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Principia Study Abroad
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“Stories from a Homeland of Shifting Borders” Slovenia, Croatia & Bosnia Study Abroad

Program Focus

This study abroad focuses on the written stories and reflections of a people who have spent all but their last 29 years under the rule of the Roman Empire, Napoleon, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the short-lived communist country of Yugoslavia. Slovenia and Croatia each seceded from Yugoslavia and declared independence in 1991. Bosnia & Herzegovina’s separation from Yugoslavia was much more complicated.

Through short stories, essays, and novels—as well as conversations and visits to sites significant to Slovene, Croatian, and Bosnian literature—students will explore the literary, linguistic, and cultural path of these peoples from the time of their arrival as southern Slavs in the Balkans to present day. We’ll start by studying Slovenia, then explore Croatia’s completely different path to present day as a comparison study. A brief trip into Bosnia will reveal yet another, more dramatic, comparison.

Located on the boundary between Western and Eastern Europe, Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia & Herzegovina and their neighbors seem always to be at the crossroads of significant historical events—from world wars and the Cold War to the more recent immigration from the Middle East. Slovenia was the first former communist country to hold the presidency of the European Union. Yet while history is important, it is the literature and language that unify the two million Slovenes who live there. Boulevards and statues in the capital, Ljubljana, are named for writers, not generals or presidents. Croatia boasts similar monuments, joined the EU in 2014, and is following its own path to full integration into Europe. Bosnia, the most Eastern of the countries in geography, economy, and customs, trying hard to find its way.

This program is open to all students and all majors.

Applications

Applications are available online at:

<http://www.principiacollege.edu/abroads/upcoming-abroads>

Completed applications must be submitted to the Study Abroad Office (SC 247) no later than 5:00pm on **Wednesday, September 23, 2020**. Late applications not accepted.



Program Staff

This program will be directed by faculty, Ellen Sprague, MFA, MA, and accompanied by a resident counselor.

Ellen is an associate professor of writing in the Center for Teaching and Learning. She has a master of fine arts in writing (creative nonfiction and translation) and a master's degree in French. It was during her MFA program that she first went to Slovenia and was smitten by the landscape and story of the people. She traveled to Croatia on the same trip and to Bosnia a few years later. She led Principia's summer 2017 and 2019 study abroads to Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia & Herzegovina. As a Principia student she traveled on two abroads: one to France and another, focusing on music and art history, to Paris, Munich, and Vienna. She teaches academic writing courses each semester as well as Intro to Creative Nonfiction and has taught in multiple FYE programs. Prior to teaching, she was a writer and photographer for Principia.

A program resident counselor will be named at a later date.



Program Preliminary Itinerary

There will not be a typical day, but here is a sense of what to expect. After morning individual and/or group metaphysical time, we will have classroom or excursion time. Coursework will involve reading and writing, experimenting with translation, and, most importantly, visits/interviews with writers and translators whose works we will be reading both on campus and while in Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia.

In approximately 2.5 weeks spent in Slovenia, students will learn the basics of the Slovene language through a brief course at the Center for Slovene Studies in Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital. Day and afternoon trips to literary and culturally significant sites are likely to include Kobarid, known for World War I and Ernest Hemingway; the Predjama castle in a cave; Lake Bled, a picturesque mountain lake with nearby waterfalls that have inspired poets and writers over the centuries; Celje and its castle; the Škocjan caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site that looks straight out of *Lord of the Rings*; not to mention modern literary sites such as the Celica Hostel in the classic European capital city Ljubljana.

Our week-plus trip to Croatia will feature visits with writers, students, and translators in both the capital city, Zagreb, and the university and coastal tourist town of Zadar; a side trip to the Adriatic island of Rab; and exploration of a national park. We will also spend three-to-four days in Bosnia, touring both Mostar, famous for its rebuilt Ottoman bridge, and touring Sarajevo, where the first shot of WWI rang out and in the 1990s citizens struggled for almost four years under a siege that was only ended after international intervention.

Each day will require a sense of adventure and flexibility as we embark on our scheduled activities.

*Note: At this time, this program is scheduled for 4 weeks, in May/June of 2021.

Academics

SPRING SEMESTER 2021

WLIT 131A: Stories Around the Globe

SH: 2 Attribute: None

Students gain insight into different cultures as well as their own through careful reading and discussion of stories from different countries. Students explore the relationship between literature and culture in class discussions and writing. Literature studied will come from Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia.

SUMMER BREAK 2021

WLIT 131B: Stories Around the Globe

SH: 1 Attribute: GEH

Continuation of WLIT 131A, taken during spring semester. Must take both WLIT 131A & WLIT 131B to earn GEH attribution. This course is a continuation of WLIT 131A and includes both literature study and a culminating writing activity.

SPST 285: Country Studies: Slovenia, Croatia & Bosnia

SH: 3 Attribute: NONE

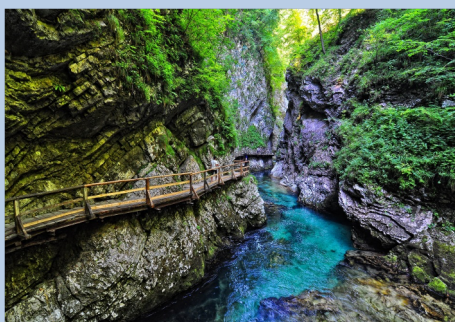
Cultural and historical sites studied and visited; formal language instruction. Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina will be explored as well.

FALL SEMESTER 2021

SPST 281: Reentry Seminar: Slovenia, Croatia & Bosnia

SH: 1 Attribute: none

Taught on campus fall semester 2021, this required reentry seminar is an opportunity for students to internalize, integrate, and formulate the personal and academic learning gained from their study in Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia.



Financial Aid & Responsibility

Students who will be eligible to receive financial aid for the 2020-2021 academic year may request Principia financial aid and/or scholarship.

Payments for past and current tuition, room, and board must be up-to-date, or a satisfactory payment schedule must be arranged with the Accounting Office in St. Louis, in order for a student to be allowed to participate in this program.

If accepted, students will be required to sign a financial commitment agreement stating that if they withdraw from this program, voluntarily or involuntarily, after **November 25, 2020**, they agree to pay the amount equal to the non-recoverable expenses incurred by their withdrawal plus any Principia Abroad administrative fees. Even if all pre-paid expenses are recovered, a minimum \$500 fee may be levied.

The program cost, less any applicable financial aid, will be billed to each participant's Principia account and payment will be due by **April 26th, 2021**.

Program Selection

Selection will take place during fall semester, 2020. Each applicant will be interviewed by the program faculty and program RC. Equal consideration will be given to all applications submitted by the application due date. See the [Study Abroad Student Selection Criteria](#) for additional information.

The Principia Abroad Office will notify each applicant by Week 8, fall semester 2020, regarding the decision on his/her application.

Those eligible but not accepted in the initial selection process may be placed on a waiting list.

Participation in this program could be denied any accepted student whose grades put her or him on academic warning or academic probation. Students may also be removed from the program if not in good standing with regard to the Principia [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#).

Eligibility and Prerequisites

This abroad is open to **all** students in good academic and social standing, regardless of major.

There are no prerequisites for the Slovenia, Croatia & Bosnia Study Abroad. If accepted, all program participants are required to participate in the spring semester, 2021, World Literature course.

We expect students to show a commitment to solving problems metaphysically and to developing strength of character. Other fundamental criteria for selection include the student's responses to the essay questions on the application.

Cost

The cost of this abroad program will be the same as tuition for 4 semester hours, \$300 a week for room and board (\$1200 for this break program), airfare up to \$1,500, and a \$150 study abroad fee.

The following expenses will be INCLUDED in the program: all accommodations and meals (room and board) and transportation; academic instruction and lectures; admission to scheduled sites, museums, and cultural activities planned as part of the program; student travel insurance; and administrative fees.

Costs NOT INCLUDED: Domestic US and international airfares up to \$1,500; \$150 fee; personal expenses; optional activities not planned as part of the program; and any other expense not specifically noted as included in the cost of the program.

Please see the "Financial Aid and Responsibility" section to the right to see what is included in your PrinBill, how financial aid is applied, and when payment is due.