

Summer Semester 2006
E-mail: kbolton@selu.edu

Dr. Kenneth Bolton
Office: 356-C Fayard
Telephone (985) 549-5964

HUM 200 - Cultural Studies in the Discipline - Criminal Justice/Sociology in Costa Rica

Course Description:

This course gives students the ability to choose a specific area of socio-cultural interest and explore it in-depth in Costa Rica. The choice of topics can vary as cultural is a broad, far-reaching and diverse sociological phenomenon, which includes traditions, food habits, language and belief and value systems. Students, therefore, have the flexibility to develop a project of their own interest and conduct a study in Costa Rica. The specific cultural topic selected for research must be approved by the Instructor. Students will have the ability to visit with officials, tour facilities and conduct research to gain first hand experience with life, institutions and the daily operation of cultural and its myriad facets in Costa Rica.

Course Requirements:

Orientations:

Three orientations will be help prior to departure to familiarize students with Costa Rica, the program and what is required from the class. Attendance is mandatory and each orientation is worth **5%** of the final grade. Total is equal to **15%** of final grade.

Proposal:

Students will be expected to write a proposal that **counts 15% of the final grade** detailing what aspect of Costa Rican culture the student will explore. The specific cultural topic selected for research must be approved by the Instructor. The proposal should contain: the research area of interest, the primary research questions, the research methods and the ultimate learning goals.

Annotated Bibliography:

Students will prepare for their research in Costa Rica by preparing an annotated bibliography that **counts 10% of the final grade**. Students will find sources of information—books, journal articles, etc- that give them the necessary background to understand the parameters of the aspect of culture they will investigate for their research- write the citation and a summary of the content of the reading and turn it in before leaving the U.S.

Research Activity:

The student's organization, effort and fulfillment of the agreed upon proposal will be graded and **counts 15% of the final grade**. The student will meet regularly with the professor and demonstrate measurable progress towards the completion of the research

while demonstrating an ability to develop an objective understanding of the topic while understanding and contextualizing ethnocentric influence from his or her own cultural background.

Write-Up:

The final paper worth **20% of the final grade will be turned in at the end of the trip.** . The paper will consist of a 5-8-page summation and discussion of all aspects of the research process.

Attendance:

Attendance at all scheduled class meetings is required, especially since gaining a broader socio-cultural understanding of Costa Rica revolves around interacting with others, discussion and reading to develop a critical, comparative understanding of the life in Costa Rica and the United States. Therefore, attendance counts **15% of the final grade** and is calculated on the basis of 10 points per scheduled event. For example, a student with 1 unexcused absence will receive a final attendance grade of 90.

Class Participation:

As the emphasis of this class is analysis, critical thought and the development of cross-cultural awareness, class participation is extremely important to the development and exchange of ideas and **counts 10% of the final grade.** Students are expected to be prepared, participate fully, respect the right of others to participate and fulfill any requests made of them by the professor and guest speakers. Students who are disorderly, students who decline to participate in-group activities and students who fail to respect their role as a guest of the people of Costa Rica will be penalized accordingly. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Late Work:

Assignment(s) handed in late will be deducted 15 points. All assignments must be complete and given to the professor by June 6th. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Grading Scale:

90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 59 and below =F.