

Syllabus: Argentina Study Abroad Program

Summer 2012 (February 14th to July 23rd)

CI 499AR-U and AR-G

This program has been designed specifically for teacher certification students, in the College of Education and throughout the university. Education graduate students are also welcome. This program will give participants an opportunity to have an international experience focused on the study of education in another country.

Teachers in training today will face an increasingly diverse student body in practice. In addition, they will be tasked with educating these students to function in an increasingly globalized world. Study abroad programs serve multiple functions that help address these realities. This program will help you, as a future student, to reflect on your place within the global processes that influence your life, perspectives, and pedagogies. Encountering a location, people, and structures that are different from your own allows you to understand your own personal strengths and weaknesses, helps you to learn to be more multi-perspectival in your ways of thinking, and allows you to reflect on your future teaching practices and beliefs. This experience itself is an educative tool in their your careers, in terms of educating your own students about the realities of the location and how to participate in solving local and global issues.

Overall Goals:

- To provide a cross-cultural experience for future teachers to work with linguistically and culturally different students.
- To encourage a critical and multi-perspectival assessment of the assets of contexts that are socially, culturally, racially, and linguistically different from the students' own background,
- To help students examine their own biases and prejudices by participating in a culturally different context.
- To understand another country's approaches to education and the economic and political contexts surrounding schooling in this context.
- To provide direct experiences that will encourage future teachers to be better prepared to globalize their curriculum.
- To provide resources to methods courses as students from this program bring their experiences into senior year certification courses on campus.

Content:

The course will begin with pre-departure preparation beginning Tuesday, February 14th from 4-5:00 and continue weekly until April 17th. This will be followed by a four-week study abroad experience abroad that will include a placement in schools and opportunities to visit a range of schools in rural and urban settings. The final three weeks of the course will take place online.

Assessment/Requirements

Students will be required to keep a journal, with specific reflections assigned throughout the course. You will also be asked to choose a specific research topic of interest, which you will research prior to departure and study while abroad. You also choose a topic of interest that will help to prepare you for your visit to Argentina. You will write a 5-page paper on your pre-departure topic to share with others. Following the trip, you will write a 5-page paper summarizing your findings of your research project and prepare a PowerPoint presentation on your own or with a small group that reports on your learning from the study abroad portion. Some of these PowerPoints will be presented at a College of Education forum for study abroad programs in Fall 2012.

Schedule for Study Abroad Program

Date	Location	Events-Topics	Reflective Journal
Mar 10	COE or skype	What does it mean to teach abroad? Getting to know each other. Overview of the program— Participants from previous trip	
Mar 30		Argentina: Culture & Language— being culturally appropriate	1 st Journal Reflection – What are your hopes and fears about this study abroad program? What are your preconceptions about Latin America and Argentina in particular? What do you think will be the major challenges/differences for you?
Apr 6		Argentina: Culture & Language— being culturally sensitive	3 rd Journal Reflection – What will be the challenges of cultural sensitivity for you personally?
Apr 13		Brainstorm curriculum ideas to take with us	4 th Journal Reflection -- What do you imagine will be the challenges and rewards of participating in an Argentine classroom?
Apr 20		Argentina: History	5 th Journal Reflection -- What things about Argentina history will help you understand this country? What surprised you?
Apr 27		Logistics and Other Issues	
IN ARGENTINA (5/23 to 6/22)			
<p>For journal writing while you are in Argentina, you can write to the prompt or you can choose one of the themes, or a mixture of both. Items with a * are required.</p> <p>THEMES: Theme #1: Personal reflection on what you are learning Theme #2: Reflection on school experience Theme #3: Reflection on cultural experience Theme #4: Comparison of Argentina and U.S.</p>			
W, May 23	Over- night flight	Departure from O’Hare (optional group shuttle from Champaign)	
Th, May 24	Hotel in Alta Gracia	Arrival – evening in Cordoba, bus travel to Alta Gracia	
F, May 25		M: unpack and get settled in hotel A- Tour of city & holiday parade in downtown Alta Gracia— Argentina “Independence” Day B- Gaucho dinner & show	
Sa, May 26		M: Rest and walk around on your own A: Museo Virrey Liners in Alta Gracia E: On your own	10 th Journal Reflection – Describe your initial observations of Alta Gracia. What things look, feel, and taste different from your life in the U.S.? How are you feeling about these differences? What feels most challenging and why? What can you do to help yourself deal with these challenges? What do you need from others?
Su, May 27		M: On your own A: Bus to Cordoba, visit craft fair E: Group meeting to prepare for school visits	11 th Journal Reflection* – Write a descriptive summary of your day including the cultural and pedagogical practices that you noticed throughout the day. How do these reflect the cultural setting?

First full week M, May 28		M: School visit – El Angelo k-12 School A: School visit – Misericordia Catholic School E: On your own	12 th Journal Reflection – What impressions are you gathering about the schools you visited today? What are 3 cultural practices in the schools that are different and 3 that are similar to schools you have experienced?
T, May 29		M – School visit – Paulo Domingo School A: School visit – San Martin Elementary School E - Group meeting at hotel	13 th Journal Reflection – What impressions are you gathering about the schools you visited today? What are 3 cultural practices in the schools that are different and 3 that are similar to schools you have experienced?
W, May 30		placement either morning or afternoon session (7:45 to 12:30) or afternoon session (1:30 to 5:00)—visiting other classrooms 2 days a week M: School placement or visiting A: School placement or visiting E: Meeting with certification students in Alta Gracia	14 th Journal Reflection* – In regards to your specific research question, what have you learned/noticed so far? What questions remain? What data are you collecting and what seems most useful for addressing your question?
Th, May 31		M: School placement or visiting A: School placement or visiting E: Dinner at Marilyn’s house	15 th Journal Reflection – How is the experience of tutoring/teaching in this school different from other experiences that you have had prior? What accounts for these differences?
F, June 1	Hotel in Cordoba	Bus to Cordoba to visit schools Visit Palacio Ferreya Meetings at Catholic University Stay in hotel	16 th Journal Reflection* – Describe your classroom observations experiences so far. What issues do teachers seem to face? What have you learned from them about teaching in general? How have your experiences so far been helpful in thinking about your future teaching?
Sa, June 2	Hotel in AG	10:30 – bus tour of city with guide 3:00 visit Escuela de Artes Museum 6:00 visit Peatonal and Buen Pastor small group dinners on your own 9:30– Tango dinner and show	
Su, June 3		On your own – catch up on journal and research project writing	17 th Journal Reflection – What did you learn from the weekend in Cordoba? How did schools seem similar and different from schools in Alta Gracia?
Second full week M, June 4	Hotel	M: School placement or visiting A: School placement or visiting E: on your own	18 th Journal Reflection* – Take field notes for at least an hour today and then look at the kinds of things that you are noticing. What does this say about your interests?
T, June 5		M: School placement or visiting A: School placement or visiting E: Group seminar at hotel	19 th Journal Reflection – open choice

W, June 6		M: School placement or visiting A: School placement or visiting E: On your own	20 th Journal Reflection – How are issues of education reform in Cordoba, Argentina similar/different from those in your home state and country?
Th, June 7		M: School placement or visiting A: School placement or visiting E: Dinner at Marilyn’s house	21 st Journal Reflection* -- How have your experiences so far been helpful in thinking about your future teaching?
F, June 8	Hotel in Santa Rosa	morning placements in schools 1:30 – bus pick up for trip to Santa Rosa (Hotel Rex overnight) bus trip to visit Tierciera school and rural elementary school sidetrip to Villa General Belgrano (German village) for afternoon dinner in Santa Rosa 2:00 am – disco in Santa Rosa	
Sa, June 9	Hotel in AG	check out of hotel travel to La Cumbrecita, German village in the mountains, hiking & tourist visits lunch at Cumbrecita visit nearby National Park (optional zip lining) back to Alta Gracia in the evening	
Su, June 10		Catch up, rest, on your own	22 nd Journal Reflection – What did you learn about education in rural areas of Argentina? How does this expand your understanding of education in Argentina?
Third full week M, June 11		M: School placement or visiting A: School placement or visiting E: on your own	23 rd Journal Reflection* – Take field notes for an hour today and then analyze the themes from your field notes? What things are you focusing on and why?
T, June 12		M: School placement or visiting A: School placement or visiting E: Group seminar at hotel	24 th Journal Reflection* – In regards to your specific research question, what have you learned/noticed so far? What questions remain?
W, June 13		M: School placement or visiting A: School placement or visiting E: Dinner at Marilyn’s house	25 th Journal Reflection –What issues do students seem to face? What have you learned from interacting with the students?
Th, June 14		M: School placement or visiting A: School placement or visiting E: On your own	26 th Journal Reflection* – Focus on one issue for today, student interaction, teacher/student interaction, instruction, or (your choice). Think about how this is different from your observation/student teaching classroom last semester, or choose a comparison classroom of your choice.

F, June 15		M: School placement or visiting A: School placement or visiting E: Farewell dinner and thanks you	27 th Journal Reflection – Compare your placement classroom with one of the classrooms you visited. What were the similarities and differences and how do you account for these, i.e., what do you think influenced the differences? What have you learned in general from your visits?
Sa, June 16		On your own—meetings or trips with teachers/friends	28 th Journal Reflection* – In regards to your specific research question, what have you learned/noticed so far? How is what you are learning going to impact your future teaching?
Su, June 17		Last full day in Alta Gracia or go into Cordoba for tourist time—on your own	
M, June 18		A&M: Pack and get ready to leave E: Good-bye thank-you at hotel	
T, June 19	Hotel in Buenos Aires	M: travel to Cordoba airport (early am) Hotel Diplomat A: Buenos Aires city tour E: Group dinner	
W, June 20		M&A: Visit to artisan market and Bellas Artes Museum-group lunch A: Free for tourist things 8:00 – group dinner	
Th, June 21	Overnight flight	A&M: Free for tourist things 3:00 – walk with Madres de los Desaparecidos (Mothers of the Disappeared) in Plaza de Mayo Leave Buenos Aires (evening) EZE airport	
F, June 22		Arrive – Chicago O’Hare	29 th Journal Reflection – You saw two different settings in Argentina (Alta Gracia/ Cordoba and Buenos Aires). How were these similar and different? What have you learned about cross-cultural interactions that will help you as a teacher?
		BACK HOME	
T, July 10	Online	Impacts of Teaching Abroad Reflections on Individual Research Projects	30 th Journal Reflection* – What did you learn in Argentina that will most influence your future teaching? What experiences stimulated this learning?
T, July 17	Online	Sharing ppt presentations	Share of findings from research projects and answer questions about final paper (5 pages)

			Final paper and group ppt. due 7/30/11
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