**GTL 2000 Syllabus**

**Metz – Gateway to France and Europe**

**Instructors**: Dr. Vicki Birchfield & Sonia Serafin - Georgia Tech Lorraine

**Credit hours**: 1

**Course prerequisites**: None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course takes advantage of the city of Metz and the “Grand Est” region as well as the students’ independent travels to explore selected periods of French history ranging from the Roman Empire to the First and Second World Wars up to its role in contemporary Europe. The historical overview is coupled with an introduction to key aspects of French culture, politics and society. Additionally the course exposes students to examples of classical, modern and contemporary arts and architecture to provide students with a broad frame of intellectual and comparative reference to better understand French and European cultural heritage.

**Through a mix of site visits, lectures, readings and** **discussions** students will gain an understanding of the significance of the region and the centrality of France and French-German relations to the construction of the post-war European project. The primary goal of the course is to situate the socio-cultural and political contexts within which students are living and learning and to enhance their **intercultural learning experience** as they travel throughout France and across Europe.

**COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

* Understand basic concepts of intercultural sensitivity and mindful learning
* Situate Metz, France and the Grand Est region in broad historical and geopolitical context
* Identify different architectural styles and their corresponding historical periods
* Distinguish specific trends and developments in artistic expression and art movements
* Understand and analyze socio-cultural and political developments in France and contemporary Europe

**COURSE ASSESSMENT**

Participation: **30%**

Quiz: **20** %

Final Projects: **50 %**

\***Grading Scale**: Grades will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A  90-100%

B  80-89%

C  70-79%

D  60-69%

F 0-59%

Attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken. As this is primarily a site visit based course and only one credit hour, there are relatively few class meetings held on campus at the beginning and the end of the semester. Punctuality, active participation and attentiveness during the site visits are necessary to attain a good grade for the attendance portion of the final grade. The quiz will be administered on-line and will follow the background lectures and the tour of Metz and **must be completed before the end of Week 4**. Final projects will be done in groups of 4 to 6 students utilizing a variety of storytelling tools such as text, photography, video, audio/podcasts, public speaking, maps, graphic illustrations, and/or social media. The final project must be more than a mere recollection of visits and travels and is intended to encourage creativity, teamwork and mindful learning and thus show an in-depth reflection of the students’ experience, understanding and interpretation of the culture (s) they lived in and engaged with throughout the semester.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY** Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Please study and follow the academic honor code of Georgia Tech:

<http://www.honor.gatech.edu/content/2/the-honor-code>.

**ACCOMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (often referred to as ADAPTS) at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please e-mail instructors and/or set up an appointment to discuss your learning needs.

**READINGS:** There is no required textbook for this course. Some suggested background texts are included on the syllabus. Mandatory readings (articles, excerpts from books, official documents) and short filmswill be posted on T square

**SCHEDULE:**

**Thursday 14th May (18.00-19.30):** CESCOM **(All Students)** : Professors Vicki Birchfield and Sonia Serafin

GTL 2000 introduction : Concepts of intercultural sensitivity and mindful learning are introduced and the objectives of the course in relation to the trips and the final projects are explained. Students register in the alternative groups. See below.

**Friday 15th May**: (**18.00 -19.30):** CESCOM **(All Students)** Film screening: Rome and its Engineers

**Monday 20 May (18.00-19.30):** CESCOM **(All Students)**

* Approach to French Culture --Sonia Serafin.

**Tuesday 21 May (18.00-19.30) :** CESCOM **(All Students)**

* Understanding Contemporary Europe –Dr. Vicki Birchfield

ALL STUDENTS MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN :

***Alternative 1* :** guided visits organized by GTL; select ONE proposition among the three week- ends travel below.

* **Or -**

***Alternative 2* :** independent themes; see following page the list of examples. Other themes to be approved by professor .

ALTERNATIVE 1: **Students register for ONE of the following:**

1. **1st week-end (May 16-17) : ROMAN EMPIRE** in **Trier and Metz**

Sonia Serafin

**Site visits:** City of Trier – Germany (2 hour guided visit), Museum Cour d’Or (1 hour guided visit), Approach to archeology: European archeological Park of Bliesbrück (1 hour guided visit), Aqueducts of Metz (free visit). *Ancient Rome: Rise and Fall of an Empire:* BBC Books – Sir Simon Baker – (2007) ISBN -13: 978-1846072840 **or**  *S.P.Q.R.: A history of Ancient Rome:* Liveright – Mary Beard (2016) ISBN – 13: 978-1631492228

1. **2nd week-end (June 6-7) : FRANCE and the EUROPEAN UNION :**

Dr. Vicki Birchfield

**Site visits:** Centre Européen Robert Schuman, the Maison Schuman (Metz) and the EU Parliament (Strasbourg)

*For Europe* by Robert Schuman <http://www.robert-schuman.eu/en/bookshop/0074-for-europe-first-edition>

*EU Guide for Americans*

<http://www.euintheus.org/resources-learning/eu-guide-for-americans/>

1. **3rd week-end (June 13-14) : THREE WARS – Alsace Lorraine :**

Sonia Serafin

**Site visits:** 1870-1871: Franco-Prussian War Museum (1 hour guided visit), 1914-1918: Battle of Verdun site (1 hour guided visit), 1939-1945: Maginot Line, Fort Hackenberg (2 hour guided visit), St Avold American WWII cemetery (1 hour guided visit) , Struthof –Concentration camp *Reluctant Union, Alsace – Lorraine and Imperial Germany, 1871-1918:* Pennsylvania State University Pr. – Dan P. Silverman (1972) ISBN 13: 978-0271011110 *The Duel* by John Lukacs. Yale University Press (1990/2001) De Gaulle and WWII, *BBC World History* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/gaulle_charles_de.shtml>

ALTERNATIVE 2: **Students register for Independent Themes:**

Students (alone or in groups of 2/3/4) develop their own ‘study and research project’. The project is built in parallel with the students’ own travel plans subject to the professor’s approval. They have three follow-up meetings to elaborate and check progress. Each project must develop one or more aspect of history, arts, technology, industry, economy or politics. Below we list some general ideas but students may also propose their own ideas.

 Examples of possible independent themes

1. **VISUAL ARTS in EUROPE :**

Examples of independent topics:

* ***Art Nouveau*** : Barcelona, Nancy, Tiffany, Italy, Suisse, Budapest, furniture, paintings, jewels, Unesco World Heritage, Majorelle, Gaudi, Lalique, Daum, Gallé…

*Art Nouveau:* Ullman Publishing – Gabrielle Fahr-Becker (1998) ISBN 13 - 978 3848008346

[*https://www.taschen.com/pages/en/catalogue/architecture/all/00273/facts.art\_nouveau.htm*](https://www.taschen.com/pages/en/catalogue/architecture/all/00273/facts.art_nouveau.htm)

* ***Museums*:** Louvre, Orsay, Foundation Vuitton in Paris, Musée de la Cour d’Or in Metz, Pompidou Centre in Metz and Paris, Uffizi and Accademia Galeries in Florence, Tate Britain and Tate Modern in London, Guggenheim museum in Bilbao, Prado in Madrid …

*Tate Modern: Building a Museum for the 21st Century.* Tate Publishing (2016).Chris Dercon and Nicholas Serota. ISBN 13 – 978 1849764018

* ***Chagall***: Stained glass windows in cathedrals – Metz and Reims, Palais Garnier –Paris, Fraumünster Abbey in Zürich…

*Marc Chagall and his times, Stanford University Press (2003)*. ISBN 13- 978 0804742146

* ***Impressionism***: Claude Monet and Giverny, William Turner and London, Edouard Manet, Berthe Morisot, Claude Debussy, Amsterdam, Paris ….

*Marketing modernism in fin-de-siècle Europe*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. Jensen, Robert (1994). ISBN 13 - 978 0691029269

*Impressionism:* Origin, Practice, Perception. Thames and Hudson (World of Art); Belinda Thomson. (2000) ISBN 13 - 978 0500203354

1. **ARCHITECTURE and URBANISM :**

Examples of independent topics:

* ***Architecture of cathedrals, basilicas and abbey churches****:* Brunelleschi’s dome in Florence, Metz Saint Stephen cathedral, St Nicolas de Port Basilica, Prague cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Sagrada Familia, St Peter’s Basilica, Paris Notre Dame, Venice San Marco basilica …

*The cathedral:* the social and architectural dynamics of construction. Alain Erlande-Brandenburg - Cambridge University Press (2009). ISBN 13- 978 0521110372

* ***Three cities****:* Metz- Nancy-Strasbourg or Paris-Berlin- Rome or Luxembourg – Brussels - Strasbourg (EU sites) or Prague-Barcelona-Florence.

*Boundaries of the City.* Alan Waterhouse – University of Toronto Press (2015). ISBN 13 – 978 1442655041

**Week 6,7 and 8** : exact dates TBD : Showing and evaluation of group projects, presentations and digital stories.