"The Culture of Spain": Travel Course to Spain, Spring 2013
March 7-16, 2013
(dates are subject to change depending on flight availability)

**Course Description:**

This course focuses on the arts, history and politics of Spain. Barcelona, the capital city of the region of Catalunya, and Madrid, the capital of Spain, will be the main focus of the travel portion of this class. Spain is formed by 17 autonomous communities, all unified by the central government of Madrid, yet all proudly boasting their own history, customs, and traditions and languages.

Students will be reading the critically acclaimed book *Ghosts of Spain*, by Giles Tremlett, and contribute to whole-class discussion based on the reading. They are also encouraged to conduct independent research on topics of interest to the course.

Upon return from the trip, students will produce a travel journal which will combine the information contained in their academic readings with the first-hand experience gained while travelling. This course is a hybrid environment, which means that most of it will be conducted online with a few face-to-face meetings before and after departure.

**Course Objectives**

1. To deepen the understanding of the culture of Spain in terms of its arts, beliefs and institutions;

2. To critically and comparatively examine the historical, social, economic, and political issues of Spain, particularly the post-Franco reorganization of the country based on the different language spoken regionally and on the different civilizations that populate Spain (Galician, Catalan, Basque);
3. To combine travel and study in a formal academic setting, where students can apply the concepts they have studied in class to the sights they will be visiting on site;

4. To produce a variety of assignments before departing and after returning from the study tour using texts provided during the on-campus meetings, individual research and first-hand observations.

Travel

The travel portion of this course is handled by EFTours, a leading company in the college study tours sector.

The projected cost for students under 23 years of age is estimated at $2800 which includes:

- a. commercial airline return flight to Spain;
- b. 24/7 bilingual tour director;
- c. central 3-star hotel accommodation, in triple or quadriple rooms;
- d. all breakfasts and two dinners

The cost for participants over 23 years of age is estimated at $3000, inclusive of items above.

Not included are:

- a. daily lunches;
- b. passport and visa fees;
- c. insurance;
- d. customary tips for tour director;
- e. pocket money for your own expenses.

If you plan to use Financial Aid dollars to fund this trip, please talk to your Financial Aid counsellor as soon as possible.