Program Overview

The Community Engagement and Advanced Cultural Studies in the Dominican Republic program provides students with the opportunity to study world cultures in real-life, contemporary contexts and become empowered as champions of social justice in their own classrooms. In addition, this program will equip students to evaluate large-scale impacts of historical, linguistic, economic, political, cultural, and artistic perspectives on individuals and societies and engage students in opportunities to promote a culture of tolerance and social justice in their immediate communities and throughout the world. In each course, students will continually be involved in self-reflection as they engage in research and critical discourse on such highly nuanced issues as race, power, language, politics, sexual identity, and citizenship in contemporary Dominican society.

Academics

Earn 3 academic credits from one of the following courses:

SPN 394: Social Justice in the Dominican Republic: Created especially for our program, this course will provide an introduction to the history and culture of the Dominican Republic through a social justice framework. Through level-appropriate readings, lectures, field work, research, and presentations, students will engage in discussion and analysis of such issues as race, power, language, politics, sexual identity, and citizenship in contemporary Dominican society. Students will also collect various authentic data and cultural artifacts (including videos, media, newspapers, photos, and interviews) and use such resources to develop a social justice project with the end of promoting a culture of tolerance and social justice in the students’ immediate and global communities. (Prerequisite: SPN 305 or permission of instructor.)

SPN 496/508: Dominican Spanish - Sociolinguistics and Variation: This course will allow advanced undergraduates, graduate students, and teachers the opportunity to learn more about Dominican Spanish from a sociolinguistic perspective. Readings, research, presentations, and data collection in the DR will allow us the opportunity to investigate the variation that occurs on the island and the social factors that affect that variation. Students will complete sociolinguistic interviews with Dominicans and analyze those interviews in order to create linguistic profiles of Dominican Spanish speakers. (496 prerequisite: SPN 307 or permission of instructor; 508 prerequisite: graduate status.)

Program Facts

Location................................. Santiago, Dominican Republic
Tentative Program Dates .........................July 5-22, 2017

Program Leader(s):
Amanda Boomershine - boomershinea@uncw.edu
L.J. Randolph - randolphl@uncw.edu

Eligibility

Students are eligible to apply for this program if they meet the following eligibility criteria:

• Degree-seeking student
• Good judicial standing
• At least sophomore standing at time of application
• 2.5+ GPA at time of application
• Prerequisites:
  • SPN 394: SPN 305 or permission of instructor
  • SPN 496: SPN 307 or permission of instructor
  • SPN 508: graduate status
### Location

The racial, cultural, and socio-linguistic diversity of Santiago and surrounding areas will allow students to be engaged in meaningful cultural excursions as well as opportunities to collect and analyze various data and cultural artifacts (including videos, media, newspapers, photos, and interviews) from a variety of perspectives.

Students will be able to experience the unique culture of Santiago by living with host families during the program. In addition to having an opportunity to be immersed in the Spanish language, students will observe and experience aspects of the Dominican lifestyle that are inaccessible to most visitors. The homes are located throughout the city within walking distance or via local bus, 10-45 minutes from where classes will be held.

### Program Activities & Features

**Activities and trips to:**
- Dance lessons (merengue, bachata, and salsa)
- Los Haitises National Park
- Hermanas Mirabal Museum

**Excursions to:**
- Samaná - guest lecture by one of the descendents of Freed Slaves from the U.S.
- Dajabón - visit Mercado Dajabón
- Santo Domingo - city tour, Cuevas del Pomier (caves featuring the largest collection of 2,000 year old rock art)

### Estimated Program Fee: $2,803

**Program Fee Includes:**
- Lodging with a host family
- Most meals
- All cultural excursions and activities, including ground transportation, and admissions

**Additional Costs:**
- Airfare
- Tuition & textbooks
- Some meals
- Micellaneous

Federal and state financial aid may be applied toward this program. Even if you are normally ineligible for financial aid, you should submit a financial aid application (FAFSA). You may find that you are eligible for additional funding.

UNCW students may also apply for a UNCW Education Abroad Grant and additional study abroad scholarships. Grant applications and additional information are available at: [www.uncw.edu/international/abroad/aid.html](http://www.uncw.edu/international/abroad/aid.html)