

The following information will be published on the Courses page of the Summer Sessions Website :			
Course Title:	The Way of Saint James. An Epic Trail to The Essence of Spain		
Course Number:	SPAN 3325	Credit Hours:	3
First Instructor:	Maria P Pintané	First Instructor Email:	maria.p.pintane@vanderbilt.edu
STAFF	Click here to enter text.	STAFF Email:	Click here to enter text.
Program start date:	05/04/2026	Program end date:	05/30/2026
Program destination(s): (Each city, country - start/end date)	Spain (Madrid-Pamplona-Burgos-Leon-Santiago-Madrid)		
Does this course fulfill any AXLE credit? If so, what?	HCA		
What are the academic pre-requisites (if any) for enrolling in this course?	Intermediate Spanish (any student who may communicate at the Intermediate level of Spanish may take the course)		
What are some conditions or challenges that students will face? (Ex. Hiking long distances, extreme temperatures, rocky terrain, etc.)	Hiking long distances. We will complete 16 long hikes. Average per day is 15 miles, but there are two days of 20miles per day.		
What is covered in the student budget:	Detailed answers below.		
Lodging (Total nights + included amenities):	26 nights of hotel		
Meals:	Total breakfasts: 26 Total lunches: Lunch is NOT included Total dinners: 23 (on Saturday, dinners are not included)		
Transportation (Airfare, public transit, etc.):	All group transportation WITHIN SPAIN is included. NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; departure transportation to the airport; taxis.		
Supplies (Textbooks, gear, etc.):	The Way of Saint James passport		
Excursions (Tour fees, admission fees, etc.):	Group visits to museums, cathedrals, and workshops		
What is <u>not</u> covered in the student budget:	Detailed answers below.		
Lodging (Total nights):	Click here to enter text.		
Meals:	Total breakfasts: Total lunches: Lunches are NOT included Total dinners: Saturday dinners are not included		
Transportation (international airfare, public transit, etc.):	Not included: Airfare; departure transportation to the airport.		
Supplies (Textbooks, gear, personal items, etc.):	No supply is included		
Excursions (Optional activities, tour fees, admission fees, etc.):	Optional activities are not included.		

Visa needed for US passport holders?	NO
Is the cost of the visa included in the student fee?	NO
Does the course have a service-learning component:	NO
Please provide the course description below:	
<p>Leave behind your everyday life, become aware of yourself, of your own limits, and go beyond them. Experience Spain!</p>	
<p>Pilgrimage to Santiago has deeply influenced the culture and physical landscapes of Spain and has remained until today as a major heritage site that attracts thousands of pilgrims every year for very diverse reasons. Having this in mind, this course explores, from a multidisciplinary point of view, the origins, development, and influence of <i>The Way of Saint James</i> in the life, and culture of Spain. Through an examination of the historical, religious, economic, and political discourse, art, literature, and films, we will learn how the cult of Saint James and the route itself has contributed to shape Spanish national identity, and to dynamize Spanish modern economy.</p>	
<p>The program will take place in Spain during 4 weeks and it will include a walking trip along several sections of the medieval route known as the French Way, specifically from Pamplona to Santo Domingo de la Calzada and from Ponferrada to Santiago, more than 200 miles of walking in which students will immerse themselves in the culture of the different regions in northern Spain. Students will visit several major cities relevant to the history of the route (Pamplona, Logroño, Burgos, León, and Santiago) and Madrid (4 days).</p>	
<p>During the course, the physical route will be the classroom where we will discuss the socio-historical, geographical, religious, and cultural significance of this millenary tradition. Also, we will attend talks in cathedrals, monasteries, castles, and museums. As part of the course, students will read and discuss academic articles, watch several films, prepare presentations, keep a journal, and work in a final project.</p>	
<p>What You'll Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk over 200 miles on the famous French Way, from Pamplona to Santiago de Compostela, stopping at significant modern and medieval sites. • Explore key cities like Madrid, Pamplona, Logroño, Burgos, León, and Santiago de Compostela—immersing yourself in the local culture, architecture, and local traditions. • Learn about Spain's diverse regions as you hike through them, visiting cathedrals, monasteries, castles, wineries, and museums. Every day, you will have dinner in a different town. Also, you will participate in local food tastings and cooking workshop. • Engage with guest lectures and workshops in historic settings that bring the history of Saint James and the pilgrimage to life. • Reflect on your journey through journaling, culminating in a final project that connects your personal experience with the academic material. 	
<p>How You'll Learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in discussions while on the trail, deepening your understanding of the history, religious, political, economic, and social dimensions of the pilgrimage. • Read academic articles and watch films that explore the cultural significance of the pilgrimage. • Work on group projects and presentations, where you'll connect course concepts with your own experiences. 	
<p>Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure where the path itself becomes the classroom, and history is brought to life through your steps.</p>	