

The following information will be published on the Courses page of the Summer Sessions Website:			
Course Title:	Monsters, Myth, and the Mind: The Neuroscience of folklore		
Course Number:	NSC 3892	Credit Hours:	3
First Instructor:	Amanda Avona	First Instructor Email:	Amanda.d.avona@vanderbilt.edu
Second Instructor:	Claire Scott	Second Instructor Email:	claire.scott.1@vanderbilt.edu
Program start date:	May 08, 2026	Program end date:	May 31, 2026
Program destination(s): (Each city, country - start/end date)	Marburg, Germany Friday May 8 th – May 26 th , May 27 th – May 31 st Darmstadt, Germany – Day trip May 19th Bedburg, Germany – Day trip May 26th Cologne, Germany – Overnight May 26 th Heidelberg, Germany – Day trip May 27th		
Does this course fulfill any AXLE credit? If so, what?		Click here to enter text.	
What are the academic pre-requisites (if any) for enrolling in this course?		NSC 1400 (previously listed as NSC 2201)	
What are some are some conditions or challenges that students will face? (Ex. Hiking long distances, extreme temperatures, rocky terrain, etc.)		There will be multiple walking tours including a 10km hiking trail at an elevation of 439 ft that takes approximately 2-2.5 hours to complete.	
What is covered in the student budget:		Detailed answers below.	
Lodging (Total nights + included amenities):		22 nights at hotel booked in double rooms at Hotel Marburger Hof 1 night at A & O Köln in double rooms	
Meals:		Total breakfasts: 22 Total lunches: Total dinners: 2	
Transportation (Airfare, public transit, etc.):		Transportation via private coach to Cologne Transportation via private coach to Heidelberg Transportation via private coach to Darmstadt	
Supplies (Textbooks, gear, etc.):		There are no textbooks required included in the budget	
Excursions (Tour fees, admission fees, etc.):		Admission to Prinzhorn museum	
What is <u>not</u> covered in the student budget:		Detailed answers below.	
Lodging (Total nights):		All lodging is covered in the student budget	
Meals:		Total breakfasts: Total lunches: 23 Total dinners: 22	

Transportation (international airfare, public transit, etc.):	International Airfare
Supplies (Textbooks, gear, personal items, etc.):	\$15 for a copy of Frankenstein
Excursions (Optional activities, tour fees, admission fees, etc.):	<p>Optional activities:</p> <p>\$235 per participant- Half Day trip to Frankfurt. Includes roundtrip coach and local guide for city tour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$410 per group- Boat ride on the Lahn River. Includes boat ride with local expert. • \$223 per participant- Steinau an der Straße and Alsfeld Visit. Includes roundtrip coach, entrance to Alsfeld Fairytale House, and entrance to Grimm's House. • \$342 per group- In the Footsteps of the Brother's Grimm Tour. Includes guided city walking tour to the sites of the Grimm fairy tales and the workplaces of Brothers Grimm
Visa needed for US passport holders?	No, but students must have a US passport that is not set to expire within a year of arrival
Is the cost of the visa included in the student fee?	No, if a student requires visa this is not included in the plan
Does the course have a service-learning component:	No
Please provide the course description below:	
<p>This course explores the biological basis for neurological conditions that were previously explained by folklore and early monster tales. Students will explore not just our current understanding of the cellular pathways and mechanisms behind each disorder, but also how historical perspectives and cultural attitudes shaped the folklore that arose from each condition. Students will learn how our rudimentary understanding of neurophysiology and cognition led to Johann Conrad Dippel's experiments at Castle Frankenstein that are thought to have inspired Mary Shelley's work. The course will discuss how neurological and cutaneous porphyria led to Nachzehrer and vampire myths, how psychiatric disorders of the self led to the werewolf and witch trials of the region, with a particular focus on the role of Serotonin in these disorders. Students will travel to the locations associated with famous cases of Johann Dippel, Peter Stumpp, and the work of Hans Prinzhorn.</p>	