

Kipling Road, PO Box 676, Brattleboro, Vermont 05302-0676 USA
Tel: 802-258-3212 * Toll Free: 888-272-7881 * Fax: 802-258-3296
www.sit.edu/studyabroad

COURSE SYLLABUS

Community Action Project

PRAC-3000 (2 credits / 60 field hours)
Summer 2008

SIT Study Abroad Program:

The Balkans: State Building and Human Rights in the South Balkans

Academic Director: Kumjana Novakova, MA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course level is for undergraduate students. They will participate in a community project in the Roma community of Skopje, Macedonia, under the sponsorship of the Roma Centre of Skopje.

ANTICIPATED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES/CORE COMPETENCIES

Undergraduate students upon completing the project will have:

- Capacity to define and apply the rights approach to Roma rights.
- Ability to define and analyze the concept of reciprocity

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To engage in community action project promoting reciprocity in the Roma community in Skopje, Macedonia.
- To reflect upon the meaning and impact of community action by internationals.
- To contribute by using skills such as teaching English or leading youth workshops.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Participation in various activities within the Roma community in the spirit of social reciprocity and mutual respect (10 days). Emphasis placed on community needs and applying individual talents and skills to provide service to benefit the host community. Undergraduate students will be expected to apply specific skills such as teaching English.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Graduate students are expected to prepare for and participate in specific graduate level discussion sessions as well as in the community action project, as well as to lead undergraduate discussion sessions.

PREREQUISITES FOR UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT:

At least one of the following courses must have been taken: modern European history, East European history, nationalism, human rights, peace and conflict studies, multiculturalism, race studies, East European cultures, or a relevant language (Serbian, Macedonian, Albanian, Rrom).

STUDENT ASSESSMENT:

Requirements and expectations of students for successful completion of the course include:

1. Participation/readings (50%)
2. Community action analysis paper (50%)

Assessment will be made on a combination of absolute quality of performance, progress made, and "the curve" vis-à-vis other students in the group. Participation, completion of readings, timeliness, cooperation with the group, openness to the host culture, and self-reflection will be considered in assessment as well.

READINGS

Readings will be assigned and distributed beforehand, and will consist of books, articles and websites. Key texts for the Community Action Project include:

Coles, Robert. *The Call of Service: A Witness to Idealism* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1993)

Olomofofe, Larry. "Culture, Roma Rights and Human Rights Education: Conjunctions and Disjunctions." *Roma Rights Quarterly* 2/2005: Right and Traditions.

<http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2287>

Illich, Ivan. "To Hell with Good Intentions, speech, Cuernavaca, Mexico, 1968."

http://www.swaraj.org/illich_hell.htm

Enslar, Eve. *Necessary Targets*. (Villard, 2001.)

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.