finally, we will also visit the Pantheon, the temple to all the gods, built by the Roman Empire in the 1st Century A.D. It is considered the best preserved of the ancient structures of Rome. **Day 10** – A private motor coach will take us to Rome's international airport for our flight home. **NOTE:** If you wish to stay longer and return later from Rome or from another city, our tour company will happily arrange this for a modest extra charge. However, this request for special arrangements must be submitted to the tour company in writing by February 1st, 2012.

Please note, participants are advised to budget \$100 extra to spend on optional environmental excursions that are not covered by the tour pricing listed in this flyer.

EXPENSES

Tuition – Will be assessed based on tuition rates in effect at the time of the trip (rates below are as of 8/17/11):

- Undergraduate in-state residents total for three credits - \$660.
- Undergraduate out-of-state residents total for three credits -\$1,896.
- Tuition is waived for SUNY Oneonta employees.

Program Cost – This amount is to be paid directly to the tour corporation. \$3,279 for participants who apply by 9/28/11.

- It includes round-trip airfare, private motor-coaches throughout the trip, all airport transfers, all airport departure taxes, security fees, 8 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms, all dinners, all breakfasts, full-time resident Tour Director, sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides, visits to special attractions (such as museums) and walking tours. Participants are grouped together with 3 students per room. Participants can arrange double or single rooms for an extra charge. (All hotels are rated either 4 stars or 3 stars.)

Health Insurance – All students who are traveling overseas must submit a completed SUNY Overseas Academic Program Student Health Information form prior to being issued a plane ticket.

- Health Insurance/Repatriation/Medical Evacuation - \$70.75.
- or Repatriation/Medical Evaluation only - \$5.25 (proof of adequate health insurance coverage is required in order to purchase this option.)

Application and Payment Procedures: If you are interested in this program, you should obtain and read our tour company's Enrollment Booklet and Application. You may obtain this in person at the Geography Department Office, 317 Milne Library, SUNY Oneonta. If you need these materials sent to you, please contact as soon as possible: Nancy Sacco, Geography Secretary, at sacconj@oneonta.edu or call (607) 436-3459. You should carefully read these materials. Then, to qualify for the discount price of \$3,279 you must submit your application to Dr. Johnson and Dr. Allen no later than September 28, 2011 at the Department of Geography, 317 Milne Library, SUNY Oneonta, NY 13820. Your application must be accompanied by your first payment in the form of a check for \$495 made payable to the tour company. The balance of the charges for the tour company will be due on March 1, 2012. Please note, if your application and check are received by the professors after September 28, you will be subject to a price increase of \$350 that will be imposed by the tour company. After September 28th, the professors will continue to admit participants but, the extra \$350 will be charged to all applicants after September 28. If you need to discuss the application and payment procedures please contact: Dr. Kenneth Johnson, johnsoka@oneonta.edu or Dr. Tracy Allen, allenth@oneonta.edu as soon as possible.

Academic Assignments: Please contact Dr. Johnson or Dr. Allen to find out the academic assignments that will be required for students who take this program for 3 credits.

Passport: A valid passport is required for travel to Spain, Italy and France. If you do not have one, you should apply immediately!! You can apply at many larger Post Offices. U.S. Passports are valid for 10 years!

Please note that the information in this announcement is subject to modification if warranted by changing circumstances.