



HIST 212 Québec: History, Culture, Politics

Duration: online orientation + 2 weeks in Québec

Instructor: Dr. Karim Tiro, Department of History

This course serves as an introduction to the culture and history of Québec, the French-speaking province of Canada. With a population of eight million, and a high degree of social and economic dynamism, Québec is one of the world's most important francophone regions. Despite being surrounded by Anglophones on three sides, French culture remains vibrant in this corner of North America.



Québec is a culturally distinct place whose values have been shaped by its historic relationships with France, the United States, the Catholic Church, and the rest of Canada, as well as hundreds of thousands of immigrants from all over the French-speaking world. As we shall see, life in Québec is a unique mixture of all these influences.



The course will meet at the Université du Québec à Montréal. A hub of culture, politics, and business, Montréal offers students the opportunity to study a wide variety of subjects, such as urban studies, literature, and economics, in either English or French. There will also be a three-day excursion to Québec City, one of the most strategically important cities of 18th-century America, and today one of its best preserved.

An online orientation will introduce students to the topics we will engage and assist them in selecting a topic for local research. Once in Québec, students will benefit from morning seminars with highly-qualified faculty and speakers. The afternoons and evenings will be reserved for research and study, as well as excursions to public markets, museums, churches, music venues, and Indian reserves, just to name a few of the places we will visit.

Some of the class topics will include:

Jesuits, Settlers, and Indians
A New American Nation? Québec's Persistent Threats to
Secede from Canada
Geography, Ecology, and Development
Québec and the Global Economy
Film and Literature
Why Canada's Cities Thrived While America's Declined After
WWII
The Strange Fate of the Catholic Church



While in Québec, students will also pursue their independent research project, which will yield a final paper and presentation. The paper can be researched and written in either English or French, and will be due three weeks after the end of the trip. The subject can reflect the interests of the individual student. Possible topics include:

Health Care in Comparative Perspective
Montreal: International Capital of the Circus Arts
Sustainable Development in Subarctic Ecosystems
Four Centuries of Catholic Art and Architecture
The Canadian Political System

This course will carry **three credits**. It will satisfy the **Diversity Curriculum Requirement** and can be counted toward majors and minors in **History, Modern Languages & International Economics, Catholicism and Culture, and International Studies (Post-Colonial Studies)**.

Tentative dates: May 15-29, 2012

Tentative cost: \$3600

(Includes tuition, airfare, ground transport, accommodation, and some meals.)

This is a new course, and will be offered only if there is sufficient student interest in advance. If possible, please contact Prof. Tiro at tiro@xavier.edu by Nov. 15 to indicate your interest, however tentative.