

UNCW PLS STUDENTS ABROAD

Students: Lethia Williams (picture at right, second from right on the bottom) and Kaitlin Beck (bottom picture, on the left)

Dr. Masters' political tour of Ireland and France, Summer 2008



Photo above, Dr. Masters group, Ireland (2008)

Description of the Course:

Kaitlin: Throughout the semester our class had been learning about the political systems of France, Ireland and Northern Ireland from their birth and development until their present day status. The tour lasted twelve days and was filled to the brim with activities from visiting the Eiffel Tower and Mona Lisa to talking with ex-prisoners of war in Belfast. We also had time to explore the cities on our own and mingle with the locals.



Photo above: The Three Muses, Louvre, Paris (2008)

The Best Part of the Trip:

Kaitlin: Seeing with my own eyes what we had been studying about in our books the entire semester. It was amazing to actually step foot into the Parliament Buildings in Stormont, Belfast knowing how important the building itself was and is to the peace of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Lethia: The biggest thing is to actually experience the other cultures. Along the same lines, also to learn about how they experienced events we discussed in class. For example in Ireland we took a tour of Stormont and people who actually worked out the power sharing arrangement were there.

What was different about you as a result of study abroad?

Lethia: A deeper appreciation for the fact that for all our differences we are really all the same.

Kaitlin: Coming back to the United States I felt like I understood what we had been studying so much more. I was much more acute to the news if trouble in Northern Ireland was the headline and I sometimes still cannot believe that I saw the Cathedral of Notre Dame with my own eyes. Nothing on the internet or in books can compare to actually seeing the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the art in the Louvre, or the murals on the buildings in Belfast. I loved the trip because I am a visual learner and I was not only able see and experience everything we had covered over the last semester I also had my classmates there to discuss everything outside of the classroom. The study abroad trip was one of the best memories of mine from UNCW.



Kaitlin Beck (left) and Jennifer Silon Johnson, Eiffel Tower, Paris, France (2008)