

## **Provence: A French Cultural Experience**

### **Class Syllabus and Requirements**

**Instructor:** Debby Jennings

djenning@uccs.edu

719-255-3718

---

#### **Course Description:**

This course will consist of an 8-day trip to the region of Provence in southern France. The primary objective is a cultural immersion to promote language acquisition, assimilation, and historical knowledge. While people visit the area for vacations, many fail to experience the local culture and traditions. Les Provençals have their own language, history (dating back to prehistoric times), cuisine, art and way of life. Le Castellet, the Medieval village where we will stay, offers an introduction to life in Provence. Some of our class activities will include tours of nearby historic villages, visiting ancient Roman ruins, meals and socializing with the locals, and sharing the arts and crafts of the region. The course will also focus on the lifestyle and traditions of this distinctive region of France.

#### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the history, folk art, cuisine and other cultural aspects of this particular region of France.
- Demonstrate improved use and understanding of the French language in real-life situations, such as buying food, shopping, asking questions, etc.
- Examine cultural bias between Americans and the French people.
- Gain an in-depth understanding of one aspect of the Provençal culture.
- Develop rapport with one Provençal local to continue the learning process after you have returned home.

#### **General Requirements:**

- Attendance at an orientation session at UCCS before departure.
- Acquisition of knowledge outlined in hand-outs before departure.
- Participants will take part in all activities during the tour.

- Participants will examine one aspect of Provençal culture and keep a journal with insights gained.
- Upon return to the US, participants will do further research to prepare a paper/article for presentation to other participants and possible submission to a journal or magazine; paper/article must cover one aspect of Provençal culture; PowerPoint presentations are also welcome.
- Participants will attend a post-trip debriefing session during which each will present his/her research project.

### **Required Reading:**

Students should choose one of the following depending on their interest:

- *Village in the Vaucluse: Account of Life in a French Village* by Laurence Wylie
- *A Year in Provence* by Peter Mayle
- *The American Enemy: The History of French Anti-Americanism* by Philippe Roger
- *Jean de Florette* by Marcel Pagnol
- *The Most Beautiful Villages of Provence* by Michael Jacobs and Hugh Palmer
- *Provence: A Cultural History* by Martin Garrett
- *Van Gogh in Provence and Auvers* by Bogomila Welsh-Ovcharov

### **Evaluation and Grading**

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>1. Class attendance and participation</b>   | <b>20%</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation session</li> <li>• Participation in group activities in Provence</li> <li>• Post-trip meeting and presentation</li> </ul>   |            |
| <b>2. Journal</b>  | <b>40%</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should be kept daily throughout the trip.</li> <li>• Should reflect student's thoughts and impressions, not just events.</li> <li>• Must be handwritten, or composed on a laptop if student prefers.</li> <li>• Must be handed in upon return to the US.</li> </ul> |            |
| <b>3. Individual research paper/article</b>  | <b>40%</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic must focus on one specific aspect of Provençal history, cuisine, art or culture.</li> <li>• Paper should be approximately three-four pages in length, double-spaced, in 12 point font.</li> </ul>   |            |

- Bibliography in MLA format should include at least three sources, one of which may be from the required reading list above.
- Paper/article is due at the post-trip meeting tentatively scheduled for Friday afternoon, June 25, 2010
- Students should be prepared to present a brief overview of their paper/article for the group at the June 25, 2010 meeting.
- Papers/articles should be in polished final format for submission to instructor.
- A PowerPoint presentation may be utilized to illustrate your presentation to the other participants. Please prepare an extra copy of the instructor.

**Late journals or papers will not be accepted.**