

College Document # COAS_LL_033
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CATALOG YEAR 2007-2008 (Please use separate form for each add/change)

COLLEGE: COAS
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Course: Add: Delete: _____ Change _____:
(check all that apply) Number _____ Title _____ SCH _____ Description _____ Prerequisite _____

If new, provide Course Prefix, Number, Title, SCH Value, Description, prerequisite, and lecture/lab hours if applicable. If in current catalog, provide change and attach page with changes in red and provide a brief justification.

ENGL/LAS/SPAN 4397. International Service Learning. 3 SCH.

This course seeks to engage students in activities that combine both academic learning and community service in a foreign country. Students participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs. Students are required to reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility. Final service projects must be presented to a broad audience. May be combined with Study Abroad and may be conducted in English, Spanish or Portuguese. Faculty supervisor required. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Rationale: This interdisciplinary course will allow students to participate in an international service learning experience as a means to learn about the social, political, economic, educational and linguistic situation of the culture in question. It is hoped that it will serve as a model for other disciplines to adopt. This course was created in partial compliance with the goals of enhancing the Latin American Studies program for the Title VI U.S. DOE Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages Program grant. Approvals:

Signature
Date Chair _____
Department Curriculum Committee
Chair _____
Department
Chair _____
College Curriculum Committee
Dean _____

Course syllabus for Spanish 4397, English 4397 and LAS 4397
(Pending Approval)

Title: International Service Learning
Sub-Title: In the Footsteps of the Aztecs:
Service Learning in Cuernavaca, México

“Service learning is a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.”

-National Commission on Service Learning

I. Course Dates:

May 9 to June 16, 2008

On-Site Cuernavaca dates: May 9-May 31

Dr. Kati Pletsch de García

Department of Language and Literature

Contact information: 326-2614 kdegarcia@tamiu.edu or via Angel email

II. Course Materials:

1. Required text:

J. Daniel Hess. The World Guide to Culture Learning. 1994. Maine: Intercultural Press.

2. Access to the Internet:

Most readings and materials will be available via Angel and should be accessed thru an Internet connection. Since Universidad Internacional has a free computer lab and Internet cafés are quite popular in Cuernavaca access should not be a problem.

III. Course Description:

This course seeks to engage students in activities that combine both academic learning and community service. Students participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs. Students are required to reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility. Final service projects must be presented to a broad audience. May be combined with Study Abroad and may be conducted in Spanish or Portuguese. Faculty supervisor required.

IV. Course Objectives:

1. To provide opportunities for each student to use the Spanish language in a service-learning context and, thus, improve listening, speaking, writing skills and acquire discipline-specific vocabulary.

2. To study the community of Cuernavaca and the particular institution with whom each student works as a means to learn about the social, political, and economic situation of the culture in question.

3. To use readings, class discussion and personal journals to help students reflect upon experience and take responsibility for their own learning within guidelines agreed upon between instructor and group/individuals. Reflection is the key component of student learning in service-learning.

V. Student Learning Outcomes

Each student will formulate his/her own specific learning outcomes incongruence with the above stated objectives and the student's individual service-learning projects. Formulating their own learning outcomes is a course requirement.

VI. Course Requirements:

A. Grading Policy:

Assignments and Evaluation (as percentage of total grade):

1. Individual Learning Objectives and Contract 15%
2. Participation in group meetings 20%
3. Journal entries submitted and other writing 30%
4. Integrative final project and Presentation 35%

B. Service Requirements:

1. Intensive Spanish Classes:

You must attend your intensive Spanish course in the mornings in order to qualify for completing the service-learning course.

2. Culture Classes:

You must attend your Mexican culture courses in the mornings after your intensive Spanish course in order to qualify for completing the service-learning course.

3. Journals

Each of you will be submitting journal entries via Angel. You may use the Email tool for submissions that you do not wish to share with the group. Otherwise, you may use the Discussion tool. Journal entries will not be graded, per se, but are required on time for successful completion of this course. Please read the article on Journaling under Course Content for more guidelines regarding content of journal submissions. There are questions to prompt you and possibly a model journal entry for your reading pleasure linked to the Calendar tool on Angel on the date each entry is due. Please feel free to write and submit entries BEFORE the due date. These are deadlines, but the earlier you start writing, the more opportunities we have for interaction and feedback.

4. On-Site Learning

As you work with clients and/or staff at your service site during the first days of service, create your own learning objectives/outcomes and discuss these with both your on-site supervisor and with me. Together, both your individual objectives and the outcomes that you decide with your supervisor will form your learning plan and will be formalized in the Learning Contract. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure this gets done, even if your supervisor is not as accessible as you would like. Alternately, another staff person may sign the Contract, but be sure your supervisor also approves it at a later date. We will rely on the supervisor or other staff to help evaluate your performance in achieving your goals and objectives, as well as punctuality, reliability, responsibility and willingness to use Spanish skills. We will collect the signed contracts on or before May 16 and will return copies for you and your supervisor to make final comments on May 29.

5. Group Excursions

There will be a two full-day and one weekend long excursions sponsored by the university. You must participate in these excursions in order to augment your cultural experiences.

6. Final projects

Please read the article about Integrative Projects under Course Content in Angel. This should be creative and bring together your total experience of Service-learning. As much as possible, it should be in Spanish and include items that you have produced at your service site, excerpts from your journal (even if not included previously on Angel), reports on interviews or critical incidents you have written or other means of integrating your experience. Please include photographs or video-clips, if at all possible. You will be required to present your final projects to the entire group and invited guests on June 16. You should also plan on displaying your Service-Learning project at the Office of International Program's Study Abroad Fair in October 2008.

7. Time Management

Plan to spend 10-12 hours per week at your service site and another 5-10 hours per week in activities related to service work, such as class meetings, journal writing, interviews or other integrative projects.

VII. Course Calendar:

As flexibility is key in Cuernavaca, this schedule is subject to change with notice!

Journal entry Due Dates: May 13, May 16, May 19, May 22, May 26, May 29, June 2, June 6, June 10, and June 13

Individual meetings: Daily - May 13-May 23 and Twice a week – June 2-13

Meetings for group reflection: May 13, May 15, May 16, May 20, May 22, May 23, May 27 and June 3, June 6, June 10, June 13

May 13-15: Individual orientation to service sites by appointment

May 16—Learning objectives due

May 19—Signed Service-Learning Contract due

May 30— Last day of on-site Service-Learning

June 16—Presentations of final projects