UC Davis Summer Abroad: Course Outline
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 (now) 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 (but similar) 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 description should suffice:

Required Texts – As well as a list of Recommended Texts – The Course Reader will be centered around representative writers/texts per country who pose questions about Celtic identity and regional difference. The writers in question have been chosen because, in addition to their literary reputations, they hail from a particular region -- or
write with extensive knowledge about a particular region -- which students will get an opportunity to explore at length.

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:

1) One paper (10-12 pages) will ask students to prepare a compare/contrast paper designed to explore the differences and similarities between any three writers (other than the three novelists/narrativists listed *) from the three language-literary traditions per the Course Reader under review -- 50% Course Value

2) One extended 1500 Word Book Review -- Not Book Report! -- based on one of the three novels/travel pieces per prescribed novelist/narrativist reading for course -- 25% Course Value

3) One paper (4-6 pages) will require students to present an academic critique of one writer's core "themes." (Chosen writer must be an author other than the people covered in other assignments) -- 25% Course Value

4) Students are also required to keep an academic journal that documents, in detail, the academic information that is disseminated via course field trips, cultural outings, guest lectures, etc. -- Satisfies Pass/Fail Requirement English 198

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.
COURSE OUTLINE – SYLLABUS BASICS / FIELD TRIPS

Destination One: Dublin, Ireland [Check in Trinity College - Wednesday, August 3, 2016 -- Leave Saturday, August 13, 2016]

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 Seamus Heaney et al -- 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

Destination Two: Santiago de Compostela, Spain [Check in Saturday, August 13 -- Leave Sunday, August 21]

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 María 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 characteristics 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 Coastal City of La Coruna  
B) Rooftop Tour of Cathedral -- Santiago de Compostela  
C) Extensive Walking Tour of Historical Santiago
**Destination Three: Rennes, France** [Check in Sunday, August 21 - Leave Friday, September 2, 2016]

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 (Brittany Coast)
C) Day-Long Excursion to Roche aux Fees Neolithic Site