UC Davis Summer Abroad

Course Title:- Celtic Connections: Ireland, France, Spain

Program Description –

‘Celtic Connections: Ireland, France, Spain’ is designed to introduce students from the University of California to that Celtic strain – literary, cultural, linguistic, geopolitical – that characterizes three countries which define the outer edges of what is now called the Europe. Each of the countries studied is grounded in a Celtic Language -- Gaelic or "Irish" in Ireland, Breton in France, and Galego in Spain. To this day, the three regions sustain their distinct native cultures. It is this shared but diverse sense of “Celticness” that will be examined at length in this course with residence in Dublin (Ireland), Rennes (France), and Santiago de Compostela (Spain).

While the course will provide students with considerable historical/cultural background materials to situate all three countries in their different (though related) struggles to define themselves as “Celts,” the course will **concentrate** on modern 20th and 21st Century writers and thinkers out of each tradition showing, all the while, where comparison and contrast is warranted and how we might interpret such difference in similarity. To provide some immediate sense of what course materials will be featured on ‘Celtic Connections: Ireland, France, Spain’ the following narrative outlines should suffice:
COURSE OUTLINE –

Destination One: Dublin, Ireland [Check in Trinity College: Monday, July 2 - Leave Saturday, July 14, 2018]

In Dublin students will see their time divided between in-class discussion and a varied assortment of field trips. The classroom discussion, as mentioned above, will concentrate on the works of important Irish writers -- Seamus Heaney et al -- and how they define, in a sense, the Irish experience as a cultural and lived experience grounded in a specifically “Celtic/Irish” worldview that stands in contrast to things English. As well as class work, the following class trips (and more) will provide an immediate “intro” to Ireland’s cultural/political heritage:

A) Glendalough/ Wicklow Mountains

B) Howth Head

C) The Abbey Theatre

D) Riverdance (If available)

E) Newgrange / Hill of Tara

F) Belfast (Optional)

Destination Two: Santiago de Compostela, Spain [Check in Saturday, July 14 -- Leave Sunday, July 22, 2018]

After our time in Dublin, the class will take a quick flight (about 2 hours) to Santiago de Compostela. The academic agenda for our time in Santiago includes a close reading of the works of Chus Pato and Maria do Cebreiro. Also included as part of our time in Santiago – never forgetting that classes will spend a great deal of time concentrating on the unique cultural features of life in Galicia -- will be an assortment of field trips to
cultural sites in and around Santiago itself. Here is a brief list of the most likely field trips:

A) Bus Trip - Santiago to Muxia & Finsterre

B) Extensive Walking Tour of Historical Santiago

C) Day Trip - Porto / Portugal

D) Picnic -- Santiago Stream / Woodland

E) Outing - La Coruna (Optional)

F) Class Dinner ... Paella *

**Destination Three: Rennes, France** [Check in Sunday, July 22 - Leave Tuesday, July 31, 2018]

After a busy time in Santiago de Compostela, the class will head to Rennes, France. Anjela Duval and translations of Eugène Guillevic will serve as core academic reader texts while staying in Rennes with the following trips (and other outings) designed to provide students with a cumulative context for understanding the language and culture of France’s/Brittany’s coast:

A) Extensive Walking Tour of Medieval/Historical Rennes

B) Day-Long Excursion to St Malo & Dinnard (Brittany Coast)

C) Day-Long Excursion to Roche aux Feues Neolithic Site / Paimpont Forest

D) Lunch @ Les Forges de Paimpont

E) Riverside Walk ... The Ecology of French Baguettes & French "Fromage"

F) Closing Dinner -- Galettes "et" Crêpes ... Rennes
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The course, itself, will revolve around a number of papers/assignments that run pretty much as follows though these are subject to change:

**English 138 - 4 Units:**

1) One paper (6-8 pages) will ask students to prepare a compare/contrast paper designed to explore the differences and similarities between any three writers from the three language-literary traditions contained in the Course Reader -- 50% Course Value.

2) A Personal -- Reflective -- Essay (2-4 pages) in which each student is asked to think/talk about their personal experiences as informed travelers in Europe -- 25% Course Value.

3) A short paper (2-4 pages) outlining the history and culture of any one location in residence per Dublin, Santiago, Rennes -- 25% Course Value.

**English 198 - 4 Units (P/NP):**

An academic diary that documents the academic information that is disseminated via course field trips, cultural outings, guest lectures, etc.

Note:- Students are allowed -- after consultation with instructor -- to interpret course texts as per paper modules and assigned topics in terms of their particular interests and academic training: ecological, political, historical, sociological, etc.