

SAIL at NDU

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A delegation of six students visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at the Faculty of Law and Political Science, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), as part of their exchange program, “Study Abroad in Lebanon (SAIL),” a Cedars Institute initiative, in collaboration with NDU and the Lebanon Dialogue Initiative (LDI). The visit served as part of their guided tour of the NDU Main Campus and the LERC.



The student delegation with Dr. Rahme at the LERC Museum, NDU, (Sept. 2015)

The summer course is co-taught by six faculty professors with different specializations: Philosophy, Theology, World and Ottoman History, and Art and Architectural History. It is an intensive ten-day course with over eight hours of daily contact and interaction with Faculty, guest lecturers, and officially certified tourist guides. The distinguishing feature of this course is that it combines and fuses rigorous academic knowledge with first-hand experience of historical

sites of global and regional significance. It will focus on the historical foundation of Lebanon as a geopolitical strategic region that sets the stage for the rise of Phoenician Civilization and will examine its emergence as a hub of international trade of global significance. It will show how Lebanon became a center of trans-national culture and learning, a refuge for religious minorities, as well as a major region of religious pilgrimage. It will introduce students to the multi-faceted aspects of Lebanese culture, colloquial language, and cuisine.



The Delegation at the LERC Museum at NDU (Sept, 2015)

The course aims to introduce students to new concepts and challenge their pre-conceptions of the region. It also allows students to understand some of the major themes of World History from the unique vantage point of Lebanon. It complements lectures with first-hand experience of UNESCO world heritage sites and other historically significant areas, and exposes students to the culture of dialogue and its implementation within Lebanese society. As its syllabus states: “... *the course enables students to gain an appreciation of a culture foreign to their own and in the process have a broader and more nuanced perspective of their own culture [...]* It



Dr. Rahme and the delegation beside the 'Titanic' at the LERC Museum, NDU (Sept. 2015)

will make possible for Brazilian students to interact with Lebanese students and society in various contexts.”

The participants were awarded a certificate after their visit to the LERC Nucleus Museum, and have accessed the center’s library since their visit on numerous occasions to do some reading.