**Sample Syllabus**

**PHIL 370: ENVIRONMENTAL ENCOUNTERS IN ICELAND**

**Summer 2020**

(3 credits)

**Faculty Advisers:**

Dr. Joe Balay, joe.balay@cnu.edu

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**Course Description:**

This exciting two-week course explores key questions of environmental policy, sustainability, ethics and aesthetics across the natural wonders of Iceland. Combining visits to geothermal energy plants, organic greenhouses, and environmental think tanks with hikes up the melting glaciers, descents into volcanic caves, and snorkeling between tectonic plates, we will explore the significance of the environment in the world’s greenest country. Open to all CNU students. No pre-requisites. Fulfills 3 CNU credits.

**University Learning Objectives:**

* Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity
* Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking my own questions and seeking answers

**Course Specific Cultural Learning Objectives:**

* Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of a foreign culture
* Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of environmental issues of stewardship, sustainability, and ethics
* Acquiring a broader understanding of the connection between the human person, culture, and environment

**Course Assignments:**

* **Journal Assignment**: Each student will keep a reading and reflection journal. Journal entries will be considered an informal writing assignment and as such will be graded more in relation to content than style. Journal entries will contain questions (posed both by the professors and students), answers to questions, and reflections that relate to daily discussions, conversations, assigned readings, and activities/experiences. Each journal entry should be dated. Journal entries should include an objective and subjective component. The objective component will be primarily descriptive of the day’s events, encounters, discussions, etc. The subjective component will be primarily reflective of the student’s own interpretations, evaluations, feelings, and thoughts about these points. This class journal will reflect the quality of the student’s daily class participation and will be graded with this in mind.
* **Final Research/Reflection Paper**: Research papers will be 7-10 pages double spaced on a topic of the student’s choice in relation to the course themes. Paper topics must be approved in advance by the faculty. Papers should be in Chicago or MLA format, properly formatted, and free of grammatical/spelling errors. Papers must include at least five sources and a bibliography. Online sources from reputable academic and journalistic sources are acceptable. Due Date: TBD
* **Pre-Departure Meetings & Reading Quizzes**: A number of online readings will be posted on our course Scholar page ahead of time. Students will be responsible for reading this material, taking all reading quizzes, and prepared to discuss this material in the context of our daily activities during our group discussions on the trip.
* **Participation and Discussion:** While we will draw on readings and theoretical approaches to help ground our experience, the heart of this study abroad will be our direct encounters with Iceland’s environment and environmental representations. Accordingly, students will be expected to participate in all class activities and discussions.

**Grading Structure:**

* Pre-departure Reading Quizzes: 20%
* Final Research Paper: 30%
* Journal Entries: 30%
* Trip Participation & Discussion: 20%

**Special Course Requirements:**

* There are no prerequisites for this course. However, students must interview in-person and receive permission from the faculty advisers of the trip.
* This trip will include hiking (up to 5 miles per day), underwater snorkeling, climbing, and other outdoor activity. Students are responsible for assessing their physical preparedness for this trip.
* This trip will include several nights of camping and a variety of outdoor activities in unpredictable weather. Accordingly, students will be responsible for bringing their own camping gear (e.g. tent, sleeping-bag, etc.), and appropriate clothing (e.g. waterproof hiking boots, waterproof jacket and pants, etc.). Faculty will provide a list of recommended gear.

**Sample Pre-Departure Readings (Housed on Course Blackboard Page. Exact Readings and Due Dates Forthcoming):**

* Gregory, Katherine. *Iceland’s Environmental Saga: Motivations for Sustainable Action and Belief*. University of Colorado, Boulder, 2016.
* Dunsmith, Gabriel. “Iceland’s Environmental Paradox” in *Reykjavik Grapevine*.
* Nicosia, E. and F. Perini. “Ecotourism between Theory and Practice: Empirical Analysis of the Tourism Industry of Whale Watching in Husavik (Iceland)” in *Journal of Tourism, Culture, and Development*, N.14, 2016.
* Keller, David. “What is Environmental Ethics” in *Environmental Ethics: The Big Questions* (London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).