

Teaching for the Travel Learning Network - FAQs

What is the primary goal of a Travel Learning Network (TLN) class?

To stimulate, inform and delight. No academic credits or certificates will be awarded for participation (and thus no testing or grading by instructors is needed)

Who participates?

Active and intellectually curious Americans and Canadians aged 55+, most between the ages of 60-70 years and many of whom have a graduate or professional degree

How many people participate in a TLN class?

7 to 15

What is the length of a TLN class?

Eight 1.5 hour sessions distributed over two weeks (total 12 contact hours)

How much material should I cover?

To avoid superficiality, classes must necessarily be focussed (better "The Transition from Paganism to Christianity in Ancient Rome" than "The History of Christianity").

How much content will I need to prepare for a 2-week TLN class?

This will depend on your teaching style as well as the content of the class. Probably about 7 to 9 hours, leaving time for discussion and interaction

How much reading should be assigned?

This is for individual instructors to decide based on their prior experience teaching the class materials

In what language should I teach?

All classes are to be taught in English; and all instructors must be native or near-native speakers of that language.

What qualifications must I have?

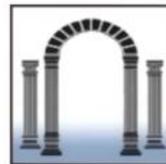
For four categories of TLN classes, the same qualifications needed to teach at an accredited university. For some classes in the 5th category ("Health, Well-being & Art)) demonstrated competence in the subject matter

What documentation must I prepare?

Now: A 100-word "thumbnail" description of your class. Later: a syllabus that outlines the topics to be addressed in each class meeting, a reading list consisting of "required" books that are easily found in North America as well as "recommended" readings to be pursued after the class

What's it like teaching older adults?

[Susan Hoffman](#), Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UC-Berkeley, observes that teaching "highly educated, highly motivated older students" gives professors a unique chance "to teach what they love". Many older students who seek education after retirement are "extremely bright, accomplished professionals who ask really interesting questions and have a great understanding of what's being presented." For example, a recent neurobiology class on perception and consciousness on the Berkeley campus attracted "judges, librarians, acupuncturists", in short, the kind of varied audience that is "very satisfying for a teacher." A humanities professor who taught a class on Ingmar Bergman spoke of her pleasure in teaching people who were, as the result of their life experiences, readily able to grasp topics that would have been unfathomable to undergrads.



Must I be present at the European Study Center to teach a TLN class?

No. Nearly all classes will be taught via high-definition (HD) video conference links

What kind of equipment must I have to teach via the internet?

A fairly new computer, a webcam, and an internet connection. The TLN can advance you funds to upgrade your current computer if it is too slow.

Can I teach at the Study Center rather than via the internet?

A limited number of instructors will be invited to serve as "Scholars in Residence" during the 2-week period in which they teach their class. They will be expected to present a public lecture in English in addition to teaching their class.

How often can my class be offered?

Up to three times per year

If I have too much material to fit into a single class, can I develop a sequence?

Yes, provided that no class requires earlier participation in another class.

How much will I be paid to teach a 2-week class for the TLN?

Instructors will be paid at a rate appropriate for tenured professors at North American universities, that is, \$1,800 USD (half when the class begins, half when the class is completed)

How will my class be publicized?

Via the TLN website (www.travellearning.net), via direct mail and in ads placed in specialty publications related to the topic of your class

When will I know if my class has "made"?

You will be informed as soon as the minimum number of participants have enrolled and never later than 3 months prior to the start of your class

How/when will my class be evaluated?

The TLN strives to provide high-quality educational experiences. As part of its overall quality assurance program, the TLN will ask participants to review the class they have just taken soon after its completion

What would be considered a positive outcome for my class?

1. *Satisfactory: most members of a class report that their class was "interesting" and that they "learned something";*
2. *Good: Same as "1" and some participants report they will continue to study the topic of the class on their own.*
3. *Outstanding: Same as "1" and most participants report they will continue to study the topic of the class on their own.*

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