PILGRIMAGE: RITUAL AND PRACTICE IN FRANCE

SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

THE PROGRAM
Pilgrimage Sites in Europe will take place during Spring Break of the Spring 2016 semester, with 5 days in Paris and 4 days in Lourdes, France. Drawing from over a million pilgrims a year, Lourdes is located in the south of France along the Pyrenees mountains and draws multitudes seeking both physical and spiritual healing. From here, students will study firsthand the experience of pilgrimage, as well as explore centuries-old sites in this historic town. Students will begin and end the trip in Paris with multiple pilgrimage sites and a vast array of diverse interpretation of pilgrimage and ritual.

Schedule: one class prior to the trip will be held on GSU’s campus on March 4. The students will fly from Atlanta to Paris on March 11, arriving March 12. Daily classes will be held in the mornings with group outings in the afternoons. The group will take a high speed train to Lourdes (six hours away) on March 16, returning on the morning of March 20, and then flying out on March 20 back to Atlanta.

Students will learn about the central role of pilgrimage in the religious lives of the pilgrims, the cultural contexts of the pilgrimage sites, and how to study a religious practice using interdisciplinary methods. Students will keep a pilgrimage journal and write a final paper upon their return to Atlanta. While some of the days will be organized around the class and group excursions, students will also have plenty of time for individual interests.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Housing in Paris will be in apartments located close to the city center. Housing in Lourdes will be in group hotel rooms located 4 blocks from the pilgrimage site.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION
Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations during their study abroad experience should discuss these needs with the Program Director and the Office of Disability Services at the time of application.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15, 2015

Please note: Georgia State University reserves the right to alter travel and other arrangements if required by circumstances.

Tentative Itinerary

March 4 Class on GSU campus
March 11 Flight to Paris
March 12 Arrive in Paris
March 16 Train to Lourdes
March 20 Train to Paris & Flight to Atlanta

CONTACT INFORMATION
Program Director: David Bell, Ph.D.
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ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to undergraduate and graduate students. Non-majors are welcome to apply; there are no pre-requisite courses required. Program size is limited and participation is contingent upon acceptance by the Program Director.

CREDITS AND COURSES

Participants who successfully complete the program will receive 3 semester hours of credit from Georgia State University. Undergraduate students should register for RELS 4290 Pilgrimage. Graduate students should register for RELS 6290 Pilgrimage. Students from other institutions should follow their institution's regulations concerning transfer credits.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Students interested in applying should find this program's listing at mystudyabroad.gsu.edu and begin an online application. Transient Students: please see the Transients Student section under the Explore & Apply tab.

International Students at Georgia State who hold F-1 visas must contact the Office of International Student and Scholar Services at 404-413-2070 to discuss the possible implications of study abroad for their immigration status.

COST

Program cost may vary at any time according to currency fluctuations and changing travel arrangements. The program cost is tentatively set at $1785, PLUS regular Georgia State University tuition and fees. Non-resident/out-of-state students will pay in-state tuition plus a $250 fee in addition to the program cost.

FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Georgia State University students are eligible to apply for the IEF Study Abroad Scholarship/Georgia State University Foundation Scholarship and may be eligible to apply for the Global Experience Scholarship. Visit mystudyabroad.gsu.edu and select the Scholarships & Financial Aid tab or call the Study Abroad Programs office at (404) 413-2529 for more information.

Because program size is limited, early application is strongly advised. Individual interviews may be scheduled with students upon receipt of application.