**Summer 2022 – ACM Study Abroad Experience in Oberammergau, Germany**

**Course Description**

Once each decade, the townspeople of Oberammergau, Germany produce a passion play – a dramatization of Jesus’s life and death – on a scale that dwarfs any other in the world. Rehearsals last six months. Half the town’s residents collaborate to put this on, and nearly a thousand actors occupy the stage together for the crowd scenes. Actors are joined by a massive community choir and orchestra. 500,000 people flock to this tiny town to see this play over the course of its five-month run.

They’ve been doing this since 1634, but the play is changing. Until recently, it was routinely produced by an all-white, all-Catholic, mostly-male cast, and it was widely considered virulently anti-Semitic. But now a new director has taken over. There’s a new and more inclusive vision. The town’s residents – men and women – Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, and atheist – share the stage. Traces of anti-Semitism remain, but with each iteration of the play, the artists work creatively to acknowledge, understand, and expunge them.

The Department of Arts Culture & Media at UTSC is offering a summer course in May-June 2022, in which students study the Oberammergau Passion Play and experience it first-hand. We will investigate this nearly 400-year-old tradition, why it persists, and how it is changing. In Oberammergau, we’ll not only see the play; we’ll also interview cast members, musicians, administrators, audience members, and others in the town. We will seek to better understand what the play means to them, how the tradition is changing, and how the production influences their understanding of this mythic narrative.

Professor Elliot Leffler (Assistant Professor of Theatre & Performance) will teach the class and lead the trip, and will engage students in original research he is conducting on the passion play. The class will meet intensively throughout May and June, with nine days in Germany (departing May 3, prior to the official start of summer term, and returning May 13). This D-level course will be worth 0.5 credit.
Requirements

This D-level course is for advanced students throughout ACM who have demonstrated an aptitude for critical inquiry and collaboration. It requires that students have taken at least 9 credits in ACM, with a cGPA of at least 2.5. Preference will be given to more advanced students, students who have done more extensive coursework in ACM, and students who have demonstrated the highest levels of commitment to academic rigour and collaboration. Current degree-seeking students will receive preference over alumni.

Costs

Thanks to support from the UTSC Dean’s Office, costs to students are minimal. The flights, lodging, and theatre tickets will be fully funded. Students will have to pay individually for tuition, meals, and potentially, for Covid-19 tests (especially if required by laws and policies in May 2022). Students are able to apply for additional funding through UTSC’s Global Learning Travel Fund or International Experience Award Plus to cover the costs of meals and Covid tests. More information will be provided closer to the travel date.

Students’ Responsibilities

Students accepted into ACMD98H3 (Experiential Learning for ACM Programs) must:

- Enrol in, pay tuition for, and complete the course requirements of a summer 2022 ACM course that meets Monday afternoons throughout May-June (tentatively scheduled for 12-2 pm)
- Be fully available to travel to Germany (May 3-13)
- Attend two preparatory meetings during the April 2021 final exam period (which will be scheduled so as not to conflict with exams), and three additional preparatory meetings during the final week of April (after the conclusion of exams)
- Submit documentation of vaccination for Covid-19, and be prepared to mask up whenever indoors (students who require medical exemptions should confer with ACM Program Manager Manaal Hussain or Prof. Elliot Leffler)
- Accept that Covid-19 is an evolving situation, and as such, the department may need to update health and safety protocols for the course and especially the trip, even up to the last minute
- Canadian Citizen Students: Ensure that your passport is valid through at least August 15, 2022. Click here for more information.
- International Students: Obtain visa to visit Germany, if you need one. (This will depend on what country you’re from. Check this website to see if you would need a visa to travel to Germany.)

Application and Deadline

Applicants should fill out all fields in the attached application and submit by email (acm-pa@utsc.utoronto.ca) by Monday, Feb 4, 2022 (11:59pm). Late applications will not be accepted.

Selection

Eleven students and six alternates will be selected by a committee of ACM faculty. The committee will consider applicants’ performance across all courses in our department, their demonstrated aptitude for collaboration, and the potential for future benefit. Alternates will have an opportunity to register for the course and join the trip if and when accepted students decline the opportunity. ACM faculty and staff will be in frequent touch with alternates about the prospects and the timelines.

Contact

Please direct questions to Elliot Leffler (elliot.leffler@utoronto.ca).
Summer 2022: ACM Overseas Experiential Learning Application Form

1. Information

Name: ____________________________________________

Student ID: ______________________________________

Phone: __________________________________________

Email: __________________________________________

Do you have a valid passport? ________

If yes, from what country? __________________________ Expiration Date: ______________________

If no, are you able to obtain one by May 2022? ______ From what country? ______________________

Have you been fully vaccinated for Covid-19? ______

If yes: Which company (or companies) produced the vaccine(s) you were given? ______________________

(Please note: we ask the question above so we can verify that all participants will be recognized as vaccinated, not only by the university, but by the Canadian government, the airline, and the German and Bavarian authorities.)

Please list the Major/Minor/Specialist programs you are enrolled in:

Please list the other ACM programs in which you have taken courses:

3. Other relevant experience: (This might include theatre experience, music experience, experience specifically with passion plays, previous travel to Germany, knowledge of German language, etc.)
4. Short Essays

Why do you want to take this course? (Max 200 words)

Please explain one complex idea you have studied in an ACM course and how you imagine it might relate to the Oberammergau Passion Play. For more on the Oberammergau Passion Play, consider reading [this article](#) and/or watching [this promotional video](#). (Max 300 words)

4. Final Comments

Remember, this course requires you to:

- Enroll in, pay for and complete a summer 2022 D-level course
- Be free to travel May 3-13
- Have an updated passport by May 2022
- Provide documentation of your vaccination against Covid-19
- Have a valid visa to visit Germany (depending on where your passport is from)
- Pay for daily food and drink expenses while you travel, and for a Covid-19 test
- Not be graduating from UTSC in June 2022

Do you have any concerns or comments to raise about these requirements?

If you wish, please provide any additional comments you feel the committee might like to know about your candidacy for this course.