

EDP 361

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 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 Tuesday & Thursday 8:45-10:45 for the entire semester. Students are required to complete 4 hours of service per week as arranged by the Academic Director. 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 site
- 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
- To develop cross-cultural skills by interacting with Dominican families and adapting to life in a new country

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