

Global Service-Learning Courses & Trips

Through the Years

Storytellers in Our Communities: El Manzano Uno, Nicaragua

Offered in Summer/Fall 2017 & 2016 and Winter/Spring 2015 & 2014

The Voices Across Borders course explored matters pertaining to identity, vocation, and storytelling. Utilizing service-learning as a framework, learners experienced the unique characteristics of rural and urban youth communities that should be considered in discussions about education equality and social justice. In partnership with Waves of Hope, participants engaged in community-based projects that support the organization's youth programs involving the Northern Nicaragua communities of El Manzano and El Manzanillo. Specifically, learners engaged in dialogue-based workshops and story circles with high school students, which provided opportunities for cultivating active listening, youth empowerment and dialogue across borders. Additionally, learners worked with recent high school graduates to develop near peer mentorship and leadership opportunities for youth in El Manzano and El Manzanillo.

The course and trip were led by Dr. Nuria Alonso García (Global Studies & Urban Teaching). This course will likely be offered again in the summer/fall of 2019.

Foreign Aid: Masaya, Nicaragua

Offered in Spring 2018

The Foreign Aid course focused on the basic theory, institutional architecture, and practice of international development and humanitarian assistance. Using a series of case-studies drawn from various regions across the developing world, students learned about the main sectors pertinent to development organizations: governance and security, economic growth and poverty alleviation, health, education, and the environment. In partnership with Unearth the World and La Mariposa Spanish School & Eco-Hotel, during spring break, students participated in an international service-learning trip in Nicaragua, where they explored development and humanitarian assistance at both the local and the international levels. Students met with various leaders of organizations as diverse as U.S. led agencies like USAID and the PeaceCorps, while also meeting with community-based and non-governmental organizations.

The course and trip were led by Dana Ginestet (Global Studies).

Global Coffee Culture: Guatemala & Nicaragua

Offered in Spring 2015 and Spring 2017

This course focused on exploring the societal, economic and cultural implications of the coffee trade worldwide. Participants examined these themes locally through partnerships with Rhode Island-based coffee roasters and globally through a service-immersion trip to Guatemala. One of the most highly-traded agricultural products in the world, coffee is a large part of many cultures and this course helped students understand what puts coffee in their cups by analyzing the process of growing, trading, and distributing coffee. The service immersion trip in Guatemala was facilitated by the Center for Global Education and Experience (CGEE) at Augsburg College. Once in country, guided by CGEE staff, participants toured a coffee producing region and learned about the daily life of coffee farmers and the intricacies of the trade. Participants also lived with local families for a portion of the trip, to get to know community members better and understand their community's relationship with global coffee culture.

The course was co-facilitated by Dr. Ruth Ben-Artzi (Political Science) and Kiley Leduc '14 (community partner).

Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture: Ometepe, Nicaragua

Offered in Spring 2016

With ever-increasing environmental instability and grave concerns about food security on a global scale, learning how to live sustainably is more important than ever. Through engagement with local agriculture and community-based farming projects, students developed a well-rounded understanding of the global food system by examining and working with major players in various local contexts. Through a service-immersion trip to the Island of Ometepe in Nicaragua, where students physically worked alongside local farmers through Project Bona Fide, in collaboration with Unearth the World, students experienced first-hand some of the diversity of efforts occurring worldwide to address concerns over food security and environmental degradation. Students emerged from this course as informed and engaged participants in their local food system, eager to live a more sustainable life.

This course was co-facilitated by Dana Ginestet (Global Studies & Public & Community Service) and Pat McNiff (community partner, Pat's Pastured).

Visualizing Peace and Justice: Quito, Ecuador

Offered in Spring 2012 and 2014

The Visualizing Peace and Justice course, cross-listed with Art, Global Studies and Political Science, was a photography course that examined the ideas of peace and justice through the lens of art. The focus of the course was examining how to use art as a way to

engage the global community to promote the ideas of peace and justice. While in Ecuador, students worked with the Center for Mediation, Peace and Resolution of Conflict (CEMPROC, founded by Dr. Jeffrey Pugh). CEMPROC utilizes art as an outlet in promoting community and non-violence. Through CEMPROC, participants worked in a variety of settings, including with local organizations, nearby villages, and schools that have developed youth peace programs. Students also participated in local community engagement in Providence and hosted a photography exhibit featuring the artwork of Providence and Ecuadorian youth. Dr. Jeffrey Pugh (Political Science) and Dr. Eric Sung (Art) co-facilitated this course.

Supporting Community Literacy in Nicaragua: Manzano & Manzanillo, Nicaragua

Offered in Spring 2014

The Supporting Community Literacy in Nicaragua course, cross-listed with Education and Global Studies, focused on various methods of promoting local education and literacy among youth in rural Nicaragua. Working with Waves of Hope in Nicaragua, participants created a library at the local high school and promoted education literacy courses for children and adolescents. Embedded in their community engagement work, students also encouraged an environment of engaged learning and a space for a culture of reading. Participants also designed a literacy and library fundraising program for the Manzano and Manzanillo communities in Nicaragua, a project which continued once the group returned to Providence, as a way to stay engaged with the community and Waves of Hope.

Dr. Nuria Alonso García (Global Studies and Foreign Languages) and Dr. Nick Longo (Global Studies and Public & Community Service) co-facilitated the course.

Community Health in the Dominican Republic: Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic

Offered in Spring 2014

A part of the Justice Across Borders course, this course focused on historical and current relationships between the United States and its bordering communities, examining the political, economic and social aspects of these relationships. Once in the Dominican Republic, students worked with Outreach 360, a public-health oriented organization. Through Outreach 360, students volunteered in an orphanage, working directly with children to promote community health initiatives and create a healthy space for the youth.

This course was co-facilitated by Dr. Eric Hartman (Global Studies) and Kaytee Stewart (Feinstein Institute).