

## Itinerary

### Scandinavia and Baltic Europe, Spring 2009 Geography Field School Proposed by Mryka Hall-Beyer and Aaron Williams

## Finland

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Helsinki</b>	Arrival. Official school opening. Information meeting. Introductory/orientation lectures. Excursion to Fort Suomenlinna; study of the historical geography of the Baltic, and 19 <sup>th</sup> century art-nouveau architecture.
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Helsinki</b>	Morning lectures on Finland's economy and the influence of Nokia. Field study assignment of urban site and situation. Study of port facilities and importance to Baltic shipping. Evening assignment presentations; group presentations.
<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Helsinki</b>	Morning lectures on Boreal and Broadleaf forest Biomes and the Scandinavian shield. Comparisons to Canada. Pollution in the Baltic, the relationship between westerlies and golf stream. A look at gentrification on Helsinki's formal industrial regions. Evening assignment presentations; group presentations.

## Estonia

<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Tallinn</b>	Mid-afternoon ferry from Helsinki to Tallinn (2.5 Hours). Transfer to hotel. Orientation lecture – Tallinn, capital of Tallinn
<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Tallinn</b>	Morning lecture on the historical and political geography of Estonia and the former Soviet Union. Field study of the urban environment, including Viru Gate, Tallinn's old guild houses, and numerous medieval buildings and churches. Evening group presentations on Estonia. Lectures on Estonia's links economically and culturally to Finland. A look at Estonia's renewed problems with Russia.

# Latvia

<b>Day 6</b>	<b>Riga</b>	Morning bus transfer to Riga. En route stops to observe coastal processes on the Gulf of Riga, and rural settings and towns of Estonia and Latvia. Afternoon arrival in Riga. Orientation lecture of the old town, and its historical significance.
<b>Day 7</b>	<b>Riga</b>	Walking tour of the old town of Riga (small groups) to observe the medieval architecture, and urban layout of one of Europe's most beautiful historic centers. Includes a visit to the Occupation Museum, an important resource for understanding the historical and cultural geography of Latvia.
<b>Day 8</b>	<b>Riga</b>	Tour through Riga's art-nouveau districts large urban parks and Latvia' National and soviet era monuments. A focus on Latvian nationalism, ethnic tensions and the significant Russian minority. The implications of EU membership and the re-emergence of Russian power and influence in the region.

# Lithuania

<b>Day 9</b>	<b>Vilnius</b>	Bus transfer, including a stop at the 'Hill of Crosses', the Lithuanian peoples' monument to the war atrocities committed by both Nazis and Soviets. Afternoon transfer to Vilnius.
<b>Day 10</b>	<b>Vilnius</b>	Orientation lecture of Vilnius, capital of Lithuania. Field assignments based on the historical significance and physical urban setting of the city, and the significance of the urban layout. Afternoon visit to the Museum of the Genocide of the Lithuanian People, the former headquarters of both the Nazi and Soviet secret police. Visit to the Lithuanian State Jewish Museum, an important information source for the impact of the holocaust on the city during W.WII. Evening assignment presentations.
<b>Day 11</b>	<b>Vilnius</b>	Daytrip to Trakai Castle National Park, a short distance from Vilnius. Field study of the medieval fortifications of the castles, located on Lake Trakai. Afternoon return to Vilnius. A focus on marchlands peat bogs of this low-lying region and the engineered man-made lake. Time to explore the many urban churches and historical sites.

# Poland

<b>Day 12</b>	<b>Lake district</b>	Transfer by bus to Gdansk, stopping at Grutas Parkas (in Druskinskai, Lithuania) - a bizarre theme park famous for its collection of Soviet era sculptures and other artifacts. Travel to Poland's beautiful lake district, a haven for Polish and German tourism. Once part of Germany's East Prussia this region is once again habited with now visiting Germans.
<b>Day 13</b>	<b>Gdansk</b>	Orientation lecture on historical Gdansk – former stronghold of the Teutonic Knights, thriving Hanseatic Medieval City (known then as Danzig), Poland's dominant city in the 16 <sup>th</sup> Century, important Prussian City, autonomous "Free City of Danzig" after WW1, the strategic port bombarded by the Nazis to start WW2 and the birthplace of Lech Walesa's Solidarity Movement which brought down communism. A day to explore the restored town with its rich history reflected in different architectural styles. Opportunities to visit the museum at Westerplatte, the site where Nazi bombing lead to the outbreak of World War 2 or Sopot, Poland's most fashionable seaside resort.
<b>Day 14</b>	<b>Gdansk</b>	Further explorations of the Baltic Coastline. Further implications of longshore drift and sand spit formations. A focus on Baltic tourism.
<b>Day 15</b>	<b>Warsaw</b>	Transfer by bus to Warsaw, Poland's capital, stopping at Poland's most spectacular Teutonic Knight castle – Malbork – on the way. A focus on the the drainage of the Baltic Plain as well as the relative ease of movement accross this terrain. Orientation lecture and opportunities to explore this cosmopolitan city.
<b>Day 16</b>	<b>Warsaw</b>	Walking tour of Warsaw. A focus on the Warsaw uprising, the destruction of the city, and the rebuilding of the city as Stalin's utopian communist urban center.
<b>Day 17</b>	<b>Krakow</b>	Morning orientation on the historical and political geography of Warsaw – with a special focus on WWII. Field study of the re-built old town. Late afternoon train transfer to Krakow.
<b>Day 18</b>	<b>Krakow</b>	Orientation lecture on Krakow – the jewel of Poland. Explorations of the old town, churches, the Market Square and Wawel Castle. Evening lecture on local environmental issues and group presentations on

geographical topics related to Poland. A focus on acid rain, the black triangle, and slow death of the forests of Southern Poland.

<b>Day 19</b>	<b>Krakow</b>	Morning study tour of Weiliczka Salt Mine. On-site lecture on the geology and historical importance of the mine. Afternoon visit to Auschwitz and Birkenau, WWII Nazi concentration and death camps. On-site lecture and guided tour explaining the holocaust and the geographical significance of these camps.
<b>Day 20</b>	<b>Zakopane</b>	Bus transfer to the mountain town of Zakopane. Afternoon field explorations of the surrounding Tatra mountains. Field assignment on alpine vegetation. Evening orientation lecture on the physical geography of the Tatras region. Assignment presentations; group presentations on Poland.
<b>Day 21</b>	<b>Zakopane</b>	Field assignment on tourism in the Tatra region. Explorations the alpine town, observing its unique architecture and culture. Evening assignment presentations.
<b>Day 22</b>	<b>Overnight train</b>	Morning explorations of Zakopane. Afternoon transfer back to Krakow for evening night train to Berlin.

## **Germany**

<b>Day 23</b>	<b>Berlin</b>	Morning arrival in Berlin. A focus on the contrast between East and West Berlin. The historical divisions within the city during the cold war. Visit the new train station and other extensive public transit projects. A focus on Germany's renewable energy initiatives and sources.
<b>Day 24</b>	<b>Berlin</b>	Field Studies focusing on the re-development of East Berlin, i.e. Potsdammar Platz. The problems of amalgamating to Urban systems governments, workers, and the enormous expense of incorporating and re-developing East Berlin's infrastructure.
<b>Day 25</b>	<b>Berlin</b>	Field studies focusing on the postmodern development within Berlin, including the train stations. The importance of wind turbines on the Baltic plain. A focus on the various options of public transit and integration of these systems with Berlin. A focus on urban renewal, urban revival of East Berlin, and reconstruction of areas still devastated from WWII. Visit the Reichstag, Germany's parliament. Further exploration of Berlin's urban environment. A look at the colonization of the former East Germany by the West. A focus on historical geography, Checkpoint Charlie, and remnants of the Berlin wall.

# Denmark

<b>Day 26</b>	<b>Copenhagen</b>	Transfer by train to Copenhagen, a centerpiece for Scandinavia's urban design and sustainability. A look at co-housing in Copenhagen
<b>Day 27</b>	<b>Copenhagen</b>	Field study of one of the world's largest bridges and the implications of the connectivity it has brought to the region. A focus on the environmental problems in the Baltic. Visit to Kalundborg to study the Industrial Symbiosis model and application.
<b>Day 28</b>	<b>Copenhagen</b>	Final exam, field school final get together