EDP 361: Social Justice in the Dominican Republic: Sociology, History and Economics in a Caribbean Context
Spring 2007

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Course Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00-11:00

Read the following text prior to traveling to the Dominican Republic!!
• Frank Moya Pons, The Dominican Republic: A National History

Required Texts:
• Dean Brackley, The Call to Discernment in Troubled Times
• Alan Cambeira, Quisqueya La Bella: The Dominican Republic in Historical and Cultural Perspective
• Catholic Institute for International Relations, Needed but Unwanted, (e-version available from Dr. Kelly).
• Michael Himes, Doing the Truth in Love
• Jeffrey Sachs, The End of Poverty
• Viriato Sencion, They Forged the Signature of God

Strongly Suggested (Specific to Dominican Republic):
• Turits, Foundations of Despotism: Peasants, the Trujillo Regime, and Modernity in Dominican History
• Edwidge Danticat, The Farming of the Bones
• Alvarez, In the Time of the Butterflies
• Wucker, Why the Cocks Fight

Recommended (Background on Latin America):
• Menchu, I, Rigoberta Menchu
• Perkins, Confessions of an Economic Hit Man
• Kidder, Mountains Beyond Mountains
• Farmer, Pathologies of Power
• Groody, Border of Death, Valley of Life
• Romero, The Violence of Love
• Carrigan, Salvador Witness
• Thielman, Volunteer with the Poor in Peru
• Ortiz, The Blindfold’s Eyes
• Rosenberg, Children of Cain
• Caraman, The Lost Paradise
Course Description

This course is designed to integrate the history, sociology, politics, economics and religion of the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean with service-learning and cultural immersion in a context of ethical analyses and reflection. Included in this 6-hour course is course work combined with a service requirement and a seminar. The course work is designed to bring a multi-disciplinary perspective to the exploration of the cultural, social, economic, political and religious aspects of life in the Dominican Republic. The multidisciplinary perspective will be provided by a number of guest lecturers whose expertise lie in these areas. The primary instructor will be the Academic Director of ED who will teach the course, invite appropriate guest lecturers, supervise the service projects and immersion experiences, and facilitate the seminar and retreats.

In a seminar format, students will be required to critique their knowledge and values and discuss the dimensions of their emerging experiences. This provides a supervised learning experience in a community learning site and is designed to integrate the knowledge, values, and skills presented in the classroom with the experiences in the community. The seminar format and journal exercises are designed to assist students in making the connections between academic and service-learning experience.

This course meets every (Tues.) 9-11:00 and (Th.) (9:00-11:00) for the entire semester. Students are required to complete 3-4 hours of service per week as arranged by the Academic Director. On Thursdays, students will meet with the professor in a seminar format to integrate course content with their life and community learning experiences.

Course Objectives

Knowledge:
• To demonstrate an understanding of the cultural strengths and challenges of the Dominican people
• To demonstrate an understanding of sociological theories applicable to the Dominican people
• To demonstrate an understanding of the economic bases of Dominican culture
• To demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between cultural, social and economic factors
• To demonstrate an understanding of service-learning
• To integrate knowledge with service
• To develop a beginning level understanding of political, social and economic policy as it pertains to a community based service sit
• To learn about the strengths and challenges that face Dominican families and to learn the ways that families operate
• To learn about the Dominican culture from experiencing it first hand.
• To integrate course learning with the service and immersion experiences through selected course assignments.

Skills:
• To demonstrate a level of critical thinking skills by applying coursework to service and immersion experiences
• To develop skills in the promotion of justice
• To employ the problem-solving model at the beginning level with a client
• To evaluate systemic impact on the welfare of the Dominican people
• To demonstrate continued academic development through self-assessment and use of supervision
• To demonstrate development in the area of academic writing through selected course assignments and journaling
• To demonstrate increased communication skills by using Spanish in both the service and immersion experiences

Values:
• To examine personal values as they pertain to the Dominican experience
• To develop an understanding of the impact of human and social diversity on relationships
• To develop an understanding of the role of religious faith and the application of Jesuit values and ethics and how these variables shape your personal values
• To develop an understanding of how personal values and ethics can be integrated with this experience in the Dominican Republic
• To utilize the tenets of a Creighton Jesuit education through serving others
• To utilize the immersion experience to challenge, clarify or understand both your personal and professional values