

## **Southeast Community College Study Abroad Topics Course**

### **Underlying rationale:**

The Study Abroad Topics Course (2999), Individual Special Topics Course, will offer SCC students an opportunity to experience an international adventure as part of their formative educational process. Typically, students do not study abroad until after they achieve 60 hours of undergraduate education. Thus, historically, students matriculating at community colleges are denied the opportunity to study abroad. In recognition of the importance of a global perspective for all citizens, including today's community college students, SCC is interested in creating opportunities to learn about the cultures of other countries. It is our firm belief that knowledge of peoples and countries around the world is integral to the economic health of the United States and to building friendships and avoiding conflicts.

### **Cross disciplinary approach:**

The global education committee believes that this type of international learning experience should be available to all SCC students, including those in technical and vocational programs. The course is designed to facilitate study abroad for students across all disciplines, including agriculture, business administration, nursing, radiologic technology, welding, etc.

### **Flexible course format:**

The course format is flexible and will permit students to determine the nature of their study abroad experience. For example, students will be able to work with an advisor (from a selected program) to focus on a subject of interest. Possible topic areas could include such diverse subjects as marketing, food service, home construction, etc. However, students in technical programs are not required to develop a study proposal in their major. They may elect to choose a more traditional subject for study such as Psychology, Sociology, History, International Relations, Comparative Politics, or World/Ethnic Literature.

### **Pre-trip preparation:**

In recognition of the complexity of the visited countries (i.e. economic, political, social, cultural values and structure) the course was developed to be interdisciplinary. Part of the course requirement will involve selected readings designed to give participants an underpinning in the history and current issues facing the visited countries.

There also will be two to three meetings prior to leaving on the trip so that participants can share what they have learned and prepare to be fully engaged in the international learning experience.

### **Post-trip evaluation:**

Students will be evaluated based on their active participation in pre-meetings, participation during the trip itself, on a personal journal of the trip, on a research paper and, finally, on a class presentation. Some of the evaluation elements would be conducted in the host country and some once the group returns stateside.