

FALL & SPRING SEMESTER

Sustainable Development & Social Justice in Latin America



**Required courses:

Spanish Language (all levels)

ICDS' Spanish language courses are taught at three levels:

1. Basic Spanish I & II
2. Intermediate Spanish I & II
3. Advanced Spanish:
 - Advanced Composition
 - Spanish for Oral Communication

A Spanish test is given at the beginning of the period to place students into the right level.

Community Engagement & Sustainable Development: A Service Learning Course

The main aim of this course is to help students prepare for, gain from, and reflect upon their term abroad as a profound global experience. Through workshops, lectures, course readings, videos, discussions, and the course's strong experiential learning component in the form of community service -- which takes place in the context of local development processes, mainly in urban Costa Rica-- students actively participate in their own learning community and beyond. Ongoing reflection, class discussions, and course activities help students develop their own experiences, respond to others' experiences, and ultimately make connections with the global experiences of others.



**Required Courses are for international students

Elective Courses: (Select 3)



Current Environmental Issues in Latin America

This course provides theoretical and practical knowledge and information about environmental and sustainable development issues and policies, illustrated with examples and case studies from Latin America, particularly Costa Rica. The course has been developed around a practical approach to the environmental green, blue, grey and brown agendas, selected case studies (INBio, ecotourism, PES) and selected cross-cutting issues of critical interest (energy, climate change, tourism and economics).

Sustainable Development in Rural and Urban Latin America

This course looks at the global context of urban and rural development with a focus on local issues and cases from Costa Rica and Latin America. It is designed to provide a historical understanding as well as the current context surrounding urban and rural development. A multi-dimensional approach is taken to analyze the causes and effects of development from social, environmental, and economic perspectives.

Responsible and Sustainable Tourism

This course analyzes the main trends of sustainable tourism and local development. It looks at the nature-based activities involving education and understanding of the natural environment. The course will focus on the relationship of this activity to local communities, managed so as to be ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable. The course is enriched by Costa Rica's experience in tourism and ecotourism, as well as other Latin American case studies.

Development in Latin America from a Gender Perspective

Development must be looked at within the context of a major set of problems which despite differences in scope and magnitude are similar in most of the developing world. Worldwide, gender inequality finds expression in the lack of opportunities and support women have. Gender inequality is one among many issues that need to be addressed in understanding development and underdevelopment. The aim of this course is to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the links between development and gender relations, and to show how equal relations between women and men is both an end and a means of development. The analysis is grounded on Latin America but looks into domestic approaches and policies as well as trends in the international arena, fundamental in today's globalized scenario.





Human Rights in Latin America: A Critical Approach

This course is aimed at providing students with a profound understanding of the essence of Human Rights in the Latin American context, by analyzing the history of colonialism, euro-centrism, patriarchalism, and neoliberalism that perpetuate structures of violence in the region, and the perpetuation of human rights violations that particularly affect women, children, migrants, and indigenous peoples.

Democracy in Central America: An Ongoing Question

This course explores Central American politics, human rights and development both from a historical and contemporary perspective, with the idea of showing the links between an unstable past and an uncertain future. The course is mainly focused on how historical events in Central American nations have shaped the changing relations between the state, the economy and society and have impacted the settling of democracy in the region, particularly in terms of human rights and development in the region.

International Trade & Sustainable Development: The Experience of Latin America

Students in this course will study the capacity of the international trade system to deal with global challenges that trade presents. A wide range of global and common problems still awaits effective solutions- depletion of natural resources, global climate change, and poverty alleviation are just a few examples of topics the class may approach. What are the actual implications of the free trade systems on these topics of sustainable economic development? Focusing on Latin America and its experiences, this course examines the historic context of international trade systems, the global politics of trade, and the real effects on the development of the region, all against the background of continued economic globalization.

Literatura Centroamericana (Taught In Spanish)

Este curso inicia al estudiante en el estudio de la literatura centroamericana y el lugar que ocupa Centroamérica en el espacio literario latinoamericano mediante lecturas representativas de diferentes períodos y movimientos literarios; ya que en cada una de las naciones de Centroamérica hay escritores jóvenes que producen cuentos, novelas y poesía de gran calidad literaria, tanto en términos de su relación con los discursos oficiales como con los discursos poético-revolucionarios, que en los setentas y ochentas se impusieron como norma y credo poético. El curso, además, introduce a los principales autores de la narrativa y de la poesía centroamericana, enmarcados dentro de un contexto histórico-cultural. También se proporcionarán las herramientas básicas para lograr una primera aproximación al análisis literario.





Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainable Development

This course explores strategies aimed at reducing the external impacts of businesses and corporations, creating value through corporate programs and policies, and contributing to the sustainable development of countries and communities where they operate. Students will learn about the evolution of corporate social responsibility throughout the years, its relevance to the private sector, and how corporate social responsibility strategies are constructed and put in practice. Additionally, the course looks into Public-Private Partnerships for Development (PPDs) as an instrument to implement social responsibility strategies. Classroom topics will be supported by site visits to relevant organizations and businesses for experiential learning and an immersive experience in course themes.

Culture & Development in Central America

This class examines the concept of culture and its influence on development. It explores implications and applications towards shaping one's cultural identity and world view; it examines theoretical aspects of culture and development, issues of diversity, identity and migration. The aim of this class is to understand Central America, its history, its culture, and how different concepts of development have been adopted and adapted to it.

