



International Summer Service Learning Program 2006



LEARNING AGREEMENT AND APPLICATION THEO 33938: SUMMER SERVICE LEARNING: INTERNATIONAL

INTRODUCTION

Despite dramatic changes throughout the world, we continue to see a widening economic disparity between the rich and the poor. The lack of basic resources, access to health, education, and employment remains the challenge for developing and non-industrialized nations. In nations marred by political conflict and violence, efforts of peace, reconciliation, and democratization are slow and its affects are seen most clearly in the lives of the poor.

As we continue to face these and other global concerns, the need to educate students about their responsibility in our global community becomes ever apparent. It becomes increasingly important to educate students willing to examine causes of poverty and to create links of solidarity across borders.

In the summer of 1998, the Center for Social Concerns initiated the International Summer Service-Learning Program (ISSLP) with these and other hopes. This program is built on the marvelous tradition of domestic and international summer service projects developed by the Community of International Lay Apostolate (CILA) and the Center for Social Concerns.

The ISSLP seeks to provide international service-learning experiences in social concerns inspired by Gospel values and Catholic social teachings. The center shares in the University's mission to create an environment of teaching and learning that cultivate "a disciplined sensibility to the poverty, injustice and oppression that burden the lives of so many. The aim is to create a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to justice" (*The Mission Statement of the University of Notre Dame*).

OBJECTIVES

- To challenge students who have had domestic service-learning experiences to encounter international realities and to provide them the opportunity to work with and learn from the poor and marginalized in international settings.
- To educate students willing to examine causes of poverty and injustice and to create links of solidarity across borders in response to the Notre Dame/ Center for Social Concerns mission "to serve and act for a more just and humane world."
- To provide students the opportunity to work with persons and grass roots groups working to address the needs of the poor and marginalized and to learn from those who raise questions and share insights

about the social, political, economic, religious and cultural forces operative in the international setting.

- To contribute to the continuing value and experiential justice education and leadership development of students, alumni/ae, and educators related to the Notre Dame global community.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Center for Social Concerns seeks to partner with church-based, non-governmental, and community-based organizations that are addressing the needs of the poor and marginalized in developing countries or areas of political conflict throughout the world.

The ISSLP and the CSC collaborates with International Studies Programs, Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, the Alumni Association, and other departments of the University.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

In addition to students spending eight weeks engaged in service-learning at an ISSLP/CSC partner site, requirements include:

- Register and participate in the ISSLP Orientation Program Spring 2006 (THEO 33970: International Issues Seminar). This 1.0 credit course (graded S/U) is mandatory for all ISSLP participants. Includes weekly classes, special training sessions, and a weekend long cross-cultural training workshop/retreat. **Weekly classes meet spring semester either on Thursday evenings at 6:30-7:45 pm.** Please allow for both these times in your spring schedule. The cross-cultural training workshop/retreat is tentatively scheduled for 4:30 pm, Friday, March 24 through 7:00 pm, Sunday, March 26, 2006 (Alternative dates are March 31-April 2). Other weekend training sessions and dates to be determined.
- Complete all orientation/pre-departure, summer, and re-entry readings and writing assignments determined by the site and the CSC.
- Keep a journal.
- Write a final integrative paper.
- Participate in ISSLP Re-Entry Program during fall 2006 and weekend retreat (August 25-27, 2006)
- (Optional) Enroll for 1.0 credit directed readings or mini-course related to country.
- Help to develop and evaluate the ISSLP.
- Recruit future participants and participate in the selection process.
- Make at least one presentation integrating and sharing your experience.

Please refer to ISSLP course packet for further details on the academic requirements of the course. When all requirements are satisfied, the students will earn 1.0 credit in THEO 371 02: International Issues Seminar (graded S/U) and 3.0 credits in THEO 33938: Summer Service Learning: International (graded S/U) and a social concerns award of \$1,200.00 (prorated for less than eight week terms and impacted if requirements are not completed).

ACADEMIC INTEGRATION

Prior to departure, students are encouraged to investigate the opportunity to explore the integration of the ISSLP with a one or three credit independent study, directed reading, or related course in their major/ department or with a faculty member in an appropriate area of study.

APPLICATION & REGISTRATION

Application deadline is Tuesday, November 1, 2005. Selection for interviews will be based on the written application. Students will be notified if they are accepted to interview for the program and interviews will take place between November 30 and December 7. Students will be notified of acceptance into the program via email and formal letter of invitation over the holiday break. Once accepted into the program, students will be expected to commit their participation in writing. Students accepted into the ISSLP must register for courses, THEO 33970: International Issues Seminar and THEO 33938: Summer Service Learning: International, through DART in the spring semester. Students can secure DART authorization numbers through the Center for Social Concerns. For students abroad in the spring prior to their ISSLP, registration is administered through the Center for Social Concerns in the fall semester upon their return to campus.

Strong candidates for the ISSLP are those who have had a fair amount of domestic service-learning experience, or demonstrated individual service-learning initiative, or involvement with Center for Social Concerns' courses and programs.

EXPENSES

The ISSLP provides the student with a social concerns award of not less than \$1,000.00 and not more than \$1,200.00 (exact amount is dependent on the status of grant funding for 2005-06). This social concerns award is to be used for lodging and food that is not already included with the site placement, local/in country travel, vaccinations, passports, travel visas, and related travel expenses incurred during the eight-week internship. The ISSLP pays for the student's roundtrip airfare to and from the country (based on least expensive fare from student's home state) and any applicable site fees. Travel arrangements will be coordinated by Anthony Travel and the Center for Social Concerns. A \$100.00 program deposit/materials fee is required with the contact of participation.

CALENDAR 2005-06

September 1	Applications available
September - October	Weekly information sessions at the CSC
November 1	Application deadline
Nov. 30 – Dec. 7	Interviews
December 23-30	Candidates notified of acceptance or waitlist status
January 5	Participation contracts need to be signed and returned
January 25	Last day for course change
January - April	Orientation Sessions and Weekend Retreat (tentative: March 24-26)
May - August	Service-learning placements in progress
August - September	Follow-up courses or 4 sessions; Weekend Retreat (tentative: August 25-27)
September/October	Presentations
September - December	Promote ISSLP, recruit, and select future participants

