

Staff Ride to Normandy

Since 2000, the Department of History has supported experimental courses that take students and alumni to significant battle sites in the United States and Europe. The department now has a regular historical field study course, History 409 A-Z, and this summer will offer History 409N Historical Field Study in Normandy, France that will focus on the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 1944. In the summer of 2003, the department offered a staff-ride to Normandy and an article with photos on this staff-ride as well as other examples may be accessed on the Department's website at <http://> under historical field study programs.

What will be the focus of the Normandy expedition? Students, alumni, and instructors will investigate the military operations from both the German and Allied sides with emphasis on the beach assaults by the allied forces and ensuing campaign to break out of the contentin Peninsula and liberate Cherbourg. They will also explore other aspects of the campaign such as its impact on the physical environment, on cities and towns in the region, on the French civilians, and how casualties and POWs were treated. Cultural, sociological, and psychological elements will be integrated into the military narrative.

What is a staff-ride? In the tradition of the military staff-ride, military leaders will ride the battlefield in order to study its development and gain "lessons learned" from this experience. The CSUN version of the staff-ride is to have participants prepare required reading before the staff-ride, research the actions of a specific person, aspect, event or military unit during the Normandy Campaign, and during the staff-ride in Normandy at the appropriate time and place, present their researched perspective on their personality or military unit.

Orientation Meeting: An orientation meeting will be held on Friday, December 1st at CSUN in the Whitsett Room (Sierra Hall 451) at 11 a.m. and at 7 p.m. for any interested students and alumni. The instructors will review the plans for the staff-ride, the daily activities, the requirements, and the travel expenses and timeline for payments to secure a place on the staff-ride.

Instructors:

Dr. Stephen Bourque: Professor Bourque completed a career as a U.S. Army Officer with combat duty during the Persian Gulf War. After obtaining a Ph.D. in history, Professor Bourque served as a part-time instructor at CSUN from 1998-2005 and earned the CSUN Distinguished Teaching award in 2001. He has published several books on the Persian Gulf War and other topics related to the history of warfare. He initiated the staff-ride at CSUN in 2000 with trips to Civil War sites at Chickamauga and Antietam and the French Revolution in Paris. He is currently an Associate Professor at

David Livingstone: David Livingstone completed his Masters in History degree at CSUN and has taught history classes at Moorpark College. As a participant in a number of the early staff-rides, David obtained the experience to become a chief adviser to Professor Bourque on the planning of future staff-ride locations, the logistics of the trip as well as serving as an adviser to participating students and alumni.

Requirements:

Travel Itinerary:

5-May Saturday Orientation Class—4 hours

18-June Depart LAX for Paris

1-July Depart Paris for LAX (participants will have the option to stay over for further self-selected activities)

TOUR FEATURES

12 nights accommodations at indicated hotels or similar with private bath

Continental or buffet breakfast daily (depending upon hotel's service)

Lunch provided in Giverny – 4 additional box lunches provided during the trip

Entrance fees to the house of Monet – Pegasus Museum – Canadian Museum – Arromanches museum – Bayeux tapestry – Utah beach Museum – Airborne Museum – Caen War memorial – Mont Saint Michel

Porterage of 1 piece of luggage per person throughout

Hotel taxes and service charges

Total Estimated Cost per person: \$3,200