

SPRING TERM

Practical Approaches to Sustainability and Equality 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 in the right level.

Community Engagement & Sustainable Human Development in Latin America

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.



Elective Courses: (Select 2)



Human Rights, Migration, and Social Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean

The expansion and reach of Human Rights around the world have recently played roles of greater importance and success in Latin America and the Caribbean; achieving social justice in the trans-boundary and migrational spaces alludes to the international and institutional spheres. Generations of diasporas, waves of people in and out of the region, sustained unrest, civil upheavals, and insecurities create a constant migrating identity of people pushed and pulled out of their original nations. Social justice as an inclusive mechanism at the heart of the push for sustainability must address the struggles and unique survival strategies of an ever-increasing migrating population. This course will focus on their stories, shine light on their realities, and explore and seek the betterment of global, regional, national, local and grass roots initiatives expanding social justice in some of the most invisibilized and inspiring spaces of our planet.

Responsible & Sustainable Tourism

This course analyzes the main trends of sustainable tourism and local development. It looks at 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.

Corporate Social Responsibility and 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.

