

San Joaquín de Flores Institute
Course: Conversation (Community Based Learning)
Credits: 3
Professor: Adriana Gamboa Valverde

Description:

This course is designed to promote the interaction between students at the San Joaquin de Flores Institute and community members or organizations. This will give students the opportunity to learn about community dynamics and be more involved in their daily living. Each student will complete two hours of community work every week and two hours of conversation class with the professor to share his/her experiences with the community.

Objectives:

1. To improve oral skills and knowledge of the Spanish language through activities such as debates, forums, round tables, etc.
2. To acquire communication skills that will allow students to have a fluent interaction with other Spanish speakers in real life situations.
3. To promote an approach to Costa Rican social reality within a framework of respect for cultural differences.
4. To benefit involved organizations, their personnel and users through the work completed by the students.

Contents:

1. What is Community Based Learning?
2. Community work: learning and helping.
3. Preparing for culture shock: working in a different culture.
4. Community work practices: development of projects with a significant contribution to the organizations and population involved.
5. Creating a journal of community experiences.
6. Discussions guided by the professor: what are we learning; how do we interact with Costa Ricans; what do they expect from us and what do we expect from them; what are our similarities and our differences?
7. Oral communication techniques: panel interviews, debates, forums, round tables, etc.

Evaluation:

Evaluation will be divided in two: 50% for community work and 50% for class work.

- Community Work:

Individual journal (15%): students will keep a Facebook journal with details from their experiences. This journal is intended to highlight the students' thoughts during their work and does not require any previous research.

Group journal (15%): students will form groups and create a small review or summary of their experiences and work information. Photographs will also be included.

Participation (20%): Community work will be evaluated periodically throughout the semester. The degree of community participation will be

measured by the work completed at the organization. Lateness or absences will affect the score.

- Class Work

Use of target language (10%): students must only speak Spanish during class. The use of English will be reason to lose points.

Homework (10%): homework will be assigned each week, including readings, research of a specific subject, interviews to different people, etc.

Attendance and punctuality (10%): students must attend all lessons and arrive in time. Attendance will be taken every week.

Participation (10%): students must have an active and spontaneous participation in all class discussions.

Final assignment (10%): at the end of the course, students must complete a final assignment that develops a subject related to Latin American culture and present it in front of the class.

Bibliography:

Andreola, Balduino Antonio. 1984. *Dinámica de grupo*. Madrid: Editorial Sal Terrae.

Agallo Barrios, Armando. 1994. *Dinámica de grupos: más de cien juegos para practicar en clase*. Buenos Aires: Editorial Espacio.

Barboza, María Isabel. 1999. *Destrezas*. San José: Editorial de la Universidad de Costa Rica.

Davis, Robert. 2001. *Tertulia: Advance skills in oral Spanish*. Washington: Harcourt College Publishers.

N. de Gallardo, Edelma. 1995. *Guía práctica para enseñar español a extranjeros*. San José: Editorial N. de Gallardo.

Other sources: Costa Rican newspapers, magazines and internet articles.