

College of St. Benedict / St. John's University

Summer 2009: Ecuador

GWST 180: Gender & Culture in Ecuador

2 credit

Humanities, Gender & Experiential Designation (Pending)

Service Component Required

Texts:

Grace Galliano, *Gender: Crossing Boundaries*. (Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth, 2003).
Additional readings available through Moodle.

Classes: Taught in English on Tuesdays & Thursdays, will last 1.5 hours each, and last the duration of the 4 week program.

Course Description: This is an interdisciplinary survey of the role of gender in a cross-cultural context. It introduces students to a broad range of concepts and issues in the discipline of gender and women's studies. It is intended as a theoretical foundation for further courses in gender studies, although special attention will be paid to the ways in which men and women differ through the examination of race, socio-economic class, ethnicity, sexual orientation and culture. Students will explore the cultural issues that surround the social construction of gender, the representation of men and women in different cultures and languages, the acquisition of gender identity across cultures and the similarities and differences among/between men and women of diverse cultural backgrounds.

Orientations & Debriefing: Two pre-trip required orientations to prepare students for immersion by discussing travel logistics, cultural & linguistic adjustment and barrier, and the study of gender and community service. Reading assignments will be required for each. In addition, one debriefing session will also be required from participants to discuss the experience, establish the connections with college milieu, and create a strategy plan for activism and fundraising for scholarships and/or microloans. Each session will take approximately 2hrs.

Service Learning: This is a required component of this course and an opportunity for each student to fuse community service with theory along with academic reflection and analysis. As part of the learning experience students will be placed with one of the agencies with whom CSB/SJU has partnered with. The nature of the service may vary depending on the agency, but students will complete at least 30 hours of service through the course of the program. The grade for this component will be based on the completion of hours, the evaluations from your agency's supervisor and a reflection paper on the connections between the knowledge gained in class and that attained by through their contact with a service agency and the community it serves.

The service component is focused on gender, in particular women's cooperatives and endeavors that women are involved in. These delve into various fields such as education, entrepreneurship, art, tourism, ecology, anthropology, etc.

Reflection Paper: The reflection paper, due the last day of classes, will include students' thoughts on their initial expectations for this course, readings selected for this course, difficulties, knowledge gained, and conclusions they may have come to at the end of the course and their service learning experience.

Experience will include:

- Tuition
- Air travel
- Excursions
- Lodging
- Meals

Classes: Taught in suitable facility on-site

Lodging: Family stay, one student per family.

Meals: 3 meals a day, provided by host families. Special diets or allergies can be accommodated if given notice.

Planned excursions: 2 arranged by director(s), 2 optional

Service: Agency contact and placement is done by director(s).

Week at a Glance:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Class	Site Visit	Class		Excursion	Excursion