INTL 290 Special Topic Micro-Fiancance Honduras Development

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TRAVEL: Spring Semester 2015

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Basic introductory examination of a specialized topic in International Studies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
• To develop cross cultural understanding of living and working conditions in other parts of the world
• To increase students’ understanding of economic and social problems in other cultures and communities
• To introduce students to the concept of micro-finance, social enterprise and development in an international context
• To improve student’s understanding of the goals and objectives of specific NGOs (or other agencies) and the strategies and tactics they use when assisting communities
• To provide students an opportunity to connect academic study with practical experience working in overseas communities

SBE LEARNING GOALS RELEVANT TO THIS COURSE:
• Effective Communications: Students will write professional documents that are technically correct and concise and make effective presentations utilizing technological tools and ability utilizing relevant discipline specific knowledge.
• Ethical Awareness: Students will recognize and be able to appraise ethical dilemmas involved in business decisions and competently engage in discourse aimed at resolution of these dilemmas utilizing relevant discipline specific knowledge.
• Global Awareness: Students will recognize and examine the global implications of business decisions while evaluating and integrating innovative applications of these implications utilizing relevant discipline specific knowledge.
• Problem Solving Ability: Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills in identifying and evaluating problems and opportunities in the business environment and apply analytical techniques to formulate creative solutions utilizing relevant discipline specific knowledge.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND THE COLLEGE HONOR CODE: All students are expected to adhere to the College of Charleston Honor Code. Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved. Violations of the honor code will result in an automatic failure of this class. The following paragraphs contain additional information as per College of Charleston guidelines.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are clearly related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed by both the instructor and the student will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.
Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration—working together without permission—is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment and/or test, no collaboration is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (such as a smartphone), copying from others’ exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at http://www.cofc.edu/studentaffairs/general_info/studenthandbook.html.

**Late assignments will not be accepted.**

**Class Component:** Students will meet for classroom discussions and review as scheduled. Classroom sessions will strengthen students’ knowledge of relevant areas of social enterprise and development and critically examine the theoretical themes of the course. Topics addressed include, but are not limited to, social enterprise, micro-finance, and economic development. When students are not physically in class, they will be expected to participate in on-line discussions of the same topics.

**Fieldwork Component:** Students will actively engage in an overseas field work experience for a social enterprises or nonprofit organization.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Honduras Micro-finance Global Brigades project is a service learning trip that requires pre-departure study and overseas field experience working with a wide range of people who have different educational, socio-economic, and cultural backgrounds. Students will work with Global Brigades in Honduras while in Honduras, however, there will be pre-departure readings and quizzes (internet based) as well as class lectures/discussions prior to departure. Upon return, students will submit a learning outcomes project (short video clip).

In order for an academic trip to be successful students must:

- be prepared to participate from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 pm. each day
- be able to live in very primitive conditions
- be willing to take supervision and direction from group leaders whether they are professors, village elders or project appointed leaders
- engage 100 percent with villagers, their cohort, and project members
- present themselves in a professional manner at all times
- be respectful of different cultures and norms
- serve effectively as good will ambassadors of the College of Charleston and the United States

The Center for International Education will address all students about the behavior and disciplinary rules before the trip departs. In addition the following expectations will apply to this specific trip.

1: Any action i.e.: fighting, criminal actions will result in the student departing the program immediately at their expense and will result in an honor board investigation. A grade F will be given.

2: Drunkenness is not acceptable. Any student who cannot participate due to drunkenness or results of said behavior will be given a written warning that will be part of their permanent college record.

5: A midnight curfew will be enforced to make sure that students are able to meet the 7:00 a.m. meeting time each morning.

**SELECTED READINGS (ON OAKS)**

Articles (available on OAKS)
- Bottom of the Pyramid (Quiz)
- Microfinance Overview (Quiz)
- How Microfinance Changes Lives (Quiz)
- Think Again Microfinance (Quiz)
- Giving Grants Helps (Quiz)
- Small Change Micro-financing Doesn’t Work (Quiz)
- A Few Bad Apples Give Microfinance a Bad Name (Quiz)
- Remittances Overview (Quiz)
- Remittances Honduras (Quiz)

GRADING POLICY:
- Pre-departure Readings and Quizzes 35%
- Daily Log and Journal Cash Flow Analysis: 10%
- Video Summary (3 min video/photo book) 25%
- Behavior and participation 30%

Pre-departure Quizzes/Discussions
These quizzes will be online, multiple-choice quizzes based on course readings. Please see the OAKS calendar for quiz deadlines. The goal of these quizzes is to ensure each student is academically and intellectually prepared for all facets of the work in Honduras.

Daily Diary
Students will keep a daily diary throughout the trip. The diary will describe daily events and relate the activities to learning objectives. The daily diary should relate to the required readings, experience on the trip, interviews and cash flow analysis. Take photos! Students will require a minimum of 35 hours of fieldwork, which should be recorded in the daily diary.

Final Reflection Video/Photo Book
At the end of the course, students will submit either a 3 minute video or 20 page photo book summarizing the project (grading rubric will be provided). This video should incorporate all the elements of the course and should include: 1) description of Project, its goals and mission, 2) a brief summary of the economic, social and culture of Honduras 3) a description of student/students’ contribution to the project, and 4) reflection on what the student/students learned through the project. The video or photobook should be completed and submitted no later than 3 weeks after project completion.

Students can elect to do this portion as a group or as an individual. If the video/book is a group effort, students will be required to grade each group member’s effort/contribution by using a constant sum scale i.e. each individual will divide 100 points among all group members based on each individual’s efforts. These evaluations will be confidential.