

HON 300: Global Citizenship in a Service-Learning Context

Felix Wang, wangch@jmu.edu

Jennifer Wiley wileyjl@jmu.edu

Course Description: This course focuses on the concept of “global citizenship” in the context of an international service-learning experience. Students will travel to the Dominican Republic and engage in an intensive service-learning project and cultural activities over spring break. The course seeks to address definitions and issues of global citizenship, development and service, using the service-learning experience as an aid to learning within the course. Students will also experience/learn about contemporary social, political, cultural and economic conditions within the Dominican Republic, through service-learning, structured outings, cultural events, guest speakers, coursework and course readings and assignments. Ongoing structured reflection will provide a way for all participants to discover, articulate, integrate and act on what they learn from their experiences.

Course Perspective: This course is taught from the perspective that professors and students are all active learners in the service and learning adventure. Expertise on the DR will of course be available to both professors and students, but the active and collective processing of that new knowledge gives service-learning its unique character.

Class participation and on-site performance (30% of final grade)

As a seminar, this course can thrive only through active participation and open discussions. Class attendance is mandatory and attendance will be taken. Missing more than two classes will result in a lower final grade. Students are expected to engage and contribute in class dialogues and activities. In addition, students will be graded based on their performance during the service trip. Participants are expected to fulfill their responsibilities, participate in all activities and contribute as a member of the group. The instructor will assign trip expectations during class.

Reflection journal (30% of final grade)

Students will need to keep a reflection journal for the duration of the course. The instructor will ask students to explore topics related to the course. Students are asked to reflect on the topics and keep track of their personal development during the course.

Group Project and Honors Symposium (40% of final grade)

This is a chance for students to focus on a particular social, political, educational or economic topic about the Dominican Republic approved by the instructor. The project requires an outline and group presentation during class and participation/presentation in Honors symposium in April.