

**Dear Student,**

**You are about to embark on an exciting adventure! Whether this is the first time you'll be traveling as part of a student learning experience or the fiftieth, my guess is that you will come back to Simpson a changed person. The instructor(s) of your travel course has been planning for your departure for more than a year and I am confident that you will not only learn a great deal but that you will also have a great time!**

**I would like to take this opportunity to share with you important information about your participation in this experiential course.**

**Attached to this brochure you will find an emergency contact card with the telephone numbers you should use if you have concerns or questions during your trip.**

**If you have questions prior to departure, feel free to contact me or your course instructor(s).**

**Bon Voyage!**

**Jay Wilkinson**

**Director of International Education**



Please put this card in your wallet or purse for easy access.

### **Emergency Contact:**

Students who wish to talk with a member of the Student Development Office staff regarding health or personal safety, sexual harassment/sexual assault or other issues about which they would feel uncomfortable talking with the course instructor(s) should use the following contact numbers:

Dr. Luke Behaunek, Dean of Students  
515-961-1592

(You may call collect, if needed)

If no answer, or after hours in Indianola, call Simpson Security at 515-961-1711 and ask them to page Dean Behaunek.

### **For more information contact:**

**Jay Wilkinson**  
**Director of Int'l Education**  
**Simpson College**  
**515-961-1288**  
**[jay.wilkinson@simpson.edu](mailto:jay.wilkinson@simpson.edu)**

## **Simpson Int'l Travel Courses May Term 2018**

### **YOUR ADVEN- TURE IS ABOUT**

**An informational  
brochure to help you  
on your travels  
abroad**



*Simpson College*  
*Office of*  
*International Education*

## **WHAT IS EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION?**

Experiential education is a fancy way of saying “learning by doing.” Many studies show that it is an effective way to learn. Simpson travel courses are a type of experiential learning. By traveling to the course location and becoming immersed in its culture, the student is drawn close to a subject in a way not possible in an on-campus course on the same subject. Good experiential education also includes a preparation component before you begin, as well as an opportunity to reflect on your experiences afterward.

### **WHAT IS THE “UPSIDE”?**

This type of learning can be an awesome experience! Although solidly academic, it can be so much fun that it does not seem like learning in a conventional sense.

### **WHAT IS THE “DOWNSIDE”?**

Experiential education assumes that the student is willing and able to accept responsibility for his or her education. The student is forced to confront the material in a way that makes it impossible to sit passively and accept the subject. Oftentimes, the “teacher” takes the role of “co-learner,” planning and shaping the student’s experiences. Students who are not mature enough or are unwilling to share responsibility for their education sometimes have a difficult time.

### **WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW**

1. You will be traveling with a community of scholars. Simpson will expect you to act in a responsible and mature manner at all times. You will be expected to help make the travel course go smoothly. As part of a group, you will need to give up some of your personal freedom.
2. Students participating in Simpson travel courses are bound by the same rules of conduct as students enrolled in classes on campus. Violations of the Student Handbook while away from campus may result in the disciplinary action upon the student’s return to campus.

3. The faculty member(s) leading your course has authority to act on behalf of Simpson in any matter concerning the academic course, travel procedures or student participants. In cases of rule violations, disruptive behavior, or conduct that could disrepute the course or the college, the faculty member(s) will consult with the Dean of Students and the Director of International Education to determine the most appropriate course of action, which may include sending the student home early. Separation from the course will result in the loss of academic credit and course fees and any costs associated with early separation will be the student’s responsibility. Faculty members have the authority to incur costs on behalf of the student.

### **SAFETY, HEALTH, AND POLICY ISSUES**

You are ultimately responsible for your own personal health and safety. While every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that you will not be put in any unnecessary danger while you are away from campus, you will need to accept responsibility for your own actions. Your instructor(s) will provide you with information to make informed choices but you are responsible for what you do with that information.

#### **A. Drugs and Alcohol**

The use, purchase, or sale of illegal drugs is forbidden while participating on a Simpson travel course. It is up to the student to know and abide by local rules and regulations concerning drugs. Consumption of alcohol will be governed by the laws of the host country.

#### **B. Medical Condition and Disclosure**

All students participating in a Simpson travel course are required to fill out and return a Medical Report Form to their instructor(s) prior to the start of the course. This information will be used to aid the instructor in obtaining appropriate care for students who require medical or counseling services during their time abroad. Simpson cannot accept responsibility for the care and treatment you receive from non-Simpson agents. Please communicate with the instructor(s) if you have medical problems while away from campus.

#### **C. Personal Safety**

Students are responsible for their own personal safety while on a Simpson travel course. The instructor will take reasonable action in the interest of course participants’ safety, but does not accept responsibility for the actions of non-Simpson agents. Students are reminded to lock hotel doors, leave valuables at home and take extreme care with cash, passports and credit cards carried on the trip.

#### **D. Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault**

The policy of Simpson College is that every student has the right to study in an environment free from sexual harassment and/or assault. College policy clearly prohibits such behavior. A student who believes that she or he has been sexually harassed or assaulted should report those concerns to the instructor(s) of the course. Should this not be possible, the student should contact the Student Development Office at the college at their earliest possible opportunity. (See information on the attached emergency contact card.)

#### **E. Attendance**

Students are expected to attend and participate in all events, performances, classes and other group activities as scheduled by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) has the right to set an attendance policy and grant absences only as she or he deems necessary. Students who know that they will be absent from such activities must notify the instructor well in advance.

### **COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR(S)**

While traveling with a Simpson travel course, the instructor serves as teacher and representative of the College. Students should feel free to communicate with the instructor their concerns regarding the course and health/personal safety issues. Students who feel they cannot communicate these concerns to the instructor(s), should contact the Student Development Office as soon as possible.