

Summer 2023



GEL 490I Geology of the European Alps & Surroundings - A Field Course -

sec. 001 - CRN (TBA): International Field Days R 6/15 to Sat 7/01/2023

Course URL: <https://www.geotours.earthscienceeducation.net/ALPS/index.htm>

Trip Leader: Professor Uwe Richard Kackstaetter, Ph.D. (Dr. "K")
Office: SI2017

E-☒: kackstae@msudenver.edu (*Preferred Contact Venue*)

☎: 720-257-4486 (*cell*)

URL: <http://college.earthscienceeducation.net>

Office Hours: TBD, also via MS Teams

This syllabus may be modified at any time without prior notice.

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OVERVIEW

The European Alpine Regions and surroundings are not only incredibly rich in history, architecture, art and culture, they are also home to scientific innovations, technological advances and often hailed as a model in environmental policies and procedures. Understanding of alpine geological processes and their influence on society and culture play a major role in scientific advances and understandings. From the impact of climate change to montane mega-engineering projects, the European Alps offer a unique perspective on living with the dynamic ongoing processes of our planet.

The educational experience will not only include an exiting 14 day geological field experience, it will also enlighten participants on the history, geography, societal impact, culture and resource economy of this very unique region. The trip will also highlight the role as a reoccurring birthplace of the geological sciences as we know them, such as key fossil discoveries as the famed *Archaeopteryx* Jurassic bird unearthed in 1861



BACKGROUND

The Alps themselves exhibit a complex geology and were the first mountain system to be extensively studied by geologists. Many geologic terms associated with mountains and glaciers originated there. Indeed the term "Alps" has been applied to mountain systems around the world that exhibit similar traits. GeoRef, the online database most frequented in the geologic profession, shows over 20,000 scholarly articles on this mountain range. Nevertheless, the complexity of this mountain system yields new scientific discoveries at an ongoing rate, often challenging the current views of geologic explanations. Many of these discoveries in geology are linked to the recent extreme mega-engineering of the longest train tunnels in the world below these massive mountains, connecting Germany and Italy effortlessly now and in decades to come. Besides, the Alps are also the birthplace of mountaineering and downhill skiing. The mountain range exhibits 61 peaks that are over 4000m (>14,000ft) with world famous peaks such as Eiger and Matterhorn.

Few fossil localities around the world have yielded more significant specimens for the study of paleo-environments, climate and evolution than the famous fossil digs at Holzmaden, Solnhofen, and Eichstätt, not to mention the historic discoveries of Neanderthal humanoid fossils near Heidelberg. The ongoing effort of securing and studying well preserved specimens from these localities still draws professional earth scientists on a global scale and helps students to reconstruct the evolution of geologic paleosystem interpretations.

THE COURSE

The 5 credit course is designed as an upper division hybrid lecture and field class to be offered during Summer 2023. The lecture component consists of two in-class / hybrid pre-departure lectures Thursday 6/8/23 and Friday 6/9/23 from 5pm - 9pm. The required international excursion will immediately follow this lecture block and spans the time from 6/15 until 7/1/2023. The time of 7/1/ to 7/18 is earmarked for student research and post-trip assignment compilations. Post-trip lectures / student presentations will commence Tuesdays & Thursdays from 7/18 to 8/3/23.

PARTICIPANTS

The course is open to all Metro State University Students that meet certain basic requirements. A minimum pre-requisite of GEL1010 or equivalent or permission of instructor is required

ENROLLMENT - MIN: 7

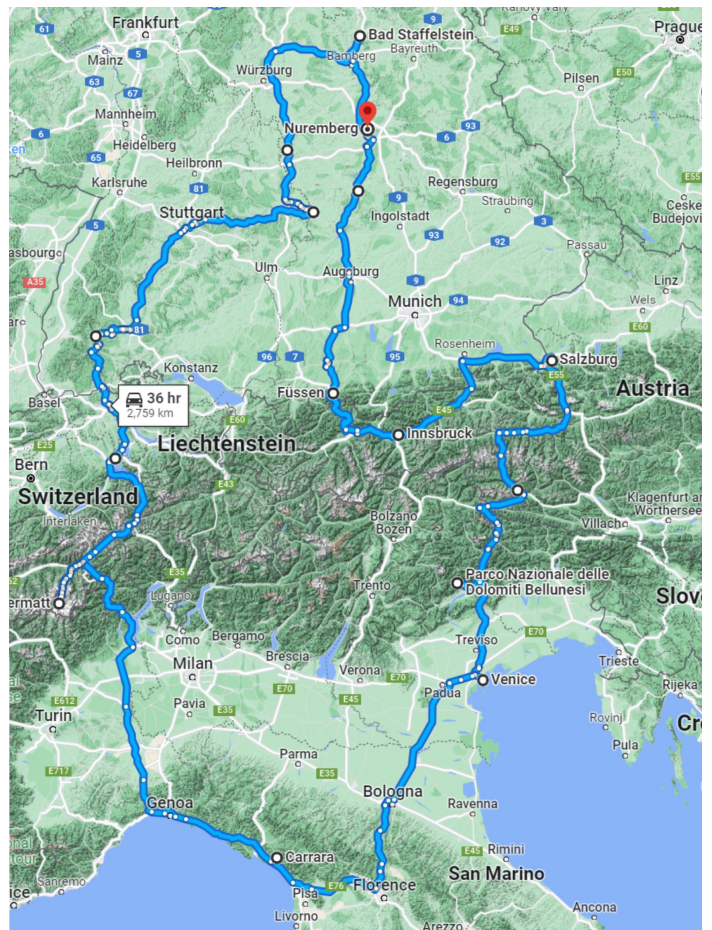
MAX: 14

FIELD TOUR DATES

17 Day Excursion

LEAVE DENVER to NÜRNBERG: Thursday, June 15, 2023

RETURN NÜRNBERG to DENVER: Saturday, July 1, 2023



COURSE and TRIP COST ESTIMATE SUMMARIES

Published Cost based on minimum enrollment and high estimates

Tuition:	\$1,380 w/o fees
Air fare:	\$1,350 (avg)
Meals:	\$ 600
<u>TRIP FEES*</u> :	<u>\$1,900</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATE:	\$5,230

Possible cost based on maximum enrollment and frugal estimates

Tuition:	\$1,380 w/o fees
Air fare:	\$1,000
Meals:	\$ 450
<u>TRIP FEES*</u> :	<u>\$1,250</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATE:	\$4,080

TRIP FEES: Include lodging, some meals, ground travel, entry fees, administrative costs, etc. incurred with the trip. Trip Fees are due and payable before the trip to cover all European expenditures. See below for payment schedule or contact instructor.

Since students will make their own flight arrangement, it is imperative that you are in NÜRNBERG on Friday, 6/16/2023 by 2:00pm. The instructor will pick you up from NÜRNBERG airport (NUE) at that time. Students must submit flight details to the instructor BEFORE the trip.

INTERNATIONAL TRIP COST & STUDENT’S FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Estimated TOTAL student cost for this program: (plus fees)
 - based on minimum enrollment and high estimates -

\$ 5,230.00 Note: could be < \$4,000
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Note: This is your total estimated cost with tuition, airfare and ALL trip expenses in Europe’s Alpine region. It does NOT include academic fees, books and other materials. This total cost is a conservative estimate. It could be lower depending on special travel arrangements, enrollment and awarded grant opportunities. However, these are NOT guaranteed.

Total Course Cost Estimate:

Students will be responsible to pay:

Tuition (Tuition and Fees due as per MSU Denver guidelines)	\$ 1,380.00 ¹
Flight (Student is responsible to make own flight arrangements DEN-NUE, NUE-DEN)	\$ 1,350.00 ²
Meals (Students are responsible for paying most of their own meals; some meals included.)	\$ 600.00 ²
Trip Fees* (based on minimum enrollment).	\$ 1,900.00
for ground transportation, lodging, entrance fees, administrative cost, etc.	

***Trip Fee Overages will be reimbursed. For max enrollment, Trip Fees could be <\$1,200 after reimbursement!**

UNDERGRADUATE STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIPS / GRANTS

There are a few organizations that offer Undergraduate Study Abroad scholarships. You may do your own research, but here is a sampling of study abroad scholarship providers:

Tortuga Study Abroad Scholarship	\$1,000
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program	\$100-\$5,000
FUND FOR EDUCATION ABROAD Fund for Education Award	\$1,000-\$5,000
DIVERSITY ABROAD Diversity Abroad Overseas Ambassador Program	\$500
THE ROTARY FOUNDATION Rotary International Scholarships & Grants	(probably best for groups) up to \$25,000
THE HONOR SOCIETY OF PHI KAPPA PHI Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grants	\$1,000
Other opportunities can be researched at U.S.DEPARTMENT OF STATE USA Study Abroad programs .	
MSU Denver Crowdfunding for Groups	per group up to \$2,500

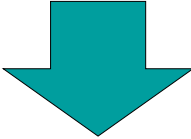
Don’t forget that Federal tuition assistance (grants, loans, workstudy) may still apply to cover the tuition part of the course.

¹Does NOT include academic fees!

²This can be significantly less depending on frugality, deals and other arrangements

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

Are you a registered / enrolled Metropolitan State University of Denver student?

Y E S	N O
Continue below! 	Apply to MSU Denver as a non-degree seeking student 1. Start the application at https://connect.msudenver.edu/apply/ 2. Request an official final high school transcript with graduation date or an official college transcript with at least 24 transferrable credits to be sent to MSU Denver sometime before the start of classes! 3. (simultaneously) register for the applicable geology course as outlined below

Make the Trip Fee Payments! Down-payment of \$250 to register!

1. Go to the MSU Denver eMarket site: https://commerce.cashnet.com/MSUDenverEM_SA
2. From the menu, select the “Alps International Field Trip” & click on the “Link”
3. A payment selection schedule will appear divided into the \$250 down-payment, and additional \$330 increments of successive payments. The Trip Fee total of \$1,900 must be received by June 2nd according to the due date schedule below.
4. Complete the rest of the form with your contact information and payment option. Then click the “Add to basket” button and continue with your payment(s).

Registering for Course

-After completion of the above I can instigate the registration process for you -

1. You will be hand registered. After your name is submitted, the appropriate registrar will mail you a Fiscal Responsibility Agreement (FRA) Form, which you MUST complete and return.
2. After this completed form is received, you will be registered by the appropriate office. You do not have to go through the official registration process with the Student Hub to register for this class.
3. Check back in a few days after submitting the FRA form to see if you are registered.

If you encounter problems with your registration, please contact our departmental advisor, Chivonne Torres (ctorre13@msudenver.edu or 303- 605-5967) or Dr.K (kackstae@msudenver.edu)

Note: Maximum enrollment per course: 14 - Make payments early to ensure your enrollment. Informal wait lists are available!

Final Trip Payment

Complete payment NO later than June 1st or you will be dropped in favor of fully paid wait-listed students!

TRIP FEE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Trip Fees are to be paid through eMarket. Log in to eMarket at https://commerce.cashnet.com/MSUDenverEM_SA to make payments.

Trip Fees are to be paid before the trip according to the following schedule:

Down payment (intent to enroll) by Friday (Gets you onto the FIRST COME - FIRST SERVED list) 12/16/2022. After that date, the down payment is usually non-refundable and can be made after Friday 1/06/2023.

Down-Payment, 1/06/2023 \$ 250.00

1st installment by Friday, 1/27/2023 \$ 330.00

2nd installment by Friday, 2/24/2023 \$ 330.00

3rd installment by Friday, 3/31/2023 \$ 330.00

4th installment by Friday, 4/28/2023 \$ 330.00

FINAL installment by Friday, 5/26/2023 \$ 330.00

Any open balance and the FULL trip amount must be received by Friday 6/02/2023

IMPORTANT: Make ALL your payments through eMarket. You may follow the published payment schedule or pay the FULL amount earlier thus ensuring your registered slot.

Refund Policy:

- 1 Down payment (\$250) administrative fees are non-refundable after 1/06/2023 unless the place is filled by another student or the course is canceled due to insufficient enrollment.
- 2 Any additional payments will be refunded if student withdraws from course with the understanding that amounts may be prorated according to vendor penalties, such as, but not limited to booking penalties, van rental penalties, etc. incurred up to this point, if applicable.
- 3 Any excess funds will be refunded to students **after** the trip.
- 4 Note: No refund will be processed until after the completion of the trip and until ALL trip accounts have been settled.
- 5 Since students arrange and pay directly for their own airfare, the refund policies of the airline will apply.
- 6 MSU Denver tuition will be refunded according to university policies.

SYLLABUS

Professor: Uwe Richard Kackstaetter, Ph.D. (Dr. "K")
 Contact: E-: kackstae@msudenver.edu Cell-: 720-257-4486

Office: SI2017
 URL: <http://college.earthscienceeducation.net>

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Course Description:

This field course gives a hands-on, on site introduction to the geology, geography and culture of the greater European Alpine region and surroundings areas, including key fossil quarries in Germany, Alpine glaciers, mineral waters, as well as the Po basin and historic Carara marble quarries north of Pisa, Italy. Plate tectonics, formation of the Alps and the complex structure of thrust faulting and Nappe stacking will be experienced first hand. The course includes a significant study abroad component and additional trip fees will apply.

Prerequisite(s): GEL1010 or equivalent or permission of instructor.

Required Reading and Other Materials will be equivalent to:

Pfiffner, O.A., 2014, *Geology of the Alps*, 1st Ed., ISBN: 978-1118708125

Hand-outs and electronic dossiers will be made available to students for all the academic readings.

Hard Cover Geology Field Notebook (4 3/4" x 7 1/2") such as Rite In The Rain Weatherproof Hard Cover Notebook, 4 3/4" x 7 1/2", Yellow Cover, Geological Pattern (No. 540F) - Amazon.com

Specific, Measurable Student Behavioral Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of the course the student should be able to:

1. Interpret unknown stratigraphies in a complex geologic setting
 - a. Satisfies ILO #1 Explain the international dimension/s of the participant's academic discipline.
2. Assess mineralogy and associations.
 - a. Satisfies ILO #1 Explain the international dimension/s of the participant's academic discipline.
3. Distinguish between major structural tectonic features
 - a. Satisfies ILO #1 Explain the international dimension/s of the participant's academic discipline.
4. Interpret the geomorphology of unknown systems
 - a. Satisfies ILO #1 Explain the international dimension/s of the participant's academic discipline
5. Identify erosional features within continental to continental tectonics.
 - a. Satisfies ILO #1 Explain the international dimension/s of the participant's academic discipline.
6. Assess carbonate systems and mountain building periods.
 - a. Satisfies ILO #1 Explain the international dimension/s of the participant's academic discipline
7. Become familiar with the impact of geology to modern and ancient building materials within the host countries
 - a. Satisfies ILO #7 Identify three or four socio-economic or environmental challenges faced by the host country.
 - b. Satisfies ILO #8 Recognize one's self and cultural context in relation to others.

In addition to the course student learning outcomes, the students who study abroad will be able to:

1. Assess how the host country experience contributed to personal growth and awareness of self as a member of the global community.
2. Recognize different cultural practices and explain why other cultures value these practices

Grading in GEL490I

	Due Date	Max. Points
Field Notebook Entries - 15 days @ 30pts/day	July 3 - July 17, 2023	450
Field Day Guide - Oral Presentation + Peer Review	June 16 - July 1, 2023	100
Field Day Guide - 2 page handout / flyer	Friday, June 16, 2023	100
End of Trip - Field Trip Guide Paper	Thursday, August 3, 2023	100
End of Trip - 360 Virtual Tour Presentation	July 25 - August 3, 2023	150
Final Exam	Thursday, August 3, 2023	100
TOTAL		1000

FINAL GRADE: A+ > 990 A = 900-990 A- = 895-899 B+ = 870-894 B = 800-869 B- = 795-799
 C+ = 770-794 C = 700-769 C- = 695-699 D+ = 670-694 D = 600-669 D- = 500-599
 F = ≤ 500 points

Detailed Outline of Course Content:

The course is designed to integrate on-site lectures with field experiences:

1. Historical Overview: Formation of the Alps
2. Voralpenland
 - a. Alps Northern & Southern Carbonate Foothills
 - b. Molasses Basin Development
3. Crystalline Alps
 - a. Interior Systems
 - b. Tectonics and Fault Lines
4. Deciphering Alpine Stratigraphy
 - a. Nappe stacks and Tectonics
5. Alps & Erosion
 - a. Dolomites
 - b. Erosional & Geomorphologic Processes
6. Alpine Environments
 - a. Glaciation
 - b. Erosional Features
 - c. Environmental Issues
 - d. Societal Impacts & History
7. Hydrogeology / Hydrology
 - a. Po Basin Impact
 - b. Alpine Lakes
 - c. Mineral Water
8. Resources & Historic Impact
 - a. Building Materials: Marble, Dolomite
 - b. Ore Mining

Co-curricular Field Experiences

Please note some of these excursions are subject to change due to weather conditions:

1. Carrara Marble Quarries
2. Fossil Museum & Quarry, Holzmaden, Germany
3. Fossil Museum and Quarry, Solnhofen, Germany
4. Ries Crater Museum and City Tour, Nördlingen, Germany
5. Many, many other geologic field field stops and experience lead by instructor

ABSENCES: Frankly, registering for this course is equivalent and as serious as you taking a job. I expect from you the same professional courtesies that you would extend toward your employer.

Note: *Nothing in this policy shall require the instructor to reschedule classes, repeat lectures or other ungraded activities or provide ungraded individualized instruction solely for the benefit of students who are unable to attend regularly scheduled classes or activities.*

THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD TRIP: The heart of the course is a 17 day international fieldtrip exploring geoscience topics within Alpine region and vicinity. This excursion is mandatory for passing the course and additional trip and travel fees next to tuition apply. Details will be discussed in class.

FIELD DAY 2-PAGE HANDOUT and FIELD TRIP LEADER / LECTURER (100pts ea. = 200pts): You will be in charge for guiding our field trip for ONE day. While you will follow a general outline of our itinerary, you will be in charge for planning details of field stops, hikes, activities, and site visits. Next to giving field lectures and explanations, you will also prepare a 2-page handout for all trip participants. Handout is to be also uploaded electronically to CANVAS for grading. Field Day Leader and Lecture performance to be assessed in the field by instructor and field trip participants (nothing to submit or upload)

DETAILED FIELD NOTEBOOK (450pts): Students are required to purchase and keep a detailed field notebook /journal during the trip recording observations, measurements, calculations and lecture details. With the exception of your field lecture day, you need to have 15 notebook entries at 30 pts/day for a total of $15 \times 30 = 450$ points. Each day is graded individually. The rubric and detailed instructions about this assignment can be downloaded as a PDF file by clicking on the link above. After the trip, scanned pages of the completed notebook / journal are to be uploaded to the CANVAS course platform.

END-OF-TRIP GUIDE PAPER (100pts): This End-of-Trip Guide Paper is a culmination of your 2-Page Handout and Field Trip Leader / Lecturer experience. You can double-dip and use your 2-Page Handout for this assignment, which actually comprises 30% of your grade for the End-of-Trip Paper. You will modify what you have previously written and add a few more details. Your submittal will be compiled with other End-of-Trip papers into a larger collection, making a Field Guidebook of our trip. You will add your impressions and trip photos, thus making this submittal a memorable conclusion to be shared with others. Details for this assignment can be found in the assignment instructions.

END-OF-TRIP 360° VIRTUAL TOUR (150pts): You will be tasked to create a 360° Virtual Field Trip Presentation of your field day and present it after the trip to a greater audience. Videos and especially 360° images will be collected during the field trip. You have free use of these materials to compile your 360° virtual tour for your presentation. Your section of the field trip is then presented virtually for 30 minutes to a greater audience throughout the MSU Denver community, the Office of International Studies (OIS) and other invitees. This will showcase the incredible learning opportunity provided by this international field course to others. You may also invite your own family and friends to this online showcase featuring your trip segment. Since your virtual

field trip should be designed to be taken autonomously, you will just present the highlights and then encourage attendees to self discover the incredible beauty and science encountered during your field day.

TIMED FINAL EXAM (100pts): A timed final exam will be administered through the CANVAS course platform on the last day of the course. While open books & notes, the exam is timed (120 minutes) and will cover topics associated with the field trip, the activities, places visited and from the reading. Practical problem solving questions are also part of the exam. The exam can NOT be retaken.

LATE WORK: General Late Work Penalty is -10% / day processed automatically through the CANVAS grading system with the lowest possible grade of 10% for late work! Zeros are only give if NOTHING is turned in / taken!

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE DEADLINE TO TURN IN YOUR ASSIGNMENTS!!! I will accept work any day, any time up to the deadline. Turn things in early and you will not run into trouble with uncooperative electronics or sudden work / family conflicts. Hint: Turn your work in early and there will be NO problems!

EXTRA CREDIT: At the instructors discretion 10% extra credit are possible on ALL assignments, giving students the opportunity to earn a high score of 110% (Except take-home or open note exams). NO OTHER ADDITIONAL EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN. So please DON'T ask.

Contacting the Instructor: You may e-mail me any time at kackstae@msudenver.edu. You may also text or call me: Cell 720-257-4486

Copy of the INTERNATIONAL FIELD TRIP LIABILITY WAIVER - [download and submit the actual file](#)

All students participating in field trips taught by the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences should be aware that there is always an element of risk in such trips. These risks involve travel by vehicles, including commercial, state, and private vehicles, and in certain cases travel by canoes and rafts, walking as pedestrians on or near roadways, as well as strenuous hiking in mountainous terrains which are sometimes in remote areas. Instructors will use all reasonable precautions and students need to exercise prudent behavior during field trips, but even then there exists the possibility of an accident. Students need to assess their own physical abilities and not exceed their capabilities. Students must be alert and aware of possible risks and dangers during field trips.

Policies, Rules & Regulations for ALL Participants - *Read carefully and initial each item on the line provided. Your initial indicates FULL understanding and acceptance of each policy, rule &/or regulation.*

- All students are under the professional responsibility concerning the consumption of alcohol, as well as impairing drugs and medications. Drinking and Driving is a serious offense in Europe with many countries invoking draconian punishments even for first time offenders.
- Since we are traveling through many countries, a ZERO tolerance policy concerning recreational / medical drugs (e.g. Cannabis) and their derivatives (e.g. Cannabis oil) is enforced. While many countries in Europe have legalized, some have not. If caught with possession, even for smallest quantities, you may be incarcerated for a long time, e.g. Britney Griner.
- Smoking will NOT be permitted within cars or lodging accommodations, only in designated areas as allowed by foreign laws of the country visited. Because of possible fire dangers in the many areas visited, absolutely NO smoking will be allowed during field hikes or outside designated areas. Students who smoke must be considerate of nonsmokers.
- There will be strict enforcement of "quiet hours" according to hotel / hostel regulations. During this time, there will be no loud music, boisterous activity, or other disturbance allowed.
- Students with medical problems, including but not limited to asthma and allergies, must consult with instructor prior to participating in field trips. Such students must carry appropriate medications with them AT ALL TIMES. In case of a medical emergency during the field trip, such students must be prepared to pay for expenses incurred for their evacuation.
- Students will exercise good common sense at all times and will ASK the instructor or other knowledgeable personnel when in doubt.
- Covid restrictions may be in place which may include social distancing, a specific type of mask probably worn, possible curfews and requirements for vaccinations / negative Covid tests. Students must abide by the regulations of the host country.
- Students who violate any laws of the host country or who violate any of the field trip policies or stipulations or who fail to conform to directives from the instructor may be immediately dismissed from the field trip. The instructors have the right to terminate any student found in violation of these responsibilities, and such actions will terminate him or her from continuing on the trip. The fees already submitted shall be non-refundable in such cases. Terminated students must fly home on their own expense and are liable for any additional charges. Such students may also be subject to a failing grade in the course, be required to withdraw from the course, and be subject to disciplinary action by the University.

Compliance with Trip Policies, Rules & Regulations - *Read carefully and initial each item on the line provided. Your initial indicates FULL understanding and acceptance of each policy, rule &/or regulation.*

- I, the undersigned, will exchange US\$ 20.00 upon entry for "Restroom" coins. It is my, the students, responsibility to secure restroom accessibility.
- I, the undersigned, will bring an internationally capable cellphone with appropriate international coverage or I will purchase an operational phone upon arrival. I, the student, will share my contact number immediately with the instructor and other students.
- I, the undersigned, do understand the rules concerning alcohol, recreational / medical drugs and smoking policies and declare that I will abide by these rules and regulations.
- I, the undersigned, will abide by the Covid rules & regulations of the countries and places visited. I do understand that costs for masking and testing, if required, are my own responsibility and expense. I also declare that I will be FULLY VACCINATED for the trip in accordance with the host countries Covid requirements.
- I, the undersigned, will abide by decency laws in the host country. This includes, but is not limited to pyjama use for dorm rooms, appropriate clothing for visiting cathedrals (Girls NO shorts or tank-tops; boys NO see through sports jerseys), etc. I, the student, also understand that certain events, such as visiting an opera in Europe, require formal wear and in case of noncompliance might not be admitted to these events, regardless of my payment.
- I, the undersigned, understand the refund policy and my fiscal obligations for this international trip. I understand that the trip fee collected does NOT include airfare, meals or tuition.

Policies, Rules & Regulations for Drivers of Vehicles in Foreign Countries - *Read carefully and initial each item on the line provided. Your initial indicates FULL understanding and acceptance of each policy, rule &/or regulation.*

- All drivers must be at least 25 years of age and must purchase an International Driver's License.
- All drivers must abide by a ZERO alcohol / drug policy during the whole trip. NO EXCEPTIONS! If you can NOT abide by this law, do NOT volunteer as a driver.
- All drivers must take responsibility for the rented vehicle assigned to them, including but not limited to making sure the vehicle is gassed up, has correct tire pressure, has the trash taken out, etc.

In consideration of my being permitted to participate in this activity, I, the undersigned hereby: release and hold harmless the Trustees of Metropolitan State University of Denver, the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department, and respective employees, from all claims, losses, damages, or expenses because of property damage or personal or bodily injury incurred or caused by me during or in conjunction with the above mentioned activity. In filling out this form, I acknowledge that I fully understand the risk that is inherent to off-campus activities. Furthermore, I have fully read and understand the department policies and my liability and do accept the restrictions.

EAS Social Media Information

Our departmental social media is a great way to get updates on national and international field trip opportunities; find interesting events, outings, and new courses; connect with alumni, professionals, and other students; and network for career, internships, scholarships and travel opportunities.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MSUDenverEAS>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/eas_msudenver/

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/msu-denver-department-of-earth-and-atmospheric-sciences>

LinkedIn is the best way to connect with faculty, alumni, and current students for career opportunities

COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS, AND SCIENCES SYLLABUS STATEMENTS

A syllabus is a binding contractual document for any course and becomes the guiding legal document when enrolling in a course. Many policies, procedures and resources are university, college and / or department wide and thus are automatically an integral part of THIS SYLLABUS.

To read these additional policies, procedures and resources, log in to your course in CANVAS and look at the always up-to-date material listed under the

University Policies and Resources Module

for further information.

In case of disagreements between the student and the university faculty and staff, students are responsible for full knowledge of the provisions and regulations pertaining to all aspects of their attendance at MSU Denver, and should familiarize themselves with the policies found in the

University Policies and Resources Course Module

FYI:

*For this course you are part of the
COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS, AND SCIENCES (CLAS)
and the
DEPARTMENT OF EARTH & ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES (EAS)*

INTERNATIONAL TRIP COMPONENT

Detailed Trip Itinerary

Pre-Departure Meetings:

In order to give you ample time to make necessary preparations for the trip, the Pre-Departure meetings will be held early, during the break between Spring and Summer Semesters, about a month before we depart. Care was taken NOT to interfere with other field classes offered during that time. To make it more convenient for attendees, these pre-meetings will be held virtually through MS Teams. In order to get to know you better, please select video streaming when we meet.

Date	Time	Activity
M 5/15/2023	5 - 8:30 pm	Intro & Overview; Logistics; Assignments; General Geology of the Alps: Precambrian & Paleozoic
T 5/16/2023	5 - 8:30 pm	Geologic History of the European Alps: Mesozoic; Cenozoic; Alpine Structural Geology: Nappes & Nappe Stacks

The Trip Itinerary: *Note: While times, schedules, lodging and travel have been carefully planned, the trip itinerary may be changed as necessary at any time.*

Date	Time	Activity
Thursday, June 15, 2023	11:00	DEN DEPARTURE
Friday, June 16, 2023	14:00	NUE ARRIVAL
	14:00-15:00	Drive to Downtown Youth Hostel, Check in
	15:00-16:00	Logistics Lecture, Welcome, Arrangements
	16:00-18:00	City Tour
	18:00-21:00	Historic Mediaeval Dinner , End of Day
Lodging: <i>Central Studio Apartments, Färberstraße 2, Mitte, 90402 Nuremberg, Germany, Phone: +49 1525 5691069</i>		
<i>GPS Coordinates: N 049° 27.074, E 11° 4.395, Booking.com Confirmation Number: 3038.807.773</i>		
Saturday, June 17, 2023	7:00-8:30	Breakfast, pack sack lunches
	8:30-9:30	Drive to Solnhofen, Lecture
	9:30-11:00	Museum-Solnhofen -- Bürgermeister-Müller-Museum Bahnhofstr. 8 91807 Solnhofen Phone: +49 9145 8320-30 or -20 Fax: +49 9145 8320-50 www.museum-solnhofen.de info@solnhofen.de
	11:00-12:30	Fossil Quarry & Collecting, Hobbysteinbruch Blumenberg (GPS 48.89649180698179, 11.148393115340753) Local Geology, Lecture
	12:30-13:00	Lunch
	13:00-16:00	Drive Solnhofen to Füssen w/ field stops
	16:00-19:00	Neuschwanstein Castle https://www.neuschwanstein.de/englisch/tourist/index.htm Visit/Lecture
	17:50	Neuschwanstein Booked Tour #519 Check-in, Dinner, Evening Lecture, End of Day
	19:00-21:00	
	Lodging: <i>Trendic Hotel, Frankenstraße 11, 87616 Marktoberdorf, Germany, Phone: +49 8342 9680840</i>	
<i>GPS Coordinates: N 047° 47.168, E 10° 37.292, Booking.com 12 Person: Confirmation Number: 3522.060.055</i>		
<i>Booking.com 1 Person: Confirmation Number: 2342.771.410</i>		
Sunday, June 18, 2023	7:30-8:30	Breakfast, Check-Out, Sack lunches
	8:30-11:30	Drive to Innsbruck, A w/ Lecture Stops
	11:30-16:00	Nordkette Cable Lift - Calcareous Alps - Hike, Lunch, Field Lectures on top https://nordkette.com/de/home.html
	16:00-17:00	Check-in, Lecture
	17:00-21:00	Downtown Innsbruck, Dinner, End of Day
Lodging: <i>Top of Innsbruck Apartment I, 6c Steinbruchstraße, Hötting, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria Phone: +43 720 883985</i>		
<i>GPS Coordinates: N 047° 16.388, E 11° 23.099, Booking.com 12 Person: Confirmation Number: 3853.771.534</i>		
<i>Blue Mountain Hostel, Kranebitter Allee, Hötting, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria Phone: +43 677 61447523</i>		
<i>GPS Coordinates: N 047° 15.847, E 11° 21.940, Booking.com 1 Person: Confirmation Number: 2883.595.938</i>		

Date	Time	Activity
Monday, June 19, 2023	7:00-8:00	Breakfast, Check-Out, Sack lunches
	8:00-8:30	Lecture, Day Overview
	8:30-9:30	to Nösslach (Austria): “Unterhervorschiebung”, Austrian Crystalline Alps
	9:30- 11:00	to Mauls, Italy contact between metamorphosed Austroalpine & Alpine basement
	11:00-12:30	to Sterzig, Italy (Lunch, History)
	12:30-14:00	to Jaufenpass - fault zone, Austrian Garnets
	14:00-15:30	to Timmelsjoch - Variscan eclogite-facies
	15:30-17:00	to Köfels - Frictionite
	17:00-21:00	Drive back to Innsbruck, Dinner
Lodging: <i>Top of Innsbruck Apartment I, 6c Steinbruchstraße, Hötting, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria Phone: +43 720 883985</i>		
<i>GPS Coordinates: N 047° 16.388, E 11° 23.099, Booking.com 12 Person: Confirmation Number: 3853.771.534</i>		
<i>Blue Mountain Hostel, Kranebitter Allee, Hötting, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria Phone: +43 677 61447523</i>		
<i>GPS Coordinates: N 047° 15.847, E 11° 21.940, Booking.com 1 Person: Confirmation Number: 2883.595.938</i>		
Tuesday, June 20, 2023	7:30-8:30	Breakfast, Check-Out, Sack lunches
	8:30-9:00	Lecture, Day Overview
	9:00-12:30	Drive along the Northern carbonate alps to Berchtesgaden, DE w/ various field stops and lectures
	12:30-13:00	Lunch
	13:00-18:00	Historical & geological tour of Salzburg, A and surroundings w/ lectures
	18:00-21:00	Check-in, Dinner, Evening lectures, End of Day
Lodging: <i>Alpenresidenz Buchenhöhe, Buchenhöhe 34-36, 83471 Berchtesgaden, DE, Phone: +49 8652 600900</i>		
<i>GPS Coordinates: N 047° 37.829, E 13° 3.895 Booking.com: confirmation number: 2586.463.686</i>		
Wednesday, June 21, 2023	7:30-8:30	Breakfast, Sack lunches
	8:30-9:00	Lecture, Day Overview
	9:00-14:00	Visit Historic Saltmines Tour @ 9:30 ticket#211600317453, Geology Field Lectures Salzbergwerk Berchtesgaden, Bergwerkstraße 83, D-83471 Berchtesgaden, Infoline +49-8652-6002-20, https://www.salzbergwerk.de/en
		Alte Saline / Old Salt Works Alte Saline 9 83435 Bad Reichenhall Tel.: +49 8651 7002 6146 Fax.: +49 8651 7002 6196 info@alte-saline.de www.alte-saline.de Lunch
	14:00-18:00	Geologic hike of the Wimbachklamm https://www.berchtesgaden.de/wimbachklamm
	18:00-21:00	Dinner, Evening lectures, End of Day
Lodging: <i>Alpenresidenz Buchenhöhe, Buchenhöhe 34-36, 83471 Berchtesgaden, DE, Phone: +49 8652 600900</i>		
<i>GPS Coordinates: N 047° 37.829, E 13° 3.895 Booking.com: confirmation number: 2586.463.686</i>		
Thursday, June 22, 2023	7:00-8:00	Breakfast
	8:00-8:30	Lecture, Day Overview
	8:30-18:00	Driver over historic Großglockner Pass B311 & B108 to Caprizi IT, w/ field stops & lunch
	18:00-21:00	Check-in, Dinner, Evening Lecture, End of Day
Lodging: <i>Rifugio Malga Grasia, Via Dante, Passo Località Grasia, Caprizi Socchieve, 33020 Caprizi, Italy, Phone: +39 339 567 2365 GPS Coordinates: N 046° 22.066, E 12° 46.715 Booking.com: confirmation number: 2405.248.657</i>		
Friday, June 23, 2023	7:30-8:30	Breakfast, Check-Out, Sack lunches
	8:30-9:30	Lecture, Day Overview
	9:30-18:00	Drive to Mestre, IT through Dolomite National Park via SR348. Multiple field-stops / hikes and lectures including a lunch stop
	18:00-21:00	Check-in, Dinner, Evening Lecture, End of Day
Lodging: <i>LEONE D'ORO Via Leonida Bissolati, 6, 30172 Mestre, IT Phone: +39 335 570 2795 GPS Coordinates: N 045° 29.261, E 12° 14.703 Booking.com 12 Person Confirmation Number: 2634.138.519</i>		
<i>ao Hotel Venezia Mestre, Via Ca' Marcello 19, 30172 Mestre, IT, Phone: +39 041 884 0990, GPS Coordinates: N 045° 28.880, E 12° 14.334 Booking.com 1 Person Confirmation Number: 2633.512.476</i>		
Saturday, June 24, 2023	7:00-8:00	Breakfast
	8:00-9:00	Lecture, Day Overview
	9:00-18:00	Train Venezia Mestre - Venezia Santa Lucia. Venice excursion, multiple field lectures: Geology, Env. Science. Hydrogeology w/Lunch
	18:00-21:00	Dinner, return to Lodging, End of Day

Date	Time	Activity
Lodging: LEONE D'ORO Via Leonida Bissolati, 6, 30172 Mestre, IT Phone: +39 335 570 2795 GPS Coordinates: N 045° 29.261, E 12° 14.703 Booking.com 12 Person Confirmation Number: 2634.138.519		
ao Hotel Venezia Mestre, Via Ca' Marcello 19, 30172 Mestre, IT, Phone: +39 041 884 0990, GPS Coordinates: N 045° 28.880, E 12° 14.334 Booking.com 1 Person Confirmation Number: 2633.512.476		
Sunday, June 25, 2023	7:00-8:00	Breakfast, Check-Out, Sack lunches, Lecture, Day Overview
	8:00-12:00	Drive to Pisa
	12:00-12:30	Lunch
	12:30-14:00	Leaning Tower of Pisa. Geology
	14:00-15:00	Drive to Carrara
	15:00-18:00	Geology & Visit of Marble Quarries (Tickets on site: 15€ pP)
	18:00-21:00	Drive to Lodging, Check-in, Evening Lecture, Dinner, End of Day
Lodging: Al Vecchio Convento Mare e Monti, Via Salita alla Madonna 1, 19034 Ortonovo, IT, Phone: +39 335 745 5727 GPS Coordinates: N 044° 5.196, E 10° 3.177 Booking.com Confirmation Number: 3085.291.236		
Monday, June 26, 2023	7:00-8:00	Breakfast, Check-out
	8:00-8:30	Lecture, Day Overview
	8:30-12:30	Drive to Stresa, IT @ Lake Maggiore
	12:30-13:30	Lunch in Stresa, IT, Field Lecture: Alpine Lake Geology
	13:30-16:30	Drive to Täsch, CH, Train Station w/ Field Stops & Lectures
	16:30-18:00	Park Car, Train Ride to Zermatt, CH
	18:00-21:00	Drive to Lodging, Check-in, Evening Lecture, Dinner, End of Day
Lodging: Zermatt Youth Hostel Staldenweg 5, 3920 Zermatt, CH Phone: +41 27 967 23 20 GPS Coordinates: N 046° 0.958, E 07° 44.916 Booking.com 12 Person Confirmation Number: 3919.507.421, 1 Person Confirmation number: 3267.054.775		
Tuesday, June 27, 2023	7:30-8:30	Breakfast, Day Discussion
	8:30-12:00	Alpine Geology: Ophiolites, Nappe Stacks, Thrust Faulting
	12:00-13:00	Lunch w/ discussion
	13:00-18:00	Alpine Geology: Ophiolites, Nappe Stacks, Thrust Faulting
	18:00-21:00	Dinner. Evening Lecture, End of Day
Lodging: Zermatt Youth Hostel Staldenweg 5, 3920 Zermatt, CH Phone: +41 27 967 23 20 GPS Coordinates: N 046° 0.958, E 07° 44.916 Booking.com 12 Person Confirmation Number: 3919.507.421, 1 Person Confirmation number: 3267.054.775		
Wednesday, June 28, 2023	7:00-8:30	Breakfast, Day Discussion, Check-out
	8:30-9:30	Train to Täsch, Switzerland; Pack Vans
	9:30-11:30	Drive to Rhone Glacier
	11:30-12:00	Lunch
	12:00-14:00	Rhone Glacier Hike / Visit / Activity
	14:00-18:00	Drive to Black Forest area, Hebelhof - Feldberg w/ Fieldstops / Lectures
	18:00-21:00	Check-in, Evening Lecture, Dinner, End of Day
Lodging: Echtes Schwarzwaldhaus - Traditionell & Modern, Kaiserhausstraße 20, 79872 Bernau im Schwarzwald, DE Phone: +49 1522 3075023 GPS Coordinates: N 047° 47.910, E 08° 3.228 Booking.com: Confirmation number: 2156.123.142		
Thursday, June 29, 2023	7:00-8:30	Breakfast, Check-Out, Sack lunches, Day Discussion
	8:30-11:00	Drive, Holzmaden, Fossil Museum & Quarry, Lunch
	11:00-12:00	Urwelt-Museum Hauff , Aichelberger Straße 90, 73271 Holzmaden, Telefon: +49 (0) 7023 2873
	12:00- 14:00	Quarry: www.schieferbruch-kromer.de , E-Mail: info@schieferbruch-kromer.de , Telefon: 0173 9623907 or 07023 4703.
	14:00-15:30	Drive, Nördlinger Ries Impact Crater, Nördlingen
	15:30-18:30	City Walk & Impact Crater Museum http://www.rieskrater-museum.de/index.php/de/ Museum closes at 16:30
	18:30-21:00	Drive to Harburg, Check-in, Dinner, Lecture, End of Day
	Lodging: Old Bavarian House on the Romantic Road, 39 Egelseestraße, 86655 Harburg, DE, Phone: +49 173 4360083 GPS Coordinates: N 048° 47.345, E 10° 41.511 Booking.com Confirmation Number: 3519.571.297	
Friday, June 30, 2023	7:00-8:00	Breakfast, Check-Out, Sack lunches
	8:00-8:30	Lecture, Day Overview
	8:30-12:30	to Rothenburg o.d.T., Old Town Walk, Lunch
	12:30-15:00	Drive through Iphofen to Staffelstein w/ field stops
	15:00-18:00	Staffelstein Therme https://www.obermaintherme.de/ - Bring swim suits
	18:00-21:00	Dinner, Check-in, Evening Lecture

Date	Time	Activity
Lodging: <i>Fränkische Linie - Radspitz-Ferienwohnungen, Mittelberg 10, 96364 Marktrodach, DE, Phone: +49 9223 508</i>		
<i>GPS Coordinates: N 050° 13.869, E 11° 26.260 Booking.com Confirmation Number: 3522.084.553</i>		
Saturday, July 1, 2023	7:30-8:30	Breakfast, Check-Out, Sack lunches
	8:30-9:00	Lecture, Day Overview
	9:00-12:00	Drive & visit Kloster Banz Museum Fossils https://www.hss.de/museum-kloster-banz/
	12:00-15:00	Lunch & Return to NUE

INTERNATIONAL TRIP SURVIVAL GUIDE

YOU WILL NEED

- **Valid Passport** for the anticipated travel dates. All countries visited are party to the Schengen Agreement. As such, U.S. citizens may enter these countries for up to 90 days for tourist or business purposes without a visa. The passport should be valid for at least three months beyond the period of stay.
- **Cell Phone.** Much has changed in the world of communication and almost all cell providers offer international riders for overseas trips. Please talk to your cell phone provider for details. International text is FREE for most providers. Extra data and calling plans may need to be purchased for international travel. In general, incoming calls in Europe are free. As an FYI, T-Mobile is one of the largest cell phone providers in Europe. In order to tap into the European cellular resources, it is recommended that you will bring your own unlocked, internationally capable (GSM quad-band) cell phone. GSM Europe operates on 1800MHz (primary) and 900MHz (secondary). 4G and 5G frequencies are also available according to country. Please contact your provider. All incoming calls will always be free. Outgoing call charges within Europe, even mobile-to-mobile a very nominal, international calls are a bit more.
For charging your phone be sure to bring a plug adapter. The electric outlets look totally different. European household voltage is 220 - 240V, make sure your charger is capable of handling the increased voltage (most chargers do).
You may also buy / rent a phone upon arrival. This, however, will most likely be slightly more expensive. By the way, the German word for cellphone is “handy” (Yup, they use an English word). A text message is referred to as an “SMS”.
- **Data Streaming / Wireless / Mobile Internet.** The wireless infrastructure in Europe, especially central Europe is quite good. Almost all lodgings will have wireless, either for free or sometimes for purchase. Get a VPN for added data security (see below in the “Note the Following” list).
- **International Health & Liability insurance.** Be sure you have international health insurance coverage. The Medical Evacuation Rider is especially important. You will need written proof in order to register for the trip.
- **€ Pocket Change** for public restrooms. Most public restrooms in Europe charge a small usage fee (Yes, they are NOT free). It is a good idea to always have a few coins in your pocket for just such “urgent” occasions. Please announce bathroom needs early when driving. It is almost impossible to get into facilities outside of rest stops.
- **International Youth Hostel Card.** This card is especially important if you want to see Europe on your own beyond our fieldtrip and would like to access cheap lodging. The price is ~ \$30.- and you can apply online at Hosteling International USA: <https://membership.hihostels.com/shop/115>
- **International Driver’s License.** If you want to drive in Europe you must apply for an International drivers license. This can be done through the [American Automobile Association \(AAA\)](#) or through the [American Automobile Touring Alliance \(AATA\)](#). These are usually valid for one year from the date of issue.





WHAT TO PACK

- SMALL Suite Case.** Pack as small as possible. We will be traveling in Rental Vans and there will NOT be much room for luggage. Preferred are “carry-on” sized suite cases. Only ONE small suite-case per person and one hand bag are allowed for the trip. NOTE: European air carriers have smaller carry-on sizes and allowances than their US counterparts.
- Pyjamas.** Since we are frequently using youth hostels or shared room accommodation, you will most likely share sleeping arrangements with other individuals. Some places have gone to a CoEd system, with both males and females being housed in the same room. Even though I will try to avoid these during booking, I have NO control over it. For Bed & Breakfast accommodations we may need to share rooms. So bring decent PJs!
- Electric Outlet Adapter.** See “Electricity” below.
- Camera / Cell Phone:** Well, duh! Spare batteries or charger pack and an extra memory card or cloud storage upload may not be a bad idea. As explained above under “YOU WILL NEED” you may have data restrictions when traveling overseas.
- Personal toiletries,** such as soap, toothbrush & paste, shavers, deodorant, shampoo in small travelers sizes are a good idea. And yes, BRING A SPARE TOWEL, just in case! Make sure you abide by airline rules concerning liquids in carry-on and checked luggage.
- Clothing:** It will be summer and even high altitudes can be warm. T-shirts are always a good idea. Because rain is much more frequent, a light jacket or rain coat should be part of your packing. Firm shoes for hiking, as well as one or two long sleeved items should come along. For “colder” occasions (as pictured below) a light weight beanie hat is great.
 - Swim-Wear:** For visiting beaches, hot-springs, lakes and other occasions.
 - Modest Clothing:** Visiting cathedrals requires clothing that is modest and covers the body. Tank-tops, mini-skirts, shorts, bare-feet are considered irreverent and will bar you from sightseeing these magnificent buildings at some locations (Yes, they frequently have control personal near entrances). Bring appropriate items.
- Umbrella / Rain Coat.** Bring a dollar store umbrella and / or a cheap rain coat. With higher precipitation averages in Europe we will most likely encounter rain.
- Neck / Belt Wallets.** This are just some suggestions to protect your valuables and travel documents. Little pouches that can be worn around your neck and hidden under clothing are great. Zippered belts are also excellent. I would not use strap on day-packs for valuables, since these can be easily stolen, forgotten, etc.



NOTE THE FOLLOWING

Alcohol	<p>Some of you may want to try alcoholic beverages, such as German beer while on the trip. Be aware that European Beer may have a much higher alcohol content (up to 3x) than the American counterpart. While drinking is acceptable in Europe even at younger ages (16) and many pubs stay open until 2:00am, law enforcement is brutally strict when it comes to driving under the influence which includes riding bicycles. The punishment for drunk driving is very drastic.</p> <p>Designated field trip drivers must adhere strictly by the ZERO alcohol policy. NO exceptions! If you are not willing to abide by this rule, do not volunteer as a driver.</p> <p>ALL field trip participants are NOT allowed to consume alcoholic beverages during field trip day schedules.</p>
Clothing	<p>Common sense dictates to avoid extreme, provocative or obscene outfits and appearances. Dress conservative and comfortable. Jeans and t-shirts are definitely acceptable. You also do not want to stand out as an obvious tourist. A dress code may be enforced for visiting cathedrals. See “Sightseeing” below for details.</p>
Covid Restrictions	<p>Covid rules are always changing. It is best to inquire about restrictions as we get closer to our departure date. Here are some common sense items that are most likely required in most European countries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Vaccination Card. Be vaccinated including booster shots and bring your current card. Be also aware that not ALL vaccines may be accepted in Europe. A list of which vaccines are permissible and who currently requires it can be found on the frequently updated COVID PASSPORT website.2. Masking: Masking may be required. European countries are usually much stricter on type of masks and how to wear them. Often these need to be approved / certified N95 masks and they must completely cover mouth and nose. Homemade cloth masks or scarfs are prohibited. Fines for not complying with mask laws can be stiff. Best to bring some certified N95 masks with you, just in case.3. Social Distancing: Similar to our US recommendations, social distancing may be required.4. Covid Testing: As rules are continuously changing, a negative test result may be required for certain venues, especially flights. The cost for such tests will be on you.
Credit Cards vs. Cash	<p>Surprisingly, many European stores still do NOT accept credit cards. Debit cards are much, much more common in Europe. Check with your financial institution to see if your particular card works in Europe. Cash will always work.</p>
Crime	<p>Crime is extremely low where we are going. As at home, use common sense, do not walk alone into dark and shoddy areas in town or visit questionable establishments. Even though it is rare, the most common crime a tourist will encounter is most likely theft. This includes pick-pockets in crowded areas. Keep your values close to you and hidden from sight. We will cover this topic in one of the pre-departure classes.</p>
Dining out	<p>Almost all restaurants are “seat yourself”. It is not uncommon to sit with strangers at the same table and to strike up a pleasant conversation. When ordering water as a drink you will be served sparkling mineral water, which is not free and not to the liking of the average American. For regular water you must specify tap-water (Leitungswasser). Ice is usually never served with drinks. Be aware that in most restaurants there are NO free refills. Every new glass of beverage that the waiter brings costs extra. Tipping: Tipping is now uncommon in Europe and many establishments discourage it. If in doubt it is ok to inquire.</p>

- Driving** There are some different rules when driving. Absolutely **NO RIGHT TURN ON RED**. Running a red light is a minimum €500.- fine. While the Autobahn has **NO** speed limit, there are rules. You must drive always in the right lane. The left lane is to be used **ONLY** for passing and you **NEVER** pass a car on the right on the Autobahn (Huge fines). Tail gating can also result in large fines and is often checked with specialized radar traps near bridges. There are areas of limited speed on the Autobahn (e.g. construction zones). These are often radar trapped. Posted speed limits are **STRICTLY** enforced and radar traps can be anywhere.
- Drugs** While we are now accustomed to legalized recreational drugs in many States, this is not always the case in European countries. (Just remember Britney Griner) Since we are traveling through various countries, what may be allowed in one, may be prohibited in another. Don't assume anything or claim medical exceptions. It is best not to bring any, and I mean any type of recreational drugs or Cannabis derivatives.
- EMERGENCY NUMBER** While in the US the emergency number is 911, in most European countries it is the **112**. Germany makes a distinction between Police and other emergency responders, with Police being the **110** number. Austria has the most bewildering array of emergency numbers. Switzerland also deviates from a uniform number scheme. However, the EU has agreed that **112** is the number to call for **ALL** emergencies. This will also work in non-EU countries such as Switzerland, Denmark, and the UK.
- DVD's** You may be tempted to buy DVDs. While European DVDs contain the English language track, be aware that these DVDs are region coded and will not play on regular US players. Some older DVD player models can be hacked and made region free: <http://www.videohelp.com/dvdhacks> However, streaming services are becoming now more common. If you are interested in foreign language films, most streaming services (e.g. Netflix, Prime, etc.) now offer foreign language tracks which you can switch.
- Electricity**  Household voltage in Europe runs 220 - 240V @ 50Hz, single phase (USA 220V is double phase). Make sure chargers, hair dryers, etc. are capable of handling the voltage. The electric outlets look totally different. You must purchase travel adapters in order to use US electronic equipment in Europe.  Non-grounded plug adapters are cheap and can be had at Walmart or Amazon.
- Food** While many food items are similar, some will surprise you. Try some German bread, it is usually freshly baked in the morning, made from rye and of superb quality. Also German, Austrian and Swiss chocolate is of much better quality than in the US. Pastries are also an item you must indulge in while in Europe. Also, plastic and paper bags will cost extra. Shoppers are expected to bring their own cloth bags.
- Language** The areas we will visit are mostly German speaking. Local dialects are often "heavy" in Southern Germany, Switzerland and Austria, which will make understanding rather difficult for the novice German speaker. However, a surprisingly large number of people speak at least a little English, especially the younger generation (required subject in school). You should have no problem checking in and out of hostels with English language skills alone.
- Medication** Surprisingly, the drug stores in Europe (German: Apotheke) carry a very large assortment of natural remedies, a great deal more than in the US. You can literally buy natural, dry plant materials of various origins for teas and infusions. Homeopathics are also a common repertoire in all pharmacies. Much of the OTC medication is the same as you will find in the USA, but these will have different names (e.g. Tylenol has the name Paracetamol in Germany)

Prohibited “Verboten”	<p>This is a small, almost humorous anecdote to our visit. In general, while in the US everything appears to be allowed unless explicitly prohibited in writing (“Don’t walk on the grass”) and nobody appears to care if you do it anyway. Germany, however, is just the opposite. Everything seems to be prohibited unless specifically allowed. Especially German seniors make it their lives mission to police these petty laws and will LOUDLY yell at you at the slightest infraction.</p> <p>Other violations are more serious. Do NOT cross a street on a red pedestrian light. If police catches you, they can cite and ticket you (YES, under German law you must provide an ID to law enforcement when asked! Even as a pedestrian!)</p>
Public Transportation	<p>Public transportation in Europe is excellent and punctual, especially around Metropolitan areas. Trains connect distant cities with ease and in regular intervals. If you are interested in using public transportation passes for your stay beyond the fieldtrip, let me know. I will provide you with details.</p>
Shopping	<p>All prices already include taxes. The sticker price is what you pay and NO additional taxes will be added at check out. (What you see is what you pay). Almost ALL European countries charges VAT tax, which is reimbursable for foreigners outside the EU. If you are planning on buying a big ticket item (minimum €25.-), VAT tax (which is 19% in Germany) will be reimbursed, either by the store, or more commonly by the customs office when leaving the country. The store will need to give you a completed VAT tax reimbursement form. Keep your form and receipts and plan extra time and paperwork at the airport if you want the VAT tax back.</p> <p>Be aware that plastic and paper bags will cost extra at most stores. Shoppers are expected to bring their own cloth bags</p>
Sightseeing	<p>Dress modestly. Especially cathedrals and churches are starting to bar tourists that are not appropriately dressed. Also show some respect and reverence and avoid loud noises, laughter, etc. in cathedrals and churches since these buildings are still used for religious services, which may be in progress as you enter.</p>
Smoking	<p>While starting to be banned in many public places it is still a much more common activity in Europe than in the US. Many restaurants allow smoking and people smoking on streets or in cars is a common sight.</p>
Trash	<p>In almost all of Europe, trash is required to be separated and recycled. While this may not be an issue during travel, you might need to be aware while staying at certain lodging facilities. Plastic, paper, glass, metal, organics all have their own color coded trash receptacle.</p>
WIFI and Internet VPN	<p>WIFI in Europe is actually excellent and is part of the modern European infrastructure. In many places it is a FREE commodity and is high-speed. Use common sense security measures when logging in to public networks and use the same care as you would here.</p> <p>VPN (Virtual Private Network) is almost a “must have” when using the internet in foreign countries. While there are free VPN providers, some will cost you a fee, but this is well worth the money to keep your data secure. There is also a side benefit when using VPNs, since these can mask the country specific IP addresses of your devices. Thus you may end up getting better deals, for example for flights, when using your VPN because you are getting the better price from the “country of origin” rather than the US marked up cost forced upon IP addresses originating from here..</p>

For Detailed Information about Countries to be visited, please peruse the CIA World Fact Book and download the appropriate country pages for Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France:
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: I am interested in the trip but not a MSU Denver student or a resident of Colorado. Can I go?

A: YES. However, you must enroll as a “Non-Degree Seeking Student” with MSU Denver. The procedure is outlined under Registration. If you have problems or questions, please contact our departmental advisor, Chivonne Torres (ctorre13@msudenver.edu or 303- 605-5967)

Q: I would love to go, but do not need university credit. Can I audit the class or come along without enrolling in the course?

A: YES. Under certain circumstances the instructor can grant you an invitee status to participate in the trip without registering for the course. However, this is primarily reserved for persons with a specific skill set and you will be required to pay the associated trip-fee, follow all student rules, and help with the field trip in one form or another. For expensive destinations invitees can be asked to pay more in order to subsidize travel costs for bona fide, enrolled students. Please inquire with Dr.K (kackstae@msudenver.edu)

Q: I am a MSU Denver alumni and have already graduated. Is it still possible for me to go on this trip?

A: YES. You could do it as a possible invitee without earning credit as explained above. However, the invitee option is selective and limited. In order to earn credit for your transcript even after graduation, you will need to enroll as a “Non-Degree Seeking Student” with MSU Denver. The procedure is outlined under Registration. If you have problems or questions, please contact our departmental advisor, Chivonne Torres (ctorre13@msudenver.edu or 303- 605-5967) After completion of the course, the course and credits will be added to your MSU Denver transcript and will then show up for prospective employers or graduate schools requiring a transcript.

Q: I am enrolled in a geology program at another university. Could this trip possibly count toward my degree at my university?

A: THAT DEPENDS. We have done this in the past, but it is completely up to your native school. You will need to talk to your academic advisors to see if you can transfer this course for credit to your institution. This can even work for graduate credit if you are a graduate student as we have done this successfully in the past. Feel free to contact me if you need more information or have further questions. Uwe Kackstaetter (Dr.K) (kackstae@msudenver.edu or 720-257-4486)

Q: I am a professional and would like to take this course for continuing education credits. Is this possible?

A: POSSIBLY. Check with your professional licensing institution for transferability. If acceptable, you will need to enroll in the course as a “Non-Degree Seeking Student” with MSU Denver. The procedure is outlined under Registration. If you have problems or questions, please contact our departmental advisor, Chivonne Torres (ctorre13@msudenver.edu or 303- 605-5967)

Q: I would love to go on this fantastic trip, but money is an issue for me. I there any financial aid available?

A: POSSIBLY. I have provided a short list of scholarship opportunities above. This is not exhaustive and you are encouraged to do your own research. Because the international trip is required for the course, you would be also eligible for student loans to cover the trip costs. In addition, as a student, you maybe also eligible for Federal assistance if you are enrolled full time during the Summer, which is usually a load of 6 credits or more. Since this Alps course is already 5 credits, one additional small Summer course may get you covered. Please talk with someone at MSU Denver financial aid / accounting for verification.