



Chile

Cultural Identity, Social Justice, and Community Development

Credits 16

Program Base Valparaíso

Language Study Spanish

Homestay Valparaíso, 7 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestay Mapuche or Aymara community, 1 week

Educational Excursions Santiago; Arica/Iquique or Temuco

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites Three recent semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent and the ability to follow coursework in Spanish, as assessed by SIT.

Cultural Identity, Social Justice, and Community Development Seminar

LACB 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in Spanish, with required readings, examining political and socioeconomic development trends of contemporary Chile from the cultural vantage point of Chilean, Mapuche, and Aymara communities. The course includes participation in community work projects with local organizations in Valparaíso. Resources utilized in the delivery of course content include the ANAMURI women's organization, Centro Juvenil El Puerto, and other local nongovernmental organizations working on behalf of children's and women's rights, artistic-cultural expression, and local community development. Academic seminars are taught at the Universidad Santa María in Valparaíso. Educational excursions to Santiago combine firsthand exposure to Chile's diverse socioeconomic realities with participatory lectures by area experts. Lectures and discussions for this course generally include the following topics:

History and Politics

Major historical periods—postindependence national consolidation; Chilean political system before and after 1973; social and labor movements and civil society; Pinochet dictatorship and the transition to democracy; Concertación (coalition) governments from 1990 to the country's 2010 bicentennial.

Human Rights

Conceptualization of human rights and justice; the dictatorship, human rights violations, and the Disappeared; the Pinochet case (1998-2007) and other landmark cases; marginalized groups in Chile including the *pobladores* movement and gender equity issues.

Economics and Development

Allende government policies; Chilean economic "miracle" based on the neoliberal model; inward

versus outward development strategies; integration with the world economy; poverty and wealth distribution; environmental degradation and natural resource exploitation; community development.

First Nations

Concepts of First Nation and indigenous cosmivision; migration and urban realities of Mapuche and Aymara: their struggles for cultural preservation and socioeconomic sustainability in the face of racism and often hostile state policies.

Educational Excursions

The program features excursions to points of interest in Valparaíso and Santiago. A longer 16-day trip is taken to Temuco and the nearby coastal and mountain areas in southern Chile or to Iquique and Arica in northern Chile, including the Chilean *altiplano*.

Intensive Language Study: Spanish

SPAN 2006-4006 / 6 credits / 90 class hours
Emphasis on speaking, reading, and writing skills through classroom and field instruction. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in small intensive intermediate or advanced classes, with further language practice during homestays, lectures, and field visits.

Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours
A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and use of appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; field study skills in observation and interviewing; organizing, analyzing, and communicating data; maintaining a field study journal.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Valparaíso, Santiago, Temuco, Arica, or in another approved location in Chile appropriate to the project. Sample topic areas: land squatter organizations; the 1978 Amnesty Law; the Disappeared and their families; urban Mapuche culture; women's reproductive rights; public health and educational reform; Chilean social policy; community-based mental health; Aymara social structure; folkloric roots of Chilean music; sustainable agricultural projects and rural society; indigenous belief systems and traditions.

Homestay

Seven weeks in the Valparaíso/Viña del Mar area and one week with rural indigenous families of Mapuche or Aymara descent. Other accommodations during the program include hostels, private homes, or small hotels.

Historical Memory and Social Justice

Historical memory is a powerful part of Chile's reconciliation and democratization processes following the fall of the Pinochet dictatorship. Previous discussions of history, human rights, and social justice crystallize when students visit organizations and memorials recognizing human rights violations during 18 years of military rule. Students meet with staff at the Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos, formed by family members of forced missing persons, and attend a lecture by a prominent human rights lawyer. Visits to the Memorial to the Detained and Disappeared in Santiago's principal cemetery and the Parque por la Paz open-air museum provide additional context.