



UNC Summer Study Abroad: ***THE CHEROKEE NATION***

This summer class will follow the Cherokee exodus eight hundred miles west to the contemporary Cherokee Nation, where we will live and study in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, the national capitol.

Through this experience we will come to understand both the historical forces and contemporary currents that shape a modern tribal nation in the United States, with unparalleled access to the leaders and members of that community that once called Carolina home.

In class students will learn introductory Cherokee language, study contemporary Cherokee film, animation, art, and literature, and take the law and history course designed for employees of the Cherokee Nation itself by council member and renowned scholar Dr. Julia Coates (UC-Davis), who is actually going to teach it to us directly. We will also meet her co-author for that course – Principal Chief Chad Smith – as we explore the multiple and dynamic aspects of contemporary Cherokee life in eastern Oklahoma through interactions with Indian health experts, tribal policemen, Cherokee animators,

environmental officers, and cultural leaders.

Students will play stickball, Cherokee marbles, and participate in a traditional Cherokee stomp dance. They will visit Indian health centers, some of the most

renowned tribal museums and collections in the world, a tribal casino, the house of Sequoyah (the world's only person to single-handedly invent a written language), Fort Gibson (the place where North Carolina based Cherokees ended their long "Trail of Tears") and numerous other sites of importance. The course will be managed by UNC faculty member Tol Foster (tafoster@unc.edu), who grew up in the area and is a member of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma.

Program Dates: May 24 - June 14, 2009

Application Deadline: Dec. 3

Eligibility: All students with a 3.0 GPA better.

Cost: \$2750 (Includes tuition and fees, course pack, housing, field trips, etc. Does not include transportation to Tahlequah or food.) This amount reflects a generous subsidy from the Burch Programs.



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Program Life

Students will be staying at Northeastern State University (NSU), which has the highest enrollment of American Indian undergraduates in the world, some of whom will be joining us for the course and sharing their understandings of the contemporary Cherokee nation. NSU is based in Tahlequah, Oklahoma – considered one of the most picturesque small towns in America, nestled as it is in the Ozark forests near the Illinois river, a great site for river rafting and fishing. Students will be immersed in the contemporary cultural life of one of the most dynamic and successful tribal nations in the world, but also come to understand the tremendous struggles with history and poverty for all peoples of contemporary eastern Oklahoma.

How to Apply

Applications will be provided by the Summer School starting in November and will be accepted by the Summer School beginning November 20th until December 3rd. Because seats are limited, all students may not be accepted. Student participants will be notified of admittance into the course in December, and must provide a deposit in January to the Summer School office in order to reserve their seat for the course. Final balance will be due in early March.

For Questions or More Information:

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