

## NIU COLLEGE OF LAW SUMMER PROGRAM

AGEN, FRANCE

MAY 26 - JULY 10, 2009



The NIU College of Law Summer Program in Agen, France is approved and accredited by the American Bar Association. This will be the 13th annual summer program offered by Northern Illinois University's College of Law and the Université Montesquieu - Bordeaux IV, in cooperation with NIU's Study Abroad Office.

**PROGRAM DATES:** The program will officially begin in Agen, France on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 and will end in Agen on Friday, July 10, 2009. Students will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements in order to arrive in Agen by late afternoon on **Tuesday, May 26, 2009**.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:** This program is designed to give non-French speaking students an understanding of the French civil law system and the legal system of the European Union. Language of instruction is English. Classes will be conducted at the facilities of the Juridical Studies Center of Agen (a part of the Université Montesquieu - Bordeaux IV).

**PROGRAM DIRECTORS:** **Professor Daniel Reynolds** is co-director of the Agen program. At NIU he teaches Contracts and classes in legal ethics and history. His particular specialty is the study of the legal profession and legal ethics, including the history of the American profession and the structure and functioning of legal professions in other countries. While in Agen, he will have responsibility for the course on Civil Law and Civil Lawyers: The French Experience.



**Daniel Reynolds**



**David Gaebler**

**Professor David Gaebler** is co-director of the Agen program. At NIU he teaches Contracts and classes in commercial law under the Uniform Commercial Code, as well as consumer law. While in Agen, he will have responsibility for the course on the Legal System of the European Union.

**FRENCH FACULTY:** A major strength of the Agen program is that it makes extensive use of French law faculty and practitioners to offer lectures on selected topics. Regular lecturers come from the University of Bordeaux, the University of Toulouse as well as the University of Paris.

Students are exposed to the study of law in the European fashion where the lecture/discussion mode predominates over the American case presentation method. The American faculty are present and participating when their French colleagues are lecturing.

Professor Jean-Francis Overstake is the French academic director in Agen and a regular lecturer in the program. He is a professor emeritus at the Université Montesquieu - Bordeaux IV. His primary areas of teaching and scholarship are in civil law, civil procedure, and litigation law. A Fulbright scholar, Prof. Overstake is a member of the Scientific Council of the University of Bordeaux, director of the Comparative Law Institute, and director of the Institute of Judicial Studies. He is fluent in English and French. He has written a book on civil and private law, has published numerous articles, and received the coveted Gold Medal of Bordeaux for his thesis.

Both academic and leisure field trips are being planned as part of the program. Past academic trips have included court observation in both local and national courts (Agen and Paris), “behind the scenes” presentations at the French Senate and National Assembly in Paris, the French Supreme Court and visits to the national judicial school in Bordeaux. Past leisure trips have included visits to the mountains and the Atlantic beaches. As part of the total experience of immersion into the study of law abroad, bi-lingual French law students may also accompany American law students on many field trips and social outings.

**JURIDICAL STUDIES CENTER OF AGEN:** The university buildings in Agen are quite new (entirely rebuilt and renewed in 1994), accessible to persons with disabilities, and provide spacious classrooms. The Center’s administrative offices are within close proximity of the classrooms and students may contact the Center staff for assistance of any type.

**Agen** is located on the Garonne River, in the Aquitaine region. It is a farm-trade and manufacturing center and its products include processed food (notably the dried plums called pruneaux d'Agen), clothing, and pharmaceuticals. Agen was originally the capital of the Nitriobriges, a Gallic tribe. Later it was made the capital of the county of Agenais. Agen became the seat of a bishopric in the 10th century; construction of the cathedral here was begun during the 12th century. Agen is a rich agricultural area, famous for its prunes, Renaissance mansions with art museums, and the Saint-Caprais Cathedral.



**Aquitaine Region:** The region's history began thousands of years ago when Cro-magnon man lived in the caves of the Périgord and left cave paintings in sites such as Lascaux and Les Eyzies. More recent remnants of Aquitaine's history date from the time of Eléonore of Aquitaine, consort of Louis VII, King of France. When

she married Henry Plantagenet, who became King of England in 1154, she began several centuries of conflict between the French and English for control of Aquitaine. Today, the fortified villages and castles built during this time offer charm to the winding countryside and provide interesting stops along the road.

**ACADEMIC CREDIT:** For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion from NIU College of Law for **six** hours of credit. Course performance will be evaluated by the NIU faculty in the same manner that on campus courses are evaluated. The courses taken while participating in this program *cannot* be audited. For non-NIU students, acceptance of any credit or grade for either course is subject to determination by the student's home school. Participation in a foreign summer program is unlikely to accelerate graduation.

**LAW 699A: Civil Law & Civil Lawyers: The French Example** **3 semester hours**

**Description:** What England is to the Common Law world, France is to the other great legal tradition: the Civil Law. This course is a focused, in-depth examination of the French legal system in action. Selections from *Code Civile* are examined in depth, particularly as they relate to the unique structure and functioning of the French system of judicial, administrative and constitutional jurisdictions. The distinctively different role of judges in a non-common law system is examined as are the roles, formation and ethics of the various French legal professions. Judges and lawyers are also observed in on-site court sessions. Selected topics in French substantive law are studied from a comparative perspective.

**LAW 699B: The Legal System of the European Union** **3 semester hours**

**Description:** The legal system of the European Union overlays the domestic legal systems of France and other European Union member states. This course examines the development of the legal and institutional structure of the European Union from the Treaty of Paris (1951) through the Treaties of Rome (1956), Maastrich (1993), Amsterdam (1999), Nice (2003), and subsequent treaties. In addition, this course considers the relationship of the law of the European Union to the domestic law of the member states and examines selected substantive aspects of European Union Law.

**ELIGIBILITY/ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:** The program is open to all NIU College of Law students and students from ABA-approved colleges or schools of law. Applicants must meet NIU College of Law GPA requirements for good standing (2.0). Students on academic probation during the semester prior to the program will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Non-NIU law students must be separately admitted to the NIU College of Law as visiting students for the summer. Non-NIU students are required to have their law school send an official transcript to the NIU Study Abroad Office. (Student-issued transcripts and photocopies are not acceptable.) **Applicants must participate in the *entire* program and satisfy NIU course requirements (completion of all first year courses).**

Students cannot have any encumbrances against their NIU records. Any encumbrances placed on a student's records by NIU (i.e., the Graduate School, Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar's Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student is granted admission to a study abroad program.

**APPLICATION FORMS AND DEPOSIT:** Applicants must submit the following at the time of application:

1. Application for NIU Administered Study Abroad Programs (attached)
2. Student Application Agreement (attached)
3. Course Form (attached)
4. One recent passport-size (2x2) photo for the International Student ID Card
5. \$200 deposit
6. A clear and readable copy of the first page of passport (if you already have a passport)

**\$200 DEPOSIT:** Each application is to be accompanied by a \$200 check or money order (made payable to NIU) and the \$200 will be applied to the program cost. **Applications that are not accompanied by the \$200 deposit will be returned to the sender.** *(This \$200 is also required of individuals who will be applying for financial aid.)*

**APPLICATION DATES:** Students are urged to apply early as **there are only 25 spaces available.** NIU law students applying by March 6, 2009 will be given priority. All applications should be submitted by April 1, 2009.

**HOUSING AND MEALS:** Housing will be in comfortable, private rooms in the University Institute for Teacher Formation (IUFM). The IUFM is a charming, turn-of-the-century building, formerly a prestigious Ecole Normale, now used for teacher training and as a conference center for a variety of adult post-graduate educational activities. The student rooms are not accessible by elevator. Thus special arrangements would be necessary for persons with disabilities. Breakfast, week day lunches and most evening meals are provided as part of the program cost. **(Program housing is not available prior to noon on the first day of the program, May 26, 2009).**

**MARRIED LAW STUDENTS, ACCOMPANYING SPOUSES, CHILDREN OR GUESTS:** The program, including estimated costs, is based on a single unaccompanied individual law student. **THERE ARE PRESENTLY NO PROVISIONS MADE IN THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING HOUSING AND MEALS, FOR ACCOMPANYING SPOUSES, CHILDREN OR OTHER GUESTS.** In the event a law student wishes to be accompanied by a spouse or children or other guests, all arrangements for housing, transportation, food, insurance, child care, leisure activities and the like for extra people are the responsibility of the student alone. **IN ANY EVENT, THE COST OF THE PROGRAM REMAINS THE SAME, WHETHER OR NOT A STUDENT STAYS IN PROGRAM HOUSING.** Non-law students are not allowed to enroll in academic courses for credit. Accompanied students may be able to arrange for their guests to join in the field trips and other program social activities, but only with **sufficient advance notice and agreement to pay a surcharge for the guests.** All law students are expected to participate in **all** program academic activities.

**TRANSATLANTIC TRANSPORTATION:** Individuals will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements between the U.S. and Agen and for purchasing their tickets from a travel agent or airline of their choice. **Travel insurance is recommended.** Students may choose to fly from the U.S. to Paris, and take the TGV (fast train) from Paris to Agen. (The cost

for a first class one-way train ticket is approximately \$100). Participants should keep in mind that in order to arrive in Agen in time for the official beginning of the program (May 26), they should plan to depart the U.S. no later than May 25, 2009. For information regarding airfares and airlines students may wish to checkout airfare sites on the Internet.

**PASSPORT:** All participants must possess a valid passport in order to participate in this program. *Important Note: U.S. passports must be valid SIX months beyond the intended stay overseas.* Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one immediately. Information on acquiring a passport is available at the U.S. State Department's Website: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html). U.S. passport holders do not need special visas for this program. Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel in Europe **and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.**



**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IDENTITY CARD:** These cards are provided as part of the program cost. The International Student I.D. card can, among other things, provide discounts on rail passes for excursions in France and other countries, in addition to international airfare. Students will receive an application and instructions for obtaining this card when accepted into the program.



More importantly, the International Student Identity Card also includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. Students will have to pay bills at the time of treatment and will be reimbursed later.

**ORIENTATION INFORMATION:** An *Orientation Handbook* will be distributed by the Study Abroad Office in May of 2009.

**NIU PROGRAM COST:** The cost of the six-week program in Agen includes the following items:

- 1) Housing accommodations and meals (breakfast, most weekday lunches and most dinners) as described.
- 2) Land transportation to all program-related sites.
- 3) Admission fees to all program-related cultural and historical sites.
- 4) International Student ID Card.
- 5) NIU tuition for 6 semester hours of credit.
- 6) NIU Student Health Insurance.

**PROGRAM COST: \$6,500**

**Final payment deadline: APRIL 15, 2009**

**\*All prices quoted are subject to change.** The information contained in the program documents and forms is presented in good faith and is an approximation as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.

Non-NIU students should consult with their home institutions regarding additional costs that may apply to study abroad. Non-NIU students are responsible for any study abroad charges imposed by their home institution.

**ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS:** Airfare, meals not provided as part of the NIU program package; cost of acquiring an American passport; books and supplies; and purchases of a personal nature. For purposes of financial aid, these costs as estimated for Summer 2009 are as follows: airfare \$1,300; meals not provided by the program \$450; cost of acquiring an American passport (including pictures) \$130; books and supplies \$125; and personal expenses \$1,850. You must contact Pamela Rosenberg, the Business Manager for the Division of International Programs, in order for a budget for the 2009 program to be sent to the Student Financial Aid Office on your behalf.

**NIU STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN:** NIU requires all study abroad students to be covered under the NIU Student Health Insurance Plan. The premium has been paid as part of the NIU program costs. Enrollment in this plan is mandatory and will not be waived.

Because enrollment in the insurance plan for the spring semesters extends through the summer term, students already enrolled during the spring semester will be given a credit on their program cost.

**FINANCIAL AID:** As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, you may be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, MAP Award or your privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization. Tuition waivers do not apply. **Please contact Pam Rosenberg, the International Programs business manager, at [prosenberg@niu.edu](mailto:prosenberg@niu.edu) or 753-9530 regarding the process for applying for financial aid for study abroad, not the College of Law Financial Aid Office.**

**WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM:** Applicants withdrawing from the program after April 1, 2009 will not be refunded the \$200 program deposit.

Applicants withdrawing from the program after this date will also be held accountable for any funds obligated on their behalf. This provision is in effect even if the applicant has not submitted the \$200 deposit or additional payments, and if the applicant is applying for financial aid.

If the applicant must withdraw after April 1, 2009 for medical reasons, the \$200 deposit will be refunded only if the request is submitted to the Study Abroad Office in writing and accompanied by a signed statement from a physician on the physician's letterhead. After this deadline, all funds obligated on your behalf can only be refunded if those monies are refunded to NIU by overseas agents and vendors.

**STANDARD PROGRAM CANCELLATION POLICY:** The Study Abroad Office reserves the right to cancel this program if the minimum required enrollment is not attained. If, prior to the commencement of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for France, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation

of the program. In the event that the program is canceled by International Programs or the Juridical Studies Center of Agen, students shall receive a full refund of all monies. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for France, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

Applications submitted to the Study Abroad Office after April 15, 2009 must be accompanied by a check or money order for the **full** program cost in order to be considered for acceptance in this program. Applications not accompanied by the full program costs cannot be accepted by the Study Abroad Office.

### **QUOTES FROM PAST PARTICIPANTS:**

“The chance of a lifetime to experience an entirely different atmosphere in land, people, food, etc.”

“I would encourage students to participate in this program for the experience of living in the happiest city in France and for learning about French law from French avocats.”

“I thought the program was excellent. Deciding to go was one of the best decisions I have ever made.”

**NIU Study Abroad Office Website:  
<http://www.niu.edu/studyabroad>**

Northern Illinois University and the Université Montesquieu - Bordeaux IV reserve the right to alter or cancel this program as may be deemed necessary!