

EXPLORING CHILE: COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Chilean Universities Program, Valparaíso

Suggested US semester credit hours: 3

Contact hours: 45

IFSA-Butler course code: IS304-04

Course length: Semester

Delivery method: Face to face

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Host Institution Affiliation: The Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to assist students in getting the most out of their learning abroad experience through thoughtful reflections, critical analysis and discussion about contemporary Chile while exploring key concepts such as community and interculturality. This course fosters the opportunities and tools to allow students to blend their intercultural learning with an exploration of local community groups and relevant issues influencing Chilean culture and society. Through this course students are encouraged to engage with the communities in which they are living and question their own perspective of the world, while learning to appreciate similarities and differences between cultures and communities and thus gain a more meaningful integration into these communities. By developing their intercultural competencies during their semester in Chile, this course aims to prepare students for future personal and professional contexts where navigating cultural difference is essential.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Basic understanding of cross-cultural and cultural integration processes through students' critical reflections of their own lived experiences in Chile. Students are expected to:

Develop a basic understanding of these processes through their own intercultural competencies (e.g. understanding their own cultural identity and the complexities of cultural difference and similarity; knowing and being able to identify stereotyping vs. generalizations).

2. Engagement with the community. Students are expected to:

- Engage in meaningful and on-going ways in the community in which they are living through one or more activities: internships or volunteer work with community organizations or as active members of a campus or community-based student organizations.
- Understand the dynamics that exist in the conformation of different communities in Chile from an intercultural perspective.

3. Basic understanding of key socio-cultural, economic and political issues that have impacted Chile in its history and have helped define the society today. This understanding will be based

on presentations, discussions and reflection.

METHODOLOGY

Through group discussions and invited speakers, this seminar encourages students to have awareness of their own cultural context and the new one they are facing in Chile. Students are required to actively participate, providing opinions and reflections about their new reality.

In accordance with the development of Spanish language competency that is vital for host community engagement, all program activities will be conducted in SPANISH.

HOURS

- 15 weekly sessions (two pedagogical hours -90 minutes- each session) including 12 group discussion sessions and 3 classes from cultural "insiders" (knowledgeable local experts). (A fourth session is included in one of the excursions)
- One (1) two hour "Re-entry" workshop at the end of the semester.
- 2 hours per week commitment to community engagement work (total 20 to 25 hours minimum).

ASSESSMENT

Successful completion will be given upon the completion of the following:

- 85% attendance at group discussions and talks by cultural insiders
- 85% fulfillment of community engagement
- Active group participation
- Submission of 6 reflection essays and photographic material related to topics and impressions
- Submission of a "Digital storytelling" project

ACTIVITIES

1. Group Discussion: Participating students will gather for twelve (12) sessions during the semester to discuss their cross-cultural and intercultural processes and community engagement experiences with program companions and the C&C guide who will facilitate the group discussions.

2. Class with Cultural Insiders: Participants will meet for four (4) sessions (3 classes and 1 during an excursion) to learn about key issues in Chile presented by an individual(s) knowledgeable about these issues (e.g. professor or topic specialist, local organization/cultural group member). All sessions will include opportunities for dialogue with learners. These sessions will be directly related to IFSA program excursions and will assist learners to better contextualize the excursions as part of their overall understanding of Chile.

Topics

- Cultural traditions and Sustainability: Wine harvest celebrations, water and rural Chilean realities (Spring) Fishing traditions and coastal marine sustainability (Fall)
- Human Rights and Memory: Building a culture of tolerance and respect for difference
- Immigration in Chile: From discrimination towards cultural encounter
- Indigenous Peoples in Chile: Past histories and present challenges

3. Reflection essays and photographic material: Students will write reflection essays and make a

photographic record related to each topic, and to their experiences and impressions in Chile.

4. A Digital Storytelling Project: The students will prepare a creative “video-clip” (digital storytelling video –2 to 4 minutes in length– in which, through images, videos, dramatizations, narrations, sounds, music, others, the participant responds to the question: **What is interculturality from my perspective?**

5. Community Engagement: Students choose a community and spend a minimum of two hours per week involved in an activity in that community (20-25 hours in the semester). This can take the form of an internship or volunteer placement and include participation in recreational club, arts or environmental organization, student clubs, and more. IFSA staff will assist learners with obtaining placement opportunities.

8. Re-entry Workshop: A two-hour re-entry workshop near the end of the semester.

Workshop Objectives:

- Assist students in reviewing/unpacking their intercultural experience in Chile.
- Examine common processes of re-insertion into students' home communities.
- Guide students in the preparation of their own personal processes of cultural re-adaptation, academic and professional growth and civic reengagement that they will experience upon their return home.

CALENDAR

Students will receive detailed calendar of the contents of each session at the first session of the semester long course.

TIMELY SUBMISSIONS

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be accepted at the discretion of the course instructor and generally only in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any academic endeavor must be based upon a foundation of honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by principles of academic integrity and must be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work while studying abroad. Any academic work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student’s original work. Any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty, will subject a student to disciplinary action.

IFSA-Butler takes academic integrity very seriously. Students must not accept outside assistance without permission from the instructor. Additionally, students must document all sources according to the instructions of the professor. Should your instructor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action may result. The incident will be reported to the IFSA-Butler resident director as well as your home institution.