Program Dates
This is a 3-week program running from May 19 - June 10, 2015.

Info Session: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 4:30pm in Trinity 305

Application Deadline
Wednesday October 15, 2014 by 5:00pm. Note that the application requires your advisor’s signature.

Course Title: Folklore and Folk Life in Western Romania. In this program you will experience the rich folk traditions of the rural peoples of Romania, learning dances, songs, stories, farming practices, and cooking procedures, and you will also study crafts and other folk customs as we get to understand their social significance. In this little visited part of Europe Romanians have lived side by side with Germans, Hungarians, and Roma (gypsies) for as long as a thousand years, and folk traditions of dance, music,
religion, food, architecture, crafts, and storytelling are still a rich part of people’s identities—though with modernization many old ways are fading fast.

Getting to know rural folk traditions is a window on sustainability. People grew, spun, wove, and crafted their food, clothing, bedding, furniture, and dwellings; produced their own energy; created their own elaborate entertainments, and wasted nothing.

The program will focus on folklore and folk life from the western third of Romania known as Transylvania, one of the areas of Europe with the best preserved folk traditions. We will work and study in and around two different sites: Cluj, in central Transylvania, and Sibiu, in the southern part of the region. We will witness and participate in singing, dancing, storytelling, and making traditional crafts under the guidance of traditional folk artists.

We will study folk traditions up close—with fiddles tuning, pies baking, and cows mooing in the background—and explore how traditions are used to build community, orchestrate shared efforts under challenging circumstances, and celebrate key events in life: birth, adolescence, courtship and marriage, raising up the next generation, death, and the afterlife. We will also have time in our daily seminar to discuss, reflect, and write about the folk traditions of Transylvania and their meanings, with and without the presence of local experts.

In Cluj, our resident expert, the curator of folk culture for Cluj County, will take us to four different villages outside the city. There we will be hosted by villagers who will share their customs, their food, and their music and dances. On days between the visits to villages we will have our ongoing integrative seminar as well as dance and folk singing classes at the student cultural center in Cluj.

Near Sibiu, a medieval Romanian-German city in southern Transylvania, we will be hosted by the Village Museum, one of the largest preserves of folk architecture and folk culture in Europe. The museum’s holdings include an array of houses, barns, mills, churches and other traditional structures arranged in a large wooded park. At the village museum you will be able to choose from daily classes on many different traditional crafts taught by craftspeople brought in from all around Romania. Their offerings will include pottery, icon painting, basket weaving, woodcarving, doll-making, and textile weaving. On visits to nearby villages you can study local
cooking, cheese-making, and other folk arts. Our resident expert will be a curator and former director of the village museum.

Sibiu was named the European Capital of Culture a few years ago, and it is a thriving cultural magnet. The ancient city, with its beautiful plazas and medieval walls, hosts theater festivals, with street performances and art displays as well as plays by world-renowned companies. We will be housed in a recently-constructed inn on the museum grounds, but buses run to town every hour and inexpensive taxi service will make it possible to spend evenings and other free time in Sibiu.

As a backdrop to the program, Romania overthrew the dictator Ceausescu in 1990, and while the struggles to emerge from the socialist system have still not fully succeeded, they were soon overtaken by Romania’s accession to the European Union in 2007. Romania is something of a model of Balkan ethnic relations, and tensions between ethnic groups have taken some creativity to manage. Going back in time, Romanians claim as their ancestors the ancient people called the Dacians, who were invaded two thousand years ago when the area became a province of Rome. The city of Cluj boasts several Roman ruins, and Dacian ruins are not far away. The Romanian language mostly derives from Latin, and it will fascinate those of you who know some French, Spanish, Italian, or Latin.

**Faculty Director**

The program will be led by Professor Charles Temple from the HWS Education Department. Professor Temple, a storyteller and folk musician, has travelled and consulted in Central Europe for 18 years, and was a Fulbright scholar in Romania in 2006. Accompanying us will be Professor Codruţa Florin Temple, a professor of language studies at SUNY Cortland who grew up in Cluj, Romania, and was a teacher and high school principal there.

**Themes and Focuses of the Course**

1) You will participate as actively as possible in local folk traditions, by learning Romanian stories, songs, and dances - and sharing with locals American songs, stories, and dances.
2) You will explore the folklore and way of life of traditional rural communities in Transylvania, including practices of farming, labor sharing, food preparation and storage, colloquial architecture, religion, dance, music, storytelling, arts and crafts, and social rituals and customs.
3) You will observe similarities and differences in the folk cultures of people who inhabit Transylvania: the Romanians, Hungarians, Germans, and Roma.
4) With practice, you will develop powers of observation, inquiry, and journal writing.

Expectations for the course
1) Read and respond to texts on folk traditions in general and those from Romania in particular.
2) Participate in folk life activities and report on them in a daily seminar for class discussion.
3) Learn to communicate on a basic level in the Romanian language.
4) Complete a course project with a focus on one aspect of folk life, by pursuing an inquiry through interviews, visits to relevant sites, readings, and synthesis of material.

Pre-Requisites
All accepted students will be required to attend a Readers’ College in the spring of 2015, which will meet weekly and will be worth ½ a credit. All accepted students will need to register for this course in January. The meetings will include an orientation to folklore and folk life, learning Romanian and American stories and songs, learning American folk dances, studying the Romanian language, and exploring journal writing.

Required Readings
The same readings we use in the Readers’ College will be required for the summer course, because we will devote our time while we are in the region to exploration and writing, rather than reading. Klepper, Romania: An Illustrated History; Mawr, Romanian Folktales and Legends;

**Course cross-listings**
The course offered in this program has been cross-listed with the majors and minors in European Studies, International Relations, Dance, Music, Arts and Education, and Education.

**Itinerary**
An overnight flight from New York City on May 19th will allow us to arrive in Cluj on the afternoon of May 20th. We will have an afternoon to relax, explore, change money, and buy supplies before a group dinner that evening. The days in Cluj will alternate between those with sessions in the city spent with folk musicians, dancers, storytellers, and folklore experts, and other days of guided visits to traditional villages near Cluj where we will see folk practices in context. While in Cluj you will have a chance to practice your Romanian with local university students who have volunteered to host you. Those who wish can use unscheduled time to go horseback riding, enjoy the famous nearby salt ponds, or hike in the mountains.

After eight days in Cluj we will travel south to Sibiu, visit the city, and then take up residence at the Village Museum. We will take tours around the city and visits to nearby villages, including the famous fortified Saxon churches. On our last weekend in Romania we will travel to the mountain village of Sinaia, take the cable car to the mountain top, and hike to the wind-carved rocks of Babele (weather permitting). We will also visit the old German city of Brasov, and have a traditional meal in the nearby mountain retreat of Poiana Brasov.

We will have one full day back in Cluj to finish up projects and reflect on what we have learned the previous three weeks, before flying out of Cluj early on June 10th, to arrive back in New York the afternoon of that same day.

**Housing and Meals**
In Cluj we will be housed in double rooms in a three-star hotel close to the city center. The hotel will have wi-fi and breakfast included. At the village museum in Sibiu, we will stay in double rooms at the Villa Diana with breakfast and wi-fi included. Lunch can normally be had for around $8 or less at a restaurant at the museum. At the villa you will have access to a kitchen with a refrigerator and a barbecue. The program will include one group dinner per week but you will be responsible for your own lunches and the rest of the dinners in both Cluj and Sibiu, except when we are travelling as a group on our multi-day excursion to Sinaia, where meals will be included.
Eligibility
Qualified first-years, sophomores, juniors and graduating seniors may apply. First-years, sophomores and juniors will have priority and seniors will be admitted on a space-available basis.

GPA Requirement
Students applying for this program should have a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA. In the case of first-year students, we will have to wait until your fall grades are in before we can formally admit you. Provided there are spaces available, first years with successful applications may be given a conditional offer based on achieving at least a 2.5 gpa in the fall 2014 semester.

Credits
This course will be worth one HWS course credit and has been approved by the following departments to receive major/minor credit: Education, Arts and Education, Music, Dance, International Relations and European Studies. Students will also receive a ½ credit for the Reader’s College. Advisors in other departments may allow you to satisfy Goal 5 (Fine and Performing Arts) and/or Goal 7 (Multiplicity of world cultures) with the course but students should discuss this with their advisors.

Opportunities for Follow-Up Study
Upon returning, interested students will be invited to continue their studies by enrolling in Prof. Temple’s course on storytelling, in a Readers’ College on traditional folk music, and in courses offered in the departments of Dance, Music, and Anthropology and Sociology.

Medical Insurance
Students will be required to have medical insurance while abroad. If you have already purchased the year-long HWS policy through Gallagher Koster, you will be covered for this program, since your insurance coverage is valid until June 30th, 2015. However, be aware that the year-long plan only covers 70% of your costs while overseas so this could get expensive if you have to be hospitalized. You may want to consider purchasing the HTH plan below to supplement your coverage. If you have not purchased insurance through HWS, you will need to find out if you are covered by your parents’ policy. If you are not covered by your parents’ plan, we recommend HTH Worldwide. The Travel Gap Voyager program from HTH Worldwide is a good option: http://www.hthtravelinsurance.com/1_benefits_vaca.cfm  The plan costs between $20 - $30 for three weeks, depending on the deductible and amount of coverage you choose. This is a good all around plan and it includes coverage for emergency evacuation and repatriation. If you find a suitable plan through another company, that’s fine, too.

Costs
Program fees will be approximately $2200-$2500* for the 3-week program, which will cover tuition, accommodation, breakfast daily, one group dinner per week, entrance fees, day trips and excursions (three meals a day will be provided on the multi-day excursion) and local travel in Romania. Students will need to budget an extra $300 above and beyond the program costs for the lunches and dinners not included. Students will also need to budget for roundtrip airfare at approximately $1200 - $1400, books at $100, medical insurance at $30 if you don’t
already have it, optional immunizations at approximately $170 (see section on immunizations below) and a non-refundable administrative fee of $100 charged for all faculty-led short-term programs. *Costs are subject to change based on currency fluctuations, changes in costs of services provided and the number of students confirmed on the trip.

**Flights**
Group flights will be arranged by the CGE and accepted students will be notified of the cost and booking info for the flight once it’s available.

**Passports and Visas**
All students will need a passport valid until at least December 10, 2015 to participate in this program. Visas are not required unless you are not a U.S. citizen. Non U.S. citizens should see Sharon Walsh in the CGE about visas as soon as you are accepted.

**Immunizations**
Romania does not present a noteworthy health risk. Nonetheless, Hepatitis A and typhoid immunizations are recommended for travelers. Hepatitis B is also recommended although many students will have had this when they came to college but you should check on this. Please check the CDC website [http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list) to read more about the recommendations. If you choose to get immunizations, you can do this at a local medical clinic near your home - use this link to find travel medicine clinics [http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/find-clinic](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/find-clinic) - or possibly with your home doctor or you can contact one of the Passport Health offices in Canandaigua, Rochester or Syracuse who provide travel immunizations. Their contact number is: (585) 275-8884.

**Funding**
In an effort to assist students in financial hardship wishing to participate in a short-term program, there is a limited pool of HWS funding available. If you are accepted to this program, we will invite you to submit a funding application. Funding will be allocated on a need basis
and we will contact the financial aid office to verify your need status. We will also contact the
Student Affairs office and the Dean’s office to access your social/disciplinary records as part of
determining your eligibility for funding. We will let you know whether you have been awarded
funding before the deadline by which you are required to put down a deposit for your place on
the program.

**Questions?**
If you have questions about this program, please contact Sharon Walsh in the Center for Global
Education at 315 781-3663 or walsh@hws.edu.

![Hiking near Frata](image-url)