Spring 2013 in Paris, Krakow, Auschwitz

The French Holocaust

March 7-16

HIST 396, 3 credits ▲

Prof. Annette Finley-Croswhite

Paris/Auschwitz is a study-abroad experience that focuses on the Holocaust, one of modern Europe’s most tragic and senseless “events” resulting in the loss of over 6 million Jews as well as gypsies, homosexuals, and political enemies of the Nazi state. When most people think of the Holocaust, they think of Nazi Germany, yet Jews from almost all European countries died during the Holocaust, inclusive of 76,000 French victims sacrificed by the Vichy collaborative government. This course focuses on what happened in France and ties that experience to Auschwitz, the death camp where most deported French Jews were sent.

Paris/Auschwitz explores “Jewish Paris” and the sites associated with a thriving pre-World War II Jewish Parisian population inclusive of famous synagogues and the historic “Marais” district. We will also visit more traditional Parisian landmarks such as the “Eiffel Tower,” once known as the “Jewish Tower,” and the various Parisian monuments associated with the cruel deportations. From Paris we will then take the “perverse journey” to Auschwitz via Kraków in Poland where we will explore the impressive Kazimierz Jewish Quarter before making a two-day visit to one of the most terrible sites of 20th-century crimes against humanity: Auschwitz/Birkenau. Juxtaposed with the larger narrative of the Holocaust, this course also retraces the lives of several French Jews who experienced Auschwitz and asks students to reflect on their personal stories.

PREREQUISITES: All students must be in good academic standing 2.0 or above.

*Students must register and pay for HIST 396 (3 credits) during the Spring 2013 registration period in order to participate in this program.
Estimated cost without scholarship: TBD.
For some students, regular student financial aid support can be increased due to the additional cost of studying abroad. See the Office of Study Abroad for a program budget and referral to Student Financial Aid staff who assist study abroad students.

Payment Schedule: $250 deposit upon application; half of remaining total due on November 16, 2012, and the other half on January 11, 2013.