Indigenous Sámi Culture and Connection to the Land in Arctic Europe
Romsa (Tromsø) and Kárášjohka (Karasjok), Norway

Term Offered:
Summer 2016 A-term

Approximate Dates of Instruction:
July 7, 2016 to August 4, 2016

Application Deadline:
March 11, 2016

Info Session: Thursday, January 21, 2016, 3:30 in Raitt 314

This program is co-sponsored by the Department of American Indian Studies.

One of the important tools used to colonize the Indigenous Sámi people has been the ordering of knowledge traditionally enshrined in the university. This Eurocentric way of knowing tends to value the abstract over the specific and the individual over the collective, dividing knowledge into separate disciplines and often treating the objects of knowledge as devoid of agency or inherent worth. Not only has this way of knowing opened Sápmi (or Sámi Land) to the controlling, knowing gaze of the colonizer, it has also overwritten and sometimes silenced the place-based intellectual and philosophical traditions of the Sámi, turning their beloved Sámi Eadnan (Sámi Mother Earth) into commodifiable “natural resources” while positioning Sámi knowledge as quaint, unreliable, and outdated, and establishing the outside scientists and scholars as the reliable experts who are authorized to speak the truth about the Sámi and their land.

In the face of this powerful colonial onslaught, though, traditional Sámi ways of knowing and ways of relating to place have continued, adapting to the new contexts in ways that have allowed Sámi culture to both survive and, in places, thrive. This cultural resilience is a testament to the strength of the Sámi’s place-based ways of knowing and being. This program will bring students to the Norwegian side of Sápmi in order to study and encounter Sámi place-based culture and ways of knowing, and some of the complex ways in which these have interacted with majority, colonial culture and institutions. We will travel to the small coastal community of Gáivuotna/Kåfjord, where we will attend the annual Sámi-hosted Indigenous music and cultural festival Riddu Riđđu. In addition to
experiencing a variety of yoik and other cultural performances, students will also have ample opportunity to interact with Sámi attendees and performers, and to see how the Sámi situate their own artistic traditions within a larger global Indigenous context.

Courses:
CHID 470A / AIS 275A / SCAND 341: Sámi Culture and the Sounds of Place (5 Credits)

CHID 470B / AIS 275B / SCAND 437: Theorizing Global Indigenous Studies (5 Credits)

CHID 470C / AIS 275C / SCAND 399: Introduction to the North Sámi Language (2 Credits)

Fulfills Requirements:
CHID Cultural and Historical Engagement
CHID Power & Difference

Total Program          $5,950
Fees:

*Note that the fees stated above do not include some additional costs, including, but not limited to: airfare, Study Abroad Insurance ($2/day), and personal spending money. Remember that these costs will differ by program. Be sure to read our Fees, Financing, and Withdrawal information for details about the fee structure and payment schedule.

APPLICATIONS ARE CLOSED FOR THIS PROGRAM. VIEW MORE DETAILS AT THE UW STUDY ABROAD WEBSITE.

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