

Junior Journey – Alaskan Cruise (and Seattle Highlights)

Instructor Information

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Course Description

One hour. Pass/Fail (no letter grade). Embark on an unforgettable Alaskan adventure that combines the best of land and sea! Begin your journey in the vibrant city of Seattle, where you'll explore iconic landmarks like the Space Needle and the Museum of Pop Culture, soaking in the cultural and natural highlights of the Pacific Northwest. Then, set sail aboard the magnificent Norwegian Encore, a floating paradise offering luxurious accommodations, world-class dining, and panoramic observation decks that ensure you'll never miss a moment of the awe-inspiring scenery.

As you cruise through the pristine waters of the Inside Passage, prepare to be captivated by Alaska's untamed beauty. Watch in awe as towering glaciers calve into the sea, listen to the thunderous sound of ice breaking away, and witness eagles soaring above as you sail past majestic fjords and rugged coastlines. Each port of call offers a unique glimpse into Alaska's rich history and culture, from the gold rush era of Skagway to the intricate totem poles of Ketchikan. In Glacier Bay National Park, you'll find yourself surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty, where ice-blue glaciers meet lush forests in a dramatic display of nature's grandeur.

Beyond the stunning views, this journey offers thrilling opportunities to get up close with Alaska's wonders. Whether you're hiking ancient trails, floating down scenic rivers, or savoring freshly prepared local salmon, each excursion will immerse you deeper into the Alaskan experience. To top it all off, your voyage concludes with a stop in the picturesque city of Victoria, British Columbia, adding an international flair to your adventure. Don't miss this chance to experience the majestic beauty of Alaska while creating memories that will last a lifetime!

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and reflect on traits of the cultural life, habits, and history of Alaska through participation in onboard educational seminars and excursions at multiple ports of call.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the history, geography, geology, and socio-economic makeup of Alaska through participation, discussion and journal writings.
3. Describe in their daily journal their thoughts on the experiences of the day.

Statement of Engaged Learning:

The entire course is experiential, i.e., completely "engaged," through educational events onboard

the ship and exciting excursions, where travelers are able to experience the majestic natural beauty of Alaska.

Evaluation & Grading Scale

The class is pass-fail. You will be expected to reflect daily, on the day's experiences, in a journal to be turned in for grading. A complete journal (at least 70%) and willing participation in the trip's activities will result in a passing grade. Pass ≥ 70 Fail < 70

Attendance & Class Participation

Students must attend, engage in, and be on time for all tours, events, activities, meetings, etc. that are planned for this trip. Any student who is absent from any planned activity will not receive credit for the course unless that absence is excused (i.e. medical reason). Medical or other emergencies that would prevent participation should be discussed with the instructor immediately, when they occur.

Required Journal & Vlog

In order to pass the course, students must submit a Journal and a vlog of their trip.

- Students will keep a journal for the duration of the trip. Students will need to begin documenting their thoughts as soon as the trip begins; you'll want to bring a notebook to document your experiences! Each day's entry should contain approximately 500 words based on reflections focused on that day's experiences. Your journal should adequately tell what we did, how and why we did it, what you learned, what you enjoyed, etc. You should reflect on the importance of what you saw or learned. Think of it as a detailed letter to a friend or family member, who you want to tell about your day. You're welcome to write it in the form of a letter, if you like. The final journal, with entries completed for each day of the trip, must be submitted to the instructor by the deadline indicated below. Journals should be written in standard English paragraph form, using correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
- The second required submission is a vlog, of at least three minutes, containing pictures and video clips from your trip. Take a lot of photos and videos during the trip. Be intentional about this. Upon returning to FSC, you should use an online video maker to "glue" your selected photos and videos together with background music of your choosing.

You must submit both the Journal and a YouTube link to the Vlog by **11:59 pm on Sunday, May 25th**. Failure to turn in an acceptable journal and vlog will result in your failing the course.

ACCESS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SPRING 2025

Florida Southern College and Student Disability Services are committed to providing access and inclusion for students with documented disabilities to courses, facilities (including Residence Halls), and programs. Categories of disabilities could include, but would not be limited to, chronic

health diagnoses, learning disabilities, and mental health conditions. If you anticipate or experience barriers to your college experience due to the impact of a disability, please notify the Office of Student Disability Services to discuss the eligibility process for establishing accommodations. You can reach FSC's Student Disability Services professionals through Asst. Dean for Student Support Dr. Sandy Calvert by e-mail at disabilityservices@flsouthern.edu, in Carlisle Rogers Building, by telephone at (863) 680-4900, or by fax at (863) 680-4195. Our Student Disability Services professionals are available for both face-to-face and Zoom meetings, by appointment.

For more information on disability accommodations and access, please visit our website at <http://www.flsouthern.edu/campus-resources/student-disability-services.aspx>

NOTE: This trip involves quite a lot of walking, sometimes on rather steep hills and stairs. Students with mobility issues may find this trip inappropriate. Please discuss any such concerns with Dr. Pospichal and the instructor before signing up for the trip.

FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE HONOR CODE

"I will practice academic and personal integrity and excellence of character and expect the same from others."

As an academic community, Florida Southern College is firmly committed to honor and integrity in the pursuit of knowledge. Therefore, as a member of this academic community, each student acknowledges responsibility for his or her actions and commits to the highest standards of integrity. In doing so through this Honor Code, each student makes a covenant with the college not to engage in any form of academic dishonesty, fraud, cheating, or theft. Further information on the Honor Code is available in the current Catalog.

****Your daily journal and vlog are the the primary sources of your grade. While you will likely have similar observations to those of others, your journal should be your own, individual effort, in your own words.*

RULES OF THE TRIP

The following set of rules have evolved over the years and can be generally divided into two categories: cardinal rules and strong suggestions. Breaking any of the cardinal rules is grounds for being sent home immediately with no refund of the trip.

Cardinal Rules

1. **Never, ever, ever travel by yourself.** Exploring on your own is STRICTLY not allowed. The minimum group size for exploring on your own is three students. If you plan to travel or roam around in such a group, you must notify the trip director/chaperone on the group communication platform (see below). During your time away from the group, if one travel partner(s) needs to use the restroom, the other(s) must accompany them. If you are in a cross-gender partnership, the other partner(s) must wait outside the restroom. No

exceptions will be made to this rule. Any time you leave the group, you must tell one of us about it and get our approval. That is any time you leave the hotel or other building, for any reason. We are responsible to know where you are and what you are doing at all times.

2. You must always be reachable – by phone - by your trip director or your chaperone.
3. **Your chaperone has equal authority to that of the trip director. End of story.**
4. Group Communication:
 - a. WhatsApp will be used for group communication before the trip, in Seattle, and when at the ports. Your phone must have a data plan, and you must have WhatsApp installed on your phone. We will have a WhatsApp group for this Junior Journey, and we will use this WhatsApp group to send details about events and meetups throughout the duration of our trip.
 - b. The NCL App will be used for group communication while onboard the ship and while cruising. You must install the app and setup the group communication at our first onboard meeting.
5. Harassment of any sort – bullying, racist or bigoted talk, unwanted touching or interference etc. will not be tolerated.
6. **This is a Class.** Junior Journey is a college class; it is not a free-time vacation to do whatever you want. During the day, you are officially "in class." That can be hard to remember when your assignment is to just sit back and take in the majestic beauty that Alaska has to offer! But it is officially "class" time. You need to be present, in good mental condition (not hung over, not sleepy), and participating in the group activities each day. You also need to be on time each morning, ready to head out for the day's adventure.
7. **Behavior.** Please do not sleep, write notes to each other, listen to music, text, or engage in any other activity that may disturb others during tours, films, lectures, etc. Give your undivided attention and respect to tours guides, lecturers, and any other person you encounter during this experience. You represent Florida Southern College and are expected to act in an appropriate, professional manner at all times during this trip.
8. **Alcohol.** Echoing the sentiments above, you are a student representing Florida Southern College. Drinking alcohol during the day (before dinner) is not acceptable. You are in class. With respect to the evenings, you do need to be very responsible -- as on a regular school night, going out to a pub and drinking until 4:00 a.m. is simply not reasonable nor acceptable. If the goal is to go to a bar on the ship and get drunk each night, you should not go on this trip; it's simply not acceptable, will not be tolerated, will result in a failing grade, and may result in your being sent home.
9. The SAFETY of the people on this trip will always trump any other consideration. ALWAYS. If you engage in unsafe or risky behavior on this trip, whether or not it is codified above, you may be sent back to home.
10. All students must purchase a [travel money belt](#) that can be discretely hidden underneath your shirt. When traveling, your passport, credit cards, and identification must always be in this travel belt.

Strong Suggestions

1. Take a photograph of your passport and any other identification you have and keep it on your phone.
2. If the hotel room has a safe, you should lock your passports within that safe during your local travel within the city. Carry your student ID and your US driver's license to serve as identification. When checking out of the hotel and going to the port, remember to take your passports out of the safe and bring them with you.
3. Remember to bring any prescriptions that you need along with you. Also carry a limited amount of Tylenol/Ibuprofen in case you need it.
4. Do NOT accept drinks in bars from strangers. You never know if the drink would be safe for consumption.

Helpful Advice

1) What to Bring:

- Bring two comfortable pairs of shoes. We will be walking a lot, both on the ship and certainly during the excursions. We will also be climbing plenty of stairs. Make sure you are comfortable with slightly strenuous activities.
- Weather in May is still cold, with lows in the 40s and highs in the 50s or low 60s. Long story short, you will want a jacket! Ideally, bring at least two jackets in case one gets wet. While May is one of the drier months, there's still a good chance we'll see rain. And rain is almost a certainty in Seattle (which is also cold)!
- Lock for your luggage! Your luggage will be handled by multiple people, workers at the airport, at the port, on the cruise ship, and more. Locks are cheap, and it's certainly safer to lock the zippers in the hopes of avoiding anyone tampering with your belongings.

2) Don't Over pack! You MUST be able to handle your own luggage, carry it with you for considerable distances, and climb stairs with it. It's a nice balancing act of packing enough essentials while not over-burdening oneself with a massive/heavy suitcase.

3) Spending Money. For many, this is a once-in-a-lifetime trip. You will want to bring spending money, likely three hundred to five hundred dollars. What costs are covered? Airfare, accommodation in Seattle before the trip, the official Seattle CityPass, a seven-day cruise to Alaska, three meals per day, and two or three incredible excursions at the ports of call. All that said, you may still want spending money for goodies on the ship, such as the go karts, the arcade, escape room, etc., and perhaps even for souvenirs at some of the ports.

4) Offline Google Maps. Prior to leaving FSC, you should open your Google Maps app on your phone and download an offline map of the major ports we plan to visit: Seattle, Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, and Victoria. You will be using Google Maps often while walking around, and there's no reason to eat up your data for this when you can download those maps ahead of time.

5) Be comfortable and confident to explore in your small group of three – but be safe.

- There is so much you can do on the Encore cruise ship! In fact, even if you spent

- three weeks on the ship, you likely will not have exhausted everything you can do.
- REMINDER: exploring on your own is STRICTLY NOT ALLOWED. This rule is also applicable when on the ship! You should always be in groups of at least three students. And you should always have your phone on and be available via the group communication platform (NCL App) while on the ship.
 - The port cities on an Alaskan cruise are very safe areas, albeit ones with thousands and thousands of tourists, which ultimately bring in thieves, pickpockets, and scams.

Do not fear exploring in your group of three. Be confident. **BE SMART.** Trust your gut instinct. If something does not feel right, there is a good chance it is not right. **Leave. Call 911.** Message me immediate if there is a problem.

Itinerary on next page

Itinerary

- The order of events may change somewhat, as we make final reservations for various aspects of the trip.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
10-May	Saturday	4:00 a.m. Arrive at FSC with packed luggage, passport , ID, etc. 4:20 a.m. College van departs for airport 5:20 a.m. Van drops off group at TPA 7:20 a.m. Depart from TPA 10:24 a.m. Arrive in Seattle 12:00 p.m. Check-in to Hotel 12:30 p.m. Group Lunch 2:00 p.m. Explore Seattle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Space Needle - Museum of Pop Culture - and more! 7:00 p.m. Group Dinner
11-May	Sunday	8:00 a.m. Breakfast at hotel 10:30 a.m. Check-out of Hotel and Depart to Pier 66 11:00 a.m. Arrive to Terminal at Pier 66 for NCL for Embarkation 1:00 p.m. Lunch (group) onboard 2:00 p.m. Group tour of the ship 4:00 p.m. Check-in to state rooms 5:00 p.m. Sailaway! Group meetup as the cruise leaves port. 7:00 p.m. Dinner (group)
12-May	Monday	<u>DAY AT SEA</u> 8:00 a.m. Breakfast (group) The day is yours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pool/slides (it will be cold!) - go karts, laser tag, escape room - pickleball & basketball - Lunch at one of the many restaurants 6:00 p.m. Dinner (group) 8:00 p.m. Group Meeting

13-May	Tuesday	<u>JUNEAU, ALASKA</u> 8:00 a.m. Breakfast Free time till lunch 1:00 p.m. Lunch 2:30 p.m. Arrive at Juneau, Alaska 3:00 p.m. Depart ship for excursion 7:00 p.m. Board ship 8:00 p.m. Dinner (group), followed by short meeting
14-May	Wednesday	<u>SKAGWAY, ALASKA</u> 7:00 a.m. Arrive at Skagway, Alaska 7:30 a.m. Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Depart ship for excursion 1:00 p.m. Board ship 2:00 p.m. Lunch 3:00 p.m. Explore Skagway in groups (3 or more) 6:00 p.m. Board Ship 7:00 p.m. Dinner (group), followed by short meeting
15-May	Thursday	<u>GLACIER BAY</u> 8:00 a.m. Breakfast (group) The day is yours: - Observation lounge (will be packed) - Really, any and all good viewing spots - This day is all about the glaciers - Lunch at one of the many restaurants 6:00 p.m. Dinner (group), followed by short meeting
16-May	Friday	<u>KETCHIKAN, ALASKA</u> 7:00 a.m. Arrive at Ketchikan, Alaska 7:00 a.m. Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Depart ship for excursion 11:30 a.m. Board ship 1:00 p.m. Lunch, and then free time until dinner 7:00 p.m. Dinner (group), followed by short meeting

17-May	Saturday	<p><u>VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA</u></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Breakfast (group) The day is yours: - pool/slides (it will be cold!) - go karts, laser tag, escape room - pickleball & basketball - Lunch at one of the many restaurants</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Dinner (group), followed by short meeting 8:00 p.m. Arrive at Victoria, British Columbia 8:00 p.m. Explore Victoria in groups (3 or more) 10:00 p.m. Board ship 10:30 p.m. Group meeting</p>
18-May	Sunday	<p>7:00 a.m. Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Disembark Ship (Cruise has concluded) 10:00 a.m. Explore Seattle - Space Needle - Aquarium - and more!</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Lunch (group) 5:30 p.m. Travel to Airport 9:30 p.m. Flight leaves SEA</p>
19-May	Monday	<p>6:04 a.m. Flight arrives in TPA (next morning, 5/19/2025) 7:00 a.m. Depart TPA for Lakeland, FL 8:00 a.m. Arrive back to Florida Southern</p>