Slovenia Abroad
“Stories from a Homeland of Shifting Borders”

Program Focus

This abroad focuses on the written stories and reflections of a people who have spent all but their last 25 years under the rule of the Roman Empire, Napoleon, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the short-lived communist country of Yugoslavia. Slovenia seceded from Yugoslavia and declared independence in 1991. We will learn about the people and their cultural history through modern and contemporary literature.

Through short stories, essays, and novels—as well as conversations and visits to sites significant to Slovene literature—students will explore the literary and cultural path of the Slovene people from the time of their arrival in the Balkans to present day. On a side trip to neighboring Croatia we will explore that peoples’ not-so-different path as part of Yugoslavia as a comparison study.

Located on the boundary between Western and Eastern Europe, Slovenia seems 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.

This program is open to all students and all majors.

Applications - EXTENSION

Applications are available online at:
http://principiacollege.edu/abroads

Completed applications must be submitted to the Abroad Office no later than 12:00pm on Friday, November 11, 2016.
**Program Preliminary Itinerary**

There will not be a typical day in Slovenia, 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 during the Country Studies course and while in Slovenia and Croatia.

Students will learn the basics of the Slovene language through a brief course at the Center for Slovene Studies in Ljubljana. Day and afternoon trips to literary and culturally significant sites are likely to include the Tolmin Gorge and 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; Lipica and the Lipizzaner stud farm there; the Postojna and/or Skocjan caves, the latter being a UNESCO World Heritage site; not to mention modern literary sites such as the Celica Hostel in the classic European capital city Ljubljana.

Our three- to five-day trip to Croatia will feature the university and tourist town of Zadar; a possible side trip to the Adriatic island of Rab; and Plitvice National Park, a wonderland of waterfalls and the site where the first shots of the 1990s Yugoslav war rang out.

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

*Please note: At this time, this program is scheduled for 3.5 weeks; to begin May 14 and conclude June 7.*

**Academics**

**SPRING SEMESTER 2017**

**SPST 285: Country Studies: Slovenia**  
SH: 3  Attribute: NONE  
This course provides an interdisciplinary survey of contemporary issues in Slovenia. These issues may include geography, cultural history, politics, economics, religion, foreign relations, environment, the arts, etc.

**SUMMER BREAK 2017**

**WLIT 131: Stories Around the Globe**  
SH: 3  Attribute: GEH  
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 and Croatia.

**FALL SEMESTER 2017**

**SPST 281: Reentry Seminar: Slovenia**  
SH: 1  Attribute: none  
Taught on campus fall semester, 2017, 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. Through reflection, writing assignments, and the creation of a documentary presentation for the college community, students will interpret and articulate their growth and experiences.
Financial Aid & Responsibility

Students who will be eligible to receive financial aid for the 2016-2017 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 December 7, 2016, 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, 2017.

Program Selection

Selection will take place during fall semester, 2016. Each applicant will be interviewed by the program faculty and program resident counselor. Equal consideration will be given to all applications submitted by the application due date.

The Principia Abroad Office will notify each applicant on November 22nd, 2016 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 must also be in good standing with regard to the Principia College Community Commitment.

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 abroad.

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 the Slovenia Abroad program will be the same as Tuition, Room and Board for 3 semester hours, plus airfare and a $150 Abroad Administrative fee.

The following items will be INCLUDED in the cost: tuition for 1 course, totaling 3 semester hours; all accommodations, meals, and transportation in-country; lectures; admissions to scheduled sites, museums, and cultural activities planned as part of the program; some insurance; and administrative fees.

Costs NOT INCLUDED: Domestic U.S. and international airfares; passport fees, 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.