DEVELOPMENT STUDIES IN LATIN AMERICA: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM

REQUIRED COURSES

Community Engagement and Sustainable Human Development: A Service-learning Course
A course based on service learning as a pedagogic methodology that prepares college graduates to be active and informed global citizens.

This is a credit-bearing educational experience. It gives you the opportunity to participate in community work and reflection spaces that allow you to connect personal values with course contents: local development, social justice, intercultural understanding, sustainability, civic responsibility, and global citizenship. Community work focuses on local human development processes, mainly in urban Costa Rica.

Spanish Language
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
ELECTIVE COURSES:

Sustainability Practices and Food Security in Rural Costa Rica (Special elective course)
This course, offered by the International Center for Development Studies (ICDS) in conjunction with Finca La Flor -- an agro-ecological farm located in Cartago, Costa Rica -- provides students in the areas of Environmental and Sustainability Studies with an opportunity for a first-hand practical experience in the field of environment, ecology, and food security in Costa Rica. The course focuses on water management, forest ecosystems, permaculture, animal husbandry, as well as organic agriculture and food security policies and practices at Finca La Flor.

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, and green economics).

Rural and Urban Sustainable Development: Global and Local Perspectives
This course analyzes the global context of urban and rural development with a focus on local issues 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 will be taken to analyze the causes and effects of development from social, environmental and economic perspectives.

Sustainable Tourism and Local Development
The 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
The aim of the course is to provide you 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 you with a profound understanding 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.

The first part of the course introduces you to a critical theory of human rights, relating concepts and ideals of human rights within the Latin American history of authoritarian governments, systematic violations of human rights by States and groups in power, and by examining the structural, cultural and direct violence through the human rights lenses. The second part of the course focuses on understanding the dynamics of violence inflicted to specific populations in situation of vulnerability: women, children, indigenous peoples, and migrants.

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.
Latin America: A Mirror of Reality Through Film
This interdisciplinary course seeks to review and analyze the complexity and richness of Latin American culture and history using films as a vehicle to facilitate students’ understanding. The films selected will provide social, historical and ideological frameworks to study the changes which have taken place in contemporary Latin America.

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 periodos y movimientos literarios.

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.