IRELAND: CULTURE & COMMERCE
TRAVEL SEMINAR TO IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Ireland: Culture & Commerce is a 1-credit, 300-level travel seminar (TX 300A) to several locations in Ireland and Northern Ireland. This ten-day travel seminar will examine the intersections and divergences of culture and commerce in Ireland.

WHY IRELAND

Ireland is among the most “globalized” nations in the world, and by conventional measures (and despite recent economic setbacks), one of the most affluent. Its transformation, powered by the Celtic Tiger economy of the 1990s, was rapid and unexpected, and characterized by an unabashed embrace of foreign direct investment. But the bottom fell out in 2008, and Ireland has since suffered from a descent into severe economic recession, perhaps the swiftest and steepest decline recorded by any developed economy in modern memory.

Now, after this experience of boom and bust, Ireland must chart a new development journey. How it does so will be instructive. As a small, open, free-market economy on the periphery of Europe, Ireland is a laboratory for the 21st century global economy. Can such a small country achieve and maintain economic success while retaining the integrity of its culture, traditions, language, and unique sense of place? Can Ireland maintain its distinctive and unique identity while embedded in the global economy? If Ireland loses it sense of place, what will replace it?
PLANNED EXCURSIONS AND TRAVEL SCHEDULE (subject to change)

In Dublin, students will visit the National Gallery and National Museum, take a guided walk through Dublin’s historic city center, attend lectures, meet with a member of the Irish parliament, and tour Leinster House (the home of the Irish parliament). We will also visit the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), home of an array of global financial firms, and travel out of town to County Kildare to tour Intel’s state-of-the-art semiconductor manufacturing facility. We will travel to Belfast, Northern Ireland, (a part of the United Kingdom) for a greater understanding of Ireland’s “two traditions” and “the Troubles” in the North, recently settled by the Good Friday Agreement. En route, we will visit the megalithic tombs of Newgrange and the mystical Hill of Tara, historical seat of the High Kings of Ireland. In Tralee, County Kerry, students will tour the Kerry Museum, visit the North Kerry Writer’s Center, attend a poetry reading and have a discussion with poet Gabriel Fitzmaurice, and visit the Blasket Islands, the iconic repository of Irish/Gaelic culture, among other activities.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 8 (Fri.)</td>
<td>Afternoon Departs by coach from Skidmore College to NYCFlight from NYC-area airport to Dublin, Ireland</td>
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<td>Mar. 9 (Sat.)</td>
<td>Morning Arrive at Dublin Airport, Coach Tour of Dublin Early Afternoon Hotel check-in, orientation lecture. Walkabout: Grafton Street, Trinity College, etc. Afternoon Welcome dinner, evening dessert with Irish students from UCD and Trinity Evening</td>
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<td>Mar. 10 (Sun.)</td>
<td>Morning 1916 walking tour of Dublin and visit to Kilmainham Jail Afternoon Lunch &amp; lecture: Dr. Finbarr Bradley, University College Dublin Visit Trinity College Library and see the Book of Kells Visit the National Museum of Ireland, National Gallery of Ireland, and more Evening Performance at the Abbey Theatre</td>
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<td>Mar. 11 (Mon.)</td>
<td>Morning Lecture: “Investing in Ireland” Tour of Leinster House and meeting with government officials Tour of Aras an Uchtarain, home of the President of the Republic of Ireland Visit to the International Financial Services Centre (or Facebook’s European Headquarters in Dublin) Afternoon Dinner in Howth, Ireland (north of Dublin) Visit to Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann (Irish traditional music session) in Monkstown, South Dublin Evening</td>
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<td>Mar. 12 (Tue.)</td>
<td>Morning Visit to Intel fabrication facility in Leixlip Afternoon Lecture by representative from IDA (Irish Development Authority) Visit to Newgrange (megalithic tombs), the Hill of Tara, and Maynooth Evening Free time in Dublin</td>
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<td>Mar. 13 (Wed.)</td>
<td>Morning Travel to/from Belfast, Northern Ireland Tour of the Falls Road and Shankhill Road Murals Lunch at the Crown Liquor Saloon (a national monument!) Visit Stormont; meet political leaders, Tour Belfast’s new “Titanic Quarter” Afternoon Lecture by official from Invest Northern Ireland Evening Discussion/lecture with representatives from the “two traditions” in Northern Ireland</td>
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<td>Mar. 14 (Thur.)</td>
<td>Morning Travel to Listowel, County Kerry. Stop en route at Moore Abbey, Monasterevin Visit Kerry Group corporate headquarters, Listowel Afternoon Visit Kerry Group corporate headquarters, Listowel Evening Dinner at Meadowlands restaurant Performance of Siamsa Tíre (National Folk Theatre of Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 15 (Fri.)</td>
<td>Morning A cultural/literary tour of North Kerry Afternoon “A Day at the Bog” in Kilflynn, County Kerry. North Kerry Literary Center, Listowel, County Kerry. Lecture by Ms. Cara Trant, “The Listowel Writers” Poetry Reading by Gabriel Fitzmaurice Afternoon Dinner at the Arms Hotel in Listowel and performance at J.B. Keane’s pub in Listowel (with the Listowel players, a local theater group) Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 16 (Sat.)</td>
<td>Morning Visit the Blasket Interpretive Center at Dunquin Afternoon Boat to Great Blasket Island. Lecture at the Institute of Education and Celtic Culture. View the Harry Clarke windows Evening A local seanachie—perhaps at the Teach Siamsa in Finuge</td>
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<td>Mar. 17 (Sun.)</td>
<td>Morning Depart from Shannon Airport (Shannon, Ireland) to NYC Evening Bus to Skidmore campus</td>
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FACULTY DIRECTORS

Jim Kennelly is professor of international business at Skidmore College and teaches courses in the areas of international business and international affairs. He holds a Ph.D. in management and international business from the Stern School of Business at NYU. He also regularly participates in Skidmore’s First-Year Experience, teaching a seminar titled Ireland: Myth, Reality, Conflict, Identity. His book *The Kerry Way* is a history of the Kerry Group, an indigenous Irish firm that transformed itself from a traditional dairy cooperative to a highly successful, publicly owned multinational food ingredients company. His co-authored book, *Capitalising on Culture, Competing on Difference: Innovation, Learning and Sense of Place in a Globalising Ireland*, was launched by the Prime Minister of Ireland in November 2008 and focuses upon Ireland’s efforts at developing in a manner that is economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable. In the past, he has led travel seminars to Vienna, Istanbul, and Ireland.

Peter McCarthy is a lecturer in social work and coordinator of Skidmore’s field program in social work. After graduating from Skidmore with a BA in psychology, McCarthy did his graduate work at the University of South Carolina and field work at the Medical University of South Carolina, Institute of Psychiatry. After graduating, he spent five years as a clinician at a walk-in mental health clinic and three years as director of an adolescent youth shelter. His private practice has centered around working with adolescents and young adults on the issues of anger, decision making, and goal setting. He also does consulting work in the private sector in the areas of strategic marketing, problem solving, and goal setting.

REQUIREMENTS

**Course prerequisite:** Foundations of Business in the International Environment (MB 306) (or) Introduction to International Affairs (IA 101) (or) Ireland: Myth, Reality, Conflict, Identity (SSP 100 021).

**On-campus prerequisite for travel seminar:** three mandatory (two-hour) class sessions. Meetings will be scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. on three evenings in February to review and discuss readings, travel seminar details, etc.

**Required viewing:** BBC’s 2010 series *The Story of Ireland* with Fergal Keane (Showing dates TBD)

COSTS

The anticipated fee for the travel seminar to Ireland is $2,950 (subject to fluctuation). This includes coach to/from Skidmore’s campus to NYC-area airport, roundtrip airfare to Ireland, all ground transportation in Ireland and Northern Ireland, on-site accommodations (generally double occupancy), two meals per day, international medical insurance, entrance and performance fees, local guides, cultural excursions, Skidmore faculty on site, and the support of Skidmore’s OCSE. The fee does not include passport and visa costs, or personal expenses.

**Financial Aid is available for eligible students.**

TO APPLY

Please apply by the following deadline: **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2012**

Applications are available on the OCSE Web site at cms.skidmore.edu/ocse.

Applicants are required to submit a $250 non-refundable deposit at time of application to hold their space on the program (100% refundable if not accepted to program). This deposit will be applied to the program fee.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
For details about cost and travel logistics, please contact:

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For details about course content and academic requirements, please contact:

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