

Furman May Experience 2009 Study Away Opportunities

Field Studies in Appalachian Geology (Directors: Bill Ranson and Jack Garihan, Earth and Environmental Sciences)

A field excursion to one of the best-known mountain chains in the contiguous United States, the Appalachians. Emphasis on the fundamental concepts of “classroom” earth science through practical field experience and application of geologic ideas and principles. Careful field observations, evaluation and recording of data, drawing logical, testable inferences. Geologic reasoning is thereby used to formulate and evaluate ideas about Appalachian geologic history. *Contact the [EES department](#) for more information.*

Berlin – Cuxhaven, Germany (Directors: Ilka Rasch and Jane Chew, Modern Languages and Literature)

This program focuses on contemporary German politics, history and culture. Formal meetings as well as extracurricular activities (films, speakers, etc.) with a central focus on Berlin will impart students with a deep knowledge of both the history and the importance of this singular metropolis. *Contact the [MLL department](#) for more information.*

Business Practices in China (Directors: Kirk Karwan and Sean Chen, Business and Accounting)

The course will take place in China and is focused on a study of current business practice and protocol in that country. It offers an experiential and engaged opportunity to study management thinking in an international context. Issues in Chinese culture and etiquette will also be incorporated during each phase of the trip. The course consists of the following major components: (1) lectures to be delivered at Soochow/Suzhou University, (2) tours and briefings at multinational enterprises in various Chinese cities (3) cultural exchange activities with Chinese students, and (4) tours of cultural sites. Two books, with one on culture and one on business practice, will serve as required reading. *See the [program slides](#) or contact [Dr. Kirk Karwan](#) for more information. Application available online at http://www.furman.edu/depts/asianstudies/Documents/2009_May_X_Application.pdf*

Politics and Policy in the United States and Scandinavia (Directors: Brent Nelsen and Dorianne Norwood, Political Science)

The American welfare state, the public policies designed to alleviate human suffering and provide an economic safety net is quite different from its counterparts in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Exploring these differences in the capitals of these four countries will provide students with the opportunity to observe policy differences and understand the complex factors that help explain these differences. The courses in this program will focus primarily on how culture and political institutions account for the differences in public policies. *See the [program website](#) or contact the [Political Science Department](#) for more information.*

Revising a City: Rebuilding New Orleans (Director: Diane Boyd, Center for Teaching & Engaged Learning)

This course will be a follow-on to the Freshmen seminar course (FYW) “Revising a City: Rebuilding New Orleans” offered Spring 2009. Although students who participate won’t be required to take the FYW, those who are not in the class will be invited to sit in, contribute to discussions and projects, and participate in online activities using Moodle. During the Spring course students will sharpen their critical thinking, writing and argument skills by considering the city, its history, and its re-birth as a metaphor for the processes of writing and deep learning. While interrogating the city’s literary, cultural, political, and historical context, student teams will design manageable three-week community-based learning projects that will be evaluated, revised, and carried forth in New Orleans during the May Experience. *Contact [Dr. Diane Boyd](#) for more information.*

Southern Living: An Inside Perspective (Director: Lyn Riddle, English)

This May Experience course will immerse students in the process of producing a magazine. At the Southern Living campus in Birmingham, students will gain insight into the teamwork and decision-making involved in publishing a magazine. They will read about new journalism – steps writers, graphic designers, and photographers take to produce a final article - and see it in action. The program will include lectures and/or presentations by Southern Living staff, critiques of examples of the best magazine writing in the U.S., a study of graphic design principles, exploration of challenges facing magazines in an age of rapidly changing technologies, and student assistance on a range of magazine activities. *Contact [Professor Lyn Riddle](#) for more information.*

Themes in Global Justice (Director: David Gandolfo, Philosophy)

This course seeks to bring students into contact with the reality of poverty and oppression as lived by people in the Global South and to ask questions about how a more just world would be structured. Students will spend time with readings and films to learn about the history and current events in El Salvador, then will spend time in the country meeting with human rights groups, politicians, community leaders, Salvadoran NGOs, international NGOs, environmental groups, religious leaders, women’s groups, labor groups, and others to investigate the topic of justice in the Global South. *Contact [Dr. David Gandolfo](#) for more information.*