LA 478 Senior Seminar “Cultivating Global Citizenship”  
Ecuador Study Abroad Summer 2018  
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Course Overview

The primary aim of the senior Liberal Studies Senior Colloquium is to help students cultivate an ethical sensibility that supports global citizenship. The purpose of this study abroad course is to navigate various ethical issues, both as abstract ideas and as manifested in day-to-day social and cultural practices, even as you develop and reflect on your own thoughts on these matters. This reflective practice will enable you to become a more informed and engaged citizen, not just of your local community, but also of the larger world. Throughout the course, we will adopt perspectives of varying scale, focusing our attention sometimes on issues affecting us on a global level, and at other times on issues affecting us locally. Prerequisites: HUM 124, 214, and 324 (or special permission from the Director of the Humanities Program).

Course Objectives

To Cultivate: 1) An ethical sensibility in personal decision-making; 2) An appreciation of ethical differences and the ability to engage in constructive dialogue with others; 3) An awareness of personal and collective responsibilities; and 4) A sense of individual empowerment to be an ethical person.

Required Readings

Students are asked to bring their copy of all assigned readings on the study abroad trip. Readings will include:


Grading

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<th>% of Final Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-departure Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Presentation &amp; Discussion Facilitation</td>
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<td>Discussion Summaries &amp; Reflections</td>
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<td>Journal</td>
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<td>Final Reflection</td>
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Course letter grades are assigned as: A: 100-90, B: 89-80, C: 79-70, D: 69-60, F: 59 and below.
Participation

Students are expected to attend every event that is part of this course. That includes pre-trip meetings, including information and orientation sessions in the Spring, on-campus pre-trip class meetings, and in the field tours, walks, and student presentations. Every day, the group will meet for the opportunity to reflect on the day’s activities. In additional, all students are required to keep a personal daily journal to reflect on the course activities and content.

Participation will be evaluated based on the following factors:
- Contribution to class discussion, reflections, and evidence of preparation
- Completion of free-write assignments and group work
- Keeping a daily course journal
- Attendance at class meetings and field activities

Student Presentations

Each student will chose one topic related to the course material (see list below) and give a 30 minute presentation on this topic. The objective of the presentation and discussion leadership is to assist your peers in understanding and analyzing the assigned material. In researching the topic, I expect you will use at least three outside sources.

In addition to your 30 minute presentation, I expect you to facilitate a 30 minute class discussion, asking questions that provoke meaningful discussion, reflection, and debate among your classmates. During the discussions of students’ presentations topics, all students in the course will be required to engage with the presenter by preparing in advance ideas and questions about the ethical challenges raised by the topic being covered.

Potential Presentation & Student-led Discussion Topics
- Agriculture (precolonial through today)
- Forestry/forest policy
- Mining and Oil in the Amazon and the Andes
- Colonial and contemporary politics
- Colonization in the Ecuadorian Amazon
- National Parks (protected areas) and World Heritage Sites
- Art/Architecture
- Petroleum in the Ecuadorian Amazon