J-TERM TRAVELING SEMINAR
WINE, GASTRONOMY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
France, Spain, Italy
December 29, 2022 – January 15, 2023


3 CREDITS (45 CONTACT HOURS)

INSTRUCTOR: Anthony Triolo, Professor of Mediterranean Studies and Eco-gastronomy, ACM-IAU; Winemaker, Viticulture Consultant. anthony.triolo@iau.edu.

Important Notice: This is a traveling seminar which means that you will be on foot, on the road, in the air, and only rarely in a classroom. Your learning experience will occur in the cities, locations, and cultural sites visited. You will be in both large cities and potentially deeply rural locations. You will also be in an international environment with customs, laws, security matters, health and well-being issues and lifestyles very different from your experience at home or your university. In sum, it will be a unique learning experience for you. For all these reasons, we expect students to follow the seminar leaders’ advice and recommendations and to be prepared for the traveling seminar leaders to modify the itinerary if deemed necessary and to communicate any changes to you as soon as they are known. IAU reserves the right to modify the itinerary due to issues related to global security, country- and industry-related strikes, inflated travel costs, and health and well-being issues that are specific to regions in which the seminars are scheduled to take place.

I. ACADEMIC & PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Human civilizations and farming have been present in the Mediterranean basin for millennia. Giving rise to a number of cultures where fine cuisine and wine are a corner stone of daily life. The Mediterranean region today produces some of the world’s finest wines, cheeses, plus a delicate cuisine that is marked with raw materials sown locally from the land or taken from the Mediterranean Sea. The Mediterranean diet itself is enjoyed throughout the world and is known for its potential health benefits.

But what about the health of the environment? The impact of agriculture/food production on the environment is well known and severe. It is one of the leading causes of climate change as well as biodiversity loss, not to mention fresh water consumption and pollution. While each one of these ills has a return effect on our food production systems.

This class will examine these linkages in depth. It will focus on the appreciation of gastronomy and wine exploring regional and local delicacies while also appreciating how these products are produced, understanding how this impacts the environment as well as recognizing how our consumption choices may be a potential solution or hazard to the global environmental crisis.

II. CONTACT HOURS

This course carries 3 credits or 45 contact hours. Students complete readings prior to the program and finalize their assignments after departure, which extends the academics of the component past the on-site components. Lectures and site-visits are conducted 7-days per week throughout the J-Term.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES
Business/Wine Studies 306: Geography/Marketing/Wine Studies 303: Hospitality Management/Wine Studies 317: Marketing/Wine Studies 312:

Students will:

- Develop a better understanding of the global wine industry and trade, from both a supply and demand side, and supply chain management.
- Analyze the regional wine trade and the interplay of local gastronomy/gastronomic products as it relates to local/regional economies.
- Differentiate various wine marketing strategies, from conventional to organic, luxury to popular branding strategies.

Environmental Studies 375; Geography 375:

Students will:

- Analyze the linkages between wine and food consumption choices and environmental sustainability.
- Develop an understanding in both theory and practice to the impacts that agriculture has on the environment, especially on biodiversity loss, climate change and water scarcity.
- With a number of visits to wine producers, vineyards, local foods producers, students will be exposed to the interplay between food/wine and local cultures.

International Relations 375:

Students will:

- Analyze the nexus between water scarcity, food security and regional security in the in the Mediterranean Basin.
- Develop an understanding of how long-term negative environmental impacts from agriculture, climate change and biodiversity loss can lead to regional migration flows and instability.
- Discuss how local identities, both historical and present are linked to local food and wine cultures.

IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES

   a) Students will be able to know the various wine regions of France and Spain and express the differences and similarities between these regions.
   b) Students will understand the importance of gastronomy and wine in the Mediterranean lifestyle and culture.
   c) Students will be able to understand and articulate the drastic effects that food production has on climate change and biodiversity loss and how their consumption choices can make a difference. As well as how alternative approaches to wine and food production can have positive effects on mitigating environmental crises.
   d) Students will be able to discuss the practical realities of the nexus that exists between food production, water consumption, energy use, environmental and human well-being.

V. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

   a) On-site lectures and discussions
   b) Seminars and lectures
   c) Discussions/reading assignments for each area visited

VI. PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS/READINGS

- Wine Folly, ‘Wine Journal Guided Wine Tasting Notes’, 2018. (or other pre-designed wine
tasting journal)

Primary Digital Material:

VII. EVALUATION AND GRADING
a. Participation during the site visits, seminars and lectures (15%)
b. Three exams related to the visits, lectures, readings taken along the J term (40%)
c. One paper (take-home) to be due after return (25%)
d. Wine Journal and Analytical Write Up (20%)

Any assignment submitted later than the day / time it is due will have the grade lowered.

Masters Students:
The graduate seminar will include a 15-20-page paper on an assigned topic at the end of the course.

Grading Scale:

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Attendance:
Students are required to attend all classes, site visits, and class activities barring serious illness or an emergency.

Plagiarism:
Submitting material that in part or in whole is not entirely one’s own work without attributing those same portions to their correct source is prohibited.

Accommodations:
It is IAU’s goal to provide reasonable accommodations for students with a documented disability. If students need accommodations to fully participate in this class, they must complete the IAU Wellness & Accommodations Questionnaire in their online application portal and forward all requested supporting documentation.

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION
General Travel Advisory:
This trip is a serious one, both academically and culturally. Students are expected to be prepared for intellectual, linguistic, social, and travel challenges. We are traveling as a team, and each member must be prepared, punctual, cautious, and professional. With those important caveats, the trip promises to be an incredible experience, including fun and adventure. That said, be always aware of your surroundings, keeping your valuables close to you. Do not leave smartphones, cameras, etc. unattended. Travel as lightly as possible. Report any suspicious behavior to program supervisors.

Pre-Departure:
Leading up to departure, be sure to check your email and Teams diligently so we can get in touch with you should there be any adjustments to the program.