



All Things Ignatian



Business and the Poor in the Dominican Republic

How business helps and hurts the poor in the Dominican Republic



This class was designed to try to help students to see the Dominican Republic through the lenses of how business is done here, the economic situation, and how it affects the lives of Dominicans— particularly the poor— for better or for worse.



We do readings from a wide variety of sources, including sociology, history, philosophy, Christian teachings, economics, ethics, and other disciplines.



Banana Planation

Some of the topics include:

- Economic problems brought on by corruption
- Difficulties faced by women in the DR to start their own businesses
- The plight of the poor like the Haitians who have no documents and virtually no rights, but who do most of the manual labor on the farms
- The benefits and drawbacks of tourism, agriculture, and city life for the poor.
- Baseball as a means of escaping poverty
- Environmental issues in the D.R.
- The hopelessness of some of those who, without education or any means to better their life, face a fairly bleak future
- The possible solutions to the economic problems, such as legal reform, anti-corruption reform, education, and entrepreneurial innovation.

The Institute of Latin American Concern (ILAC) is a small campus located just off of one of the main highways east out of Santiago near a 'suburb' called "licey" (lee-say). It was founded in the early 1970's by a priest and was used as a retreat center for priests for some time but soon began to be used by Creighton as an emersion-education center for their medical students— bringing students down for various periods of time to work especially with the rural poor, but also to do some rotations in local hospitals.



The school of Arts and Sciences eventually developed their "Encuentro Dominicano" program, which is a semester-long program where students stay for an entire semester and take a few different courses, including Spanish and a 6 hr class on Dominican Republic's history and culture. This "Business and the Poor" class was a new class for the ED program.



Cupcake Bakery



Cigar Factory



Chamber of Commerce

Places we visited:

- The Chamber of Commerce
- The city dump where many poor go to collect things
- A banana plantation
- A free trade zone
- The philanthropic foundation of one of the wealthiest companies in the DR
- A cigar manufacturing factory
- Altagracia, a clothing factory which pays its employees good wages
- A nonprofit who helps provide clean water
- A bakery owned by a woman who has 40 employees



AlraGracia



D.R. Department Store

To see the blog for this course go to:
cobailac.wordpress.com
Andrew Gustafson, Heider College of Business
andrewgustafson@creighton.edu



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