MINIGUIDE FOR UCSB TRAVEL-STUDY PROGRAM IN TURKEY
Christine M. Thomas, Program Director • Summer 2010
program website: http://www.summer.ucsb.edu/TurkeyTravel/turkeygeninfo.html
course website: http://www.religion.ucsb.edu/faculty/thomas/TurkeyProgram.html

Before you leave campus:
• **Readings:** Textbooks are available at the UCen bookstore. Complete the readings before you leave the country, using the reading guide and study sheets provided.
• **Passport:** get one as soon as possible.
• Turn in the documents listed on the program website for the 1 June deadline: health history, travel clearance, xerox of passport.
• Inform the Summer Sessions office of any changes in your e-mail address or telephone contact over the summer.
• **Travel insurance:** University travel insurance provides for medical treatment abroad, emergency evacuation, and travel assistance (www.uctravel.org). You might want to get additional insurance, or be aware of coverage you already have. Some people are covered in their parents’ policy. Additional insurance can be provided through the International Student ID card easily obtainable through www.sta.travel.com.

Planning your itinerary
• **Orientation Meeting in Turkey:** 5 pm, Sunday, August 22 at the Crisler Library.
• **Classes begin:** Crisler Library, 9:00 am, Monday, August 23.
• **Classes end:** noon, Friday, September 10.
• You will feel better if you arrive the day before the program: Saturday, 22 August.
• **Don’t overnight in Izmir.** If you fly into Izmir, it is less expensive to head straight to Selçuk. I will arrange transport for students flying into Izmir as soon as I know your flight schedules.
• Some people find they can save on airfare by booking a flight to Istanbul and contacting a local travel agent to purchase airfare from Istanbul to Izmir. A good agency who knows our program is Tutku Tours: info@tutkutours.com.

Advance travel planning: In the next couple weeks
• **Immunizations:** See your doctor and make sure your immunizations are up to date and appropriate for travel abroad. Ask your doctor about an immune globulin shot, sometimes used as a Hepatitis A vaccine, and as a general immunity booster.
• **Prescription medicine:** bring a sufficient supply, and an extra written prescription.
• **Currency abroad:** The Visa Check cards offered by many US banks will work abroad. Inform your bank of your travel plans before you leave. They may block your card if they see sudden charges from abroad. Find out how much they charge for withdrawing money from ATMs abroad.
• **Do not use travellers cheques** except as a small backup reserve. Banks abroad will charge large commissions.
• **Luggage restrictions:** Be aware of charges and limits for checked bags on all the airlines you will fly. Carry-on restrictions in Europe are more stringent. Follow the rules for liquids and gels in your carry-on luggage (www.tsa.gov).
• **Appliances:** Check to see whether they work on 220V.
• **Communications:** wireless internet and broadband computers at the Crisler Library make Skype a good option, but you will need a headset with microphone, or an IPhone with WiFi access. Cell phones bought in the States generally will not work abroad unless they are “unlocked.” Those with GSM service will, but is usually very expensive, and you may want to limit communication to short texts. Other options are international calling access numbers through your phone company, or prepaid calling cards that can be used abroad. Never call direct from your hotel phone.

• **Reserve a hotel room** for at least the first few days (see website and guidebook). The Akay tends to fill up. There are a lot of options and rates vary a great deal.

**Packing and what to bring**

• Bring a good **sun hat** and **sturdy shoes**. I will not take students on field trips who are wearing flip flops or sandals, because this is a safety hazard. Students have suffered mild sunstroke during the first week because they did not wear hats.

• **Laptops:** Because of the good wireless internet at the Crisler Library and the relatively safe situation in Selçuk, we encourage students to bring their laptops. Exercise caution while en route, and get a laptop lock.

• Do not put your money, passport, laptop, or prescription medications in your checked baggage. Carry them with you.

• **Entry visa:** You will need $20 or 15€ in cash upon arrival at the airport, or seaport, in Turkey, to pay the fee for a tourist visa.

**Budget items**

• Remember that there will be **expenses in Turkey** in addition to food and lodging. Transport from Izmir will run around $100 RT. **Museum entrances** will cost about $50, and transport for local fieldtrips another $10. If you want a **sourcebook**, that is another $20. Travel outside the program – weekend travel, additional outings around Selçuk – will cost extra.

**Contacts**

• Before the program begins, issues of registration, finances, and documentation are handled by the **Summer Sessions Office**. Our Program Manager is Doris O’Leske, phone 805-893-2069, or d.oleske@summersessions.ucsb.edu.

• Before the program, **Prof. Thomas, Program Director**, is available for all questions about travel and Turkey, and about academics. You can contact her here and in Turkey at thomas@religion.ucsb.edu or her cell: 805-453-2541.

• In **Turkey**, she can also be reached from Thursday, August 19, at the Crisler Library, phone 0-232-892-8317.

• You can contact all other students through the **list-serve:** artemis@religion.ucsb.edu.

**Web information for the program**

• The **guidebook** has more extensive information on all the topics above, and also useful advice on routes to get to Turkey, avoiding jet lag, specific packing lists, hotels, and fun nearby places to travel before or after trip. It is at www.summer.ucsb.edu/TurkeyTravel/TurkeyHandBook.pdf

• Our **course website** has reading lists, study guides, syllabuses, local information on Selçuk, and comments and advice from past students from this program: www.religion.ucsb.edu/faculty/thomas/TurkeyProgram.html