

COURSE OFFERINGS IN VALDIVIA, CHILE

Cross-Cultural Communication/ Chilean Cultural Perspectives (Mandatory)

Being abroad means confronting aspects of another culture that one cannot always know or anticipate. This mandatory 1 credit hour course combines personal experiences in Chile with the study of the growing literature in this field. It is intended to assist the students in dealing with and learning from the misunderstandings and misinterpretations which arise in any living experience abroad, helping them to make the most of this experience. An examination of both the academic and experiential nature of cross-cultural communications will provide students with a framework for analyzing and processing their own personal intercultural experience.

International Relations between the U.S. and Latin America

This course allows students to become familiar with the international relations between the United States and Latin America through historical, political and economical perspectives. The critical analyses will help students to comprehend the ample and complex relationship between the U.S. and Latin America.

Latin American Literature

This course gives a panoramic view of Latin American literature from its beginnings to the twentieth century, with special emphasis on Chilean writers such as Gabriel García Márquez, Pablo Neruda, Luis Borges, and Isabel Allende. Students study the evolution of different genres fundamentally-the novel, poetry, and theater-through their more prominent periods, as well as representative key works.

History of Chile

This course provides insight into the problems, ideologies, and political and economic realities of Chile from the past to the present. Objectives of this course include understanding the situation of the indigenous people of Chile prior to the arrival of the Spanish and developing a detailed understanding of the Spanish colonization process during the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries. In addition, students analyze the political implications of economic and social conflicts during the nineteenth century.

Chilean Culture Seminar

An intensive interdisciplinary course that provides background information and insight into contemporary Chilean culture as a reflection of historical, sociological, economic, artistic, political, and anthropological development. Special attention is given to the indigenous Mapuche culture of Valdivia and the ethnic groups of Chile.

Latin American Cinema

This course allows students to understand Latin American cinema with a critical and directed vision. Through theory, discussion and analysis, students will learn to appreciate the aesthetics of Latin American cinema and visualize the films as artistic constructions of social and cultural identity. Students will view films by such directors as Alfonso Cuarón, Fabian Bielinsky and Boris Quercia.

All students will take a language placement test upon arrival in Valdivia to determine their level of language skill. Based on the results of the test, students can participate in language courses corresponding to their skill level. The following courses are offered each semester:

Intermediate Spanish Grammar

The objective of this course is to expand and perfect the expressive capabilities, particularly oral, of intermediate level students. In addition to grammatical exercises, the class makes use of literary and non-literary texts, and exercises in composition and conversation.

Intermediate and Advanced Spanish Conversation and Composition

This course is designed to increase accuracy in writing and to facilitate the acquisition of language necessary to express oneself in various contexts. Classes revolve around frequent written compositions, selected readings, discussion, and vocabulary building.