

THIS IS A DRAFT SYLLABUS. The final course details are still in the works, but this will give you a sense of what we're covering.

RTV 4930: Exploring Portugal

Summer A 2025

3 Credits

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Office hours: M 2:00-3:45 or by appointment/Zoom

Accommodations: Students needing classroom accommodation should connect with the Disability Resource Center. Please provide this documentation to the instructor before we leave for our trip.

Academic honesty: On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The [Conduct Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

Course objectives: This course will more cover what it means to explore a new place. This course is for anyone interested in delving deeper into our host nation's culture and maximizing personal growth through travel. We'll explore our new surroundings thoughtfully while respecting the people and culture.

Topics will include:

- Portugal: geography and history
- Helpful phrases and vocabulary in European Portuguese
- Portuguese cuisine and customs
- Art and architecture of Lisbon and Porto
- Lisbon Pop Culture
- Portuguese Media
- Exploring on foot and using public transportation
- Situational awareness and observing a place
- What is "American culture"? What do Portuguese citizens think of our culture?

This course will consist of online readings/viewings, classroom lecture and discussion, and some "outside of the classroom" meetings during scheduled class times. Students will also complete several assignments outside of class, which will be described on Canvas.

As we only meet in person seven times during our trip, attendance and punctuality are mandatory. The general policy for all study abroad classes is a missed class means a loss of a full letter grade. Being tardy (5+ minutes) to class is the loss of a half letter grade. In addition to our face-to-face meetings in Lisbon, we will have two scheduled Zoom meetings before we leave, and one additional Zoom meeting upon our return.

Quizzes: at the beginning of three of our in-class meetings, we will have a short (unannounced) quiz covering the lecture/discussion from the previous class meeting. Any portion of the quiz missed due to tardiness will result in a loss of credit for that portion of the quiz, so please be on time!

Grade:

Quiz 1	5
Quiz 2	5
Quiz 3	5
Exercise 1 (Stoked! Lisbon)	10 (+2 if you post about it on the Adventure Blog!)
Exercise 2 (Stoked! Porto)	10 (+2 if you post about it on the Adventure Blog!)
Exercise 3 (Travel journal)	25
Exercise 4 (Observation Lisbon)	15
Exercise 5 (Observation elsewhere)	15
Participation	10

Below is an *example* schedule from a previous iteration of this course:

Meeting 1 (on Zoom): Intro to international travel and intro to the course.
Viewing 1 and Exercise 1 and 2 assigned.

Meeting 2 (on Zoom): Guest speaker. Intro to Greek culture and Greek islands. Q and A with guest speaker. Exercise 3 assigned.

Meeting 3 (London 5/9): Helpful Greek vocabulary. Exercise 4 assigned. (Optional exercise offered, to replace either exercise 4 or 5.)
Exercise 1 due.

Meeting 4 (London 5/10): Greek regional cultures and geography

Meeting 5 (London 5/15): Contemporary Greek History (Post WWII) Exercise 5 assigned.

Meeting 6 (London 5/17): Athens in history and today
Exercise 2 due.

Meeting 7 (London 5/20): Geography and Culture of Crete

Exercise 4 (or alternative exercise) due.

Meeting 8 (Chania 5/24): Exploring Chania

Meeting 9 (Heraklion 5/27): Exploring Heraklion

Exercise 5 (or alternative exercise) due.

Meeting 10 (on Zoom, Date TBD): Reflections and lessons learned

Exercise 3 due.

Reflection Paper (General for Study Abroad, not just our class)

As part of your Study Abroad experience you will write and submit a two-page (550-word minimum) reflection paper. The student you are now is not the same person who left a few weeks ago. You've had many incredible moments packed into a short span of time and little downtime to think about it all. Taking time to reflect on your experience is important.

Your reflection paper must answer the following questions:

- What did you discover about yourself?
- How can you extend this experience into a professional setting?
- Discuss the people you met along your journey.
- What surprised you the most about your experience?
- What did you learn from a challenging situation you faced?

550+ words, double-spaced, 12pt font.

This paper is due June 5th at midnight on the Study Abroad Canvas Course. Final grades for your study abroad courses will not be processed until you have completed this paper.