



Independent Study Project

ISPR-3000 (4 Credits / 120 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

Chile: Comparative Education and Social Change

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description

For SIT Study Abroad students, the Independent Study Project (ISP) is an important part of the cross-cultural learning process. The ISP offers students the opportunity to undertake a specific and individualized independent field study. Students also may choose to incorporate a guided practicum experience into the project. The ISP provides access to material and human resources in Chile and facilitates greater understanding through further immersion into the host culture. The ISP topic is the fulcrum for this process. Orientation, language training, the homestay, and the academic seminars provide the information sources and additional skills training for the study. The direction and monitoring of the students during the ISP phase reviews methods of learning as well as progress towards the finished project. The final paper, in turn, provides the material evidence of capability in handling of methodology and in synthesizing experiences in the host culture.

The project should be based on field study and designed to take advantage of the unique human and material resources available in Chile.

Course Objectives

Its main objectives are:

- To learn to design, plan, conduct, and implement social studies in the field and synthesize in written and oral presentation
- To develop intercultural skills
- To improve Spanish language skills
- To apply social research methods based on ethnography, complementing the use of primary and secondary sources
- To develop analytical skills and critical thinking through the combination of research ethics, practical experience, and theory
- To develop self-discipline and independence required for social research

- To develop capacity to write academic essays
- To present research in Spanish

Expected Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will have attained the following:

- Productive and appropriate use of 120 hours dedicated to the completion of the ISP
- Greater understanding of the experiential learning process and methodology
- Increased depth of understanding, analytical clarity, and cross-cultural sensitivity
- Ability to implement techniques learned during the program
- Accuracy of information
- Ability to utilize a range of primary sources of information (especially people)
- Use of library resources to analyze information from primary sources
- Effective oral and written presentations of the project
- Written evaluation of the project by a Chilean Project Director/ Advisor
- Successful completion of the ISP

Assignments

Of major importance is the demonstration of synthesis of the various components of the Chile program. In addition, the project should contribute to a greater understanding of some aspects of Chilean, Mapuche, or Argentine reality. The quality of the oral presentation given at the final evaluation will form an important part of the final ISP grade as will the quality of the finished ISP. The paper's structure and mechanics also will be given serious consideration.

Written paper	70%
Oral presentation	20%
Evaluation by project advisor; sensitivity and respect shown for Chilean, Argentinean, and Mapuche cultures	10%

Grading Scales and Criteria

Grades are given both fairly and rigorously and in accordance with the system below. They will reflect a combination of absolute quality of performance, progress made, and the ability to take into account and assimilate the academic director's and the teachers' advice in assessing the work done. An "A" letter grade reflects exceptional work, perfect combination of academic competences, and personal research and analysis. It shows great ability to integrate field-based investigation and personal reflection into a structured and well argued paper. A "B" letter grade reflects serious and methodical work as well as a substantial effort at analyzing and understanding cross-cultural issues. A "C" letter grade shows the work meets the requirements but needs more in-depth reflection and personal involvement. A "D" letter grade is insufficient and clearly reflects lack of work or serious deficiencies.

The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C

70-73% C-
67-69% D+
64-66% D
below 64 F

Please see the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.

Please Note: Course contents, lecturers, and readings may be modified as needed. Should any change of class topics or lecturers be necessary, the student will be promptly notified.

Student research (Independent Study Project) is a product of field work and as such students have an obligation to assess both the positive and negative consequences of their field study. Ethical field work, as stipulated in the SIT Statement of Ethics, results in products that are shared with local and academic communities; therefore copies of ISPs are returned to the sponsoring institutions and the host communities, at the discretion of the institution(s) and/or community involved. World Learning/SIT Study Abroad may archive, copy, or convert the ISP for non-commercial use, for preservation purposes, and to ensure future accessibility. World Learning/SIT Study Abroad may archive ISPs in the permanent collection at the SIT Study Abroad local country program office and/or at any World Learning office. World Learning/SIT Study Abroad has a non-exclusive, perpetual right to store and make available, including electronic online open access, to the ISP. Students retain all ownership rights of the ISP product and retain the right to use all, or part, of my project in future works. Please refer to the Student Handbook or the Access, Use, and Publication of ISP form.