

Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra

fall / spring / academic year



anthropology / caribbean studies / community service / dance / dominican studies / economics / film studies / fine arts / history / literature / philosophy
physical education / psychology / religion / sociology / spanish language / teaching english as a second language



program snapshot

- Interaction at multiple levels of Dominican society via homestays, university courses, rural and urban volunteer activities, and language partners
- Optional community service course and optional Teaching English as a Second Language course, both with a hands-on practicum
- Class trips ranging from visits to local Santería altars to the Free Trade Zone; excursions to sites of cultural importance; weekend trips to the Samaná Peninsula and mountains of Constanza; two optional weekend rural work retreats

what you'll learn

The goal of Liberal Arts program is to help students solidify their Spanish language skills, while gaining a deeper understanding of the society, culture, economics, and politics of the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean region, with a particular emphasis on the Hispanic Caribbean. These goals are achieved through intensive language coursework, social science area studies, literature and history coursework, sports and arts programs, and immersion into Dominican life.

thoughts from abroad

The Dominican Republic is “the land Columbus loved best”—a complex point of historical and social controversy. This is where Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans came together for the very first time to set into motion the complex social, economic, and political patterns that formed the basis for daily life today. These patterns are complicated by the fact that the island was colonized by both the French and the Spanish, creating differences that continue to spark political and socio-ethnic problems today, including an approach to race and color that is significantly different than that to which most North Americans are accustomed.

Dominican music, song and dance, foods, literature, religious practices, art, and even sports reflect this dynamic combination of cultures. We encourage you to come to Santiago to immerse yourself among Dominicans with their ready smiles, rapid-fire Spanish, and colorful customs. We hope your experience will be the one among all of your student experiences that most changes your life, the one that most broadens your outlook and, conversely, gives you the greatest insight into yourself and your own values and culture.

— Lynne Guitar, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Dr. Lynne Guitar has lived in the Dominican Republic since 1997. She earned an M.A. in History in 1994 and in 1998, she earned a Ph.D. in Colonial Latin American History and Anthropology at Vanderbilt University. She has taught courses at both Vanderbilt University and Florida International University. Dr. Guitar’s research interests focus on history and popular Dominican culture, from its origins among the Taíno Indians and the African and Spaniards, who arrived in the 15th and 16th centuries, through its contemporary manifestations.

About Other CIEE Staff

Nathaniel Thompson, Resident Coordinator, earned a B.A. in Spanish Language and Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Colorado at Boulder. During his undergraduate studies, Nathaniel participated in several study abroad programs, including the CIEE Study Centers in Seville, Spain and Santiago, Dominican Republic. Before joining the CIEE Santiago team in the fall of 2006, he spent a year and a half working as a Student Advisor for the University of Colorado at Boulder’s Study Abroad Programs office. He also worked in Southern France, and returned to Spain to work for the CIEE Study Center in Seville.

Melba González, Program Assistant, graduated with a degree in psychology from the Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago. She has worked with the program for more than 10 years. Leidy Medina, a psychology major at PUCMM, is the PUCMM student intern who works directly with the CIEE Resident Staff and acts as a bridge between CIEE students, PUCMM students, and the local community.

about santiago

Santiago de los Caballeros, the second largest city in the Dominican Republic, is surrounded by mountains in the lush valley of the Cibao region. Places of historical, cultural, and ecological interest are nearby, and it is just a little over an hour’s drive to the Atlantic Coast. Known as *La Ciudad Corazón* (City of the Heart), Santiago is the commercial and cultural center of the fertile Cibao Valley region, housing over 100 industrial free trade zone factories, the León Jimenez cultural center and cigar factory, and the commercial street of Calle del Sol. Although it is a growing city with a population exceeding 800,000, Santiago retains many features of a small town.

academics

Academic Program

The Liberal Arts program in Santiago was established in 1987 with a dual focus: to enable students to achieve advanced Spanish language skills, while studying and actively participating in life in a developing Caribbean country. The program is designed for students who have taken two years of college-level Spanish and would like to significantly improve their skills in conversation and grammar. Liberal Arts courses offer a solid foundation and unique insight into the evolution of society, culture, economics, and politics of Hispaniola and the Greater Hispanic Caribbean, providing courses on regional literature, history, and on the comparison of the widely variant socio-cultural issues that are pertinent for contemporary society in this region.

At the start of the semester, all CIEE students are tested to determine their oral and written Spanish level. Students are then placed in one of three distinct academic tracks (Advanced Level I, II, or III) according to their language proficiency; each offering a different configuration of both required and elective courses.

Those with strong motivation, independence, and a high level of Spanish may continue for a second semester at the CIEE Study Center in Santo Domingo or on the Service-Learning program in Santiago. Academic year students have a three-week break between the first and second semesters.

Academic Culture

Most PUCMM students specialize in a profession such as law, medicine, engineering, architecture, education, or business. The only social science majors are psychology and social communication. Although PUCMM is considered to be the country’s premier private university, like other Latin American universities, it has limited resources compared to most U.S. colleges and universities.

CIEE students take a combination of courses offered exclusively for them, as well as courses

with other foreign students. Students who place into the most advanced levels of the program have the opportunity to take one or two classes with PUCMM students. CIEE students will find some striking differences between teaching goals and methods at PUCMM compared to what they are accustomed to in the U.S., which can be challenging, but also educational. Teaching methods are less formal, employing a mix of tutorials, readings, discussions, reports, and tests, but with more reliance on memorization than analysis. Many of the presentations for a particular class are researched and presented by individuals or student groups, not by the professors, thus stimulating students to take more initiative in their own learning process.

Nature of Classes

The advanced Spanish language and CIEE core course are for CIEE students only. Electives through PUCMM’s division of Spanish for Foreigners include other international students and may include up to five Dominican and/or Haitian students. In direct enrollment courses, CIEE students enroll in University courses alongside Dominicans.

CIEE Community Language Commitment

Students take part in the CIEE Community Language Commitment by speaking Spanish at all times (except in emergencies). This fosters a learning community that contributes to both Spanish language proficiency and understanding of Dominican society.

Grading System

In CIEE and PUCMM courses, students are normally graded on any combination of the following: quizzes, exams, papers, student presentations, and class participation, such as in the United States. Letter grades of A, B, C, D, and F are given without pluses or minuses. Attendance is mandatory and incompletes are not accepted.



where you’ll study

The Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM) is a private, non-profit institution of higher education. Founded in 1962, PUCMM has been ranked by the Inter-American Development Bank as the best academic institution of higher learning in the Dominican Republic. It has five academic divisions: social sciences and administration, science and humanities, engineering, health sciences, and tourism/restaurant management. With a population of approximately 10,000 students, PUCMM offers the academic resources, support services, and physical facilities of a superior-level Latin American educational institution.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing and all meals are included in the program fee. Students live in Dominican private homes, and meals are taken at the place of residence. Housing assignments are based on questionnaires that students submit to CIEE and are made by the Office of International Students at PUCMM. The families live within walking distance of PUCMM. Students and their families are asked to speak Spanish exclusively. Living in private homes is considered the best housing arrangement in Santiago because of its practicality [there is no student housing on campus] and its positive contribution to the program's objectives. CIEE works closely with host families to provide students the opportunity for integration into the Dominican community.

Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientations

Students begin their study abroad experience in Santiago before even leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask any questions before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

A mandatory orientation is conducted in Santiago and lasts approximately one week with various activities held on the PUCMM campus,

as well as in and around Santiago. Orientation features discussions about the culture, history, and practices that are particular to the Dominican Republic, as well as health and safety precautions and other practical information about the program, campus, city, and country. Students also meet and interact with Dominican students. In addition, students take a Spanish language placement test and register for classes during this time. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Students obtain a free PUCMM email account upon arrival, and there is a computer lab for students at PUCMM, as well as two computers with Internet access for student use in the CIEE Study Center office. In addition, students can use the services of the computer/Internet/telephone centers near campus and throughout Santiago for a nominal fee. Students are strongly encouraged to bring wireless-enabled laptops since wireless Internet is available across the PUCMM campus.

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The program provides weekly calendars of local socio-cultural activities, as well as offers a language partner exchange, rural and urban volunteer opportunities, and an extensive agenda of educational excursions throughout the country. These are designed to allow students to intimately experience Dominican culture and geography outside of the classroom setting.

Weekend excursions generally include the Valley of Constanza, high in the central mountains, and the Samaná Peninsula in order to visit sites in the Los Haitises National Park, which are accessible only by boat. In addition, there are trips to sites of interest, such as to the Hermanas Mirabal Museum in Salcedo; La Vega during Carnaval season; a half-day hike to an amber mine and experimental coffee plantation; a visit to a batey; and a day-trip to Dajabón, the principal market and economic development zone on the Haitian-Dominican border. There is also a selection of three optional activities that students vote upon each semester, with trips varying depending upon student interests, at an additional cost.

Many field trips are also integrated into academic classes. These may include visits to agricultural and industrial projects, free trade zones, a Dominican tobacco company, local museums, clinics, schools, and non-profit organizations.

immersion

Work Retreats

Two rural work retreats, which take place each semester, are designed to bring breadth and depth to the participants' stay in the Dominican Republic by giving them time to spend in the countryside and opportunities to partake in a service project. CIEE has a long-standing relationship with many of the service sites, where students work alongside community members on a variety of projects in such areas as community development, education, health, and construction. While safe, accommodations for these optional retreats are rustic, often testing the ability of students to adapt to the Dominican rural reality.

duration

Fall

16 weeks: mid-August–mid-December

Spring

16 weeks: early January–late April

Academic Year

37 weeks: mid-August–late April

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- 3.0 GPA in Spanish language
- 4 semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent

costs

CIEE Fees

Fall 2009: \$9,700

Spring 2010: available 8/15/09

Academic Year 2009–10: \$18,400

The CIEE fees for 2009–10 include tuition, housing, all meals, optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions, field trips, host institution identity card, admission fees to host institution events, wireless Internet across the campus, immersion activities (including language pairs), comprehensive student handbook, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card, which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2009)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 600
Personal Expenses	\$1,300
Books and Supplies	\$ 100
Local Transportation	\$ 400
Visa Fee	\$ 50
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$2,450

Check our website for current fees.



coursework

Program Requirements

All participants must enroll in a Spanish language course; the CIEE core course, Contemporary Dominican Republic: Political and Socioeconomic Processes; and a minimum of three elective courses.

According to the results of an onsite language proficiency examination at the beginning of the program, students are placed into one of three levels, which determines the required language course and electives they may take. Those students who test into Advanced Level II are encouraged to take a direct enrollment class; those who test into Advanced Level III are required to do so. Academic year students must continue their language study during their second semester on site.

Level I: Students who place into Advanced Level I Spanish are required to take the 6-credit language course and the CIEE core course. Students choose up to 9 credit hours from PUCMM Spanish for Foreigners elective courses.

Level II: Students who place into Advanced Level II Spanish are required to take the 4-credit language course and the CIEE core course. Students choose up to 11 credit hours from PUCMM Spanish for Foreigners elective courses. In addition, they may also take one regular PUCMM University course offering in place of a PUCMM Spanish for Foreigners elective course.

Level III: Students who place into Advanced Spanish III are required to take a 4-credit language course and the CIEE core course. Students take up to 11 credit hours of electives, one of which must be a direct enrollment PUCMM course.

All CIEE students may also choose electives among a variety of dance, sports, and arts courses that they take alongside PUCMM students. **Contact hours for these courses are 20 hours and recommended credit is 1 semester/1.5 quarter hours per course.** CIEE students are expected to do required readings as part of these courses, and several require a research paper. CIEE students may also enroll in the CIEE Seminar on Living and Learning.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 15–18 semester/22.5–27 quarter hours. Total recommended credit for the academic year is 30–36 semester/45–54 quarter hours.

Course contact hours are 45 hours and recommended credit is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours, unless otherwise indicated.

Language of Instruction

Spanish [except for the “English as a Second Language Teacher Training” course]

Faculty

Professors are from the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra or contracted by the Department of Applied Linguistics and the Area of Spanish for Foreigners.



courses

A preliminary list of courses is sent to students upon acceptance into the program. The final list of available courses is given to students upon arrival, as not all courses are offered every semester.

Required CIEE Language Courses

SPAN 3001 DRAS

Advanced Spanish I

This course is required for students whose mastery of grammatical structures and oral command of Spanish needs additional work to bring them up to the advanced level. Emphasis is placed on pronunciation through reading and discussion of a broad range of cultural materials, oral presentations, and taped exercises. Contact hours: 90. Recommended credit: 6 semester/9 quarter hours.

SPAN 3002 DRAS

Advanced Spanish II

This course is designed to improve active command of the Spanish language with attention given to four skill areas: written, oral, aural, and vocabulary. A variety of techniques are used to instruct students, including readings, discussions, oral reports, short compositions, and taped exercises. Conversational skills and pronunciation are stressed, including vocabulary building. Contact hours: 60. Recommended credit: 4 semester/6 quarter hours.

SPAN 4001 DRAS

Advanced Spanish III

This course integrates an introduction to Hispanic socio-linguistics (including the phonetic traits, morphosyntax, and semantics of Dominican Spanish) with intensive practice in the most problematical and complex areas of Spanish grammar, stressing analysis, writing, and discussion based upon extensive reading about Hispanic-American cultural themes. Students must have previous command of complex grammatical structures and advanced levels of both written and spoken Spanish. Contact hours: 60. Recommended credit: 4 semester/6 quarter hours.

Required CIEE Core Course

LAST 3003 DRAS

Contemporary Dominican Republic: Political and Socioeconomic Processes

Social, economic, and political aspects of contemporary Dominican society are examined. Topics include: the Trujillo dictatorship, occupational and demographic structure, education, health, government organization and political parties, income distribution, marginalization of the poor, the role of women in the D.R., the environment and ecological problems, Dominican-Haitian relations, Dominican Republic's relationship with the Caribbean and the United States, and internal and transnational migration. This course is divided into two sections based on the Spanish language level.

CIEE Elective Course

CLST 3001 DRAS

CIEE Seminar on Living and Learning in Santiago

The Seminar on Living and Learning in Santiago is designed to improve students' intercultural communication and competence while studying abroad by considering how Dominicans are different from and similar to themselves and others. The course offers opportunities, both in and outside the classroom, to develop insights and the skills necessary to interact effectively and appropriately, and to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the cultural richness of the Dominican Republic. Contact hours: 27. Recommended credit: 2 semester hour. *Instructors: Lynne Guitar, CIEE Resident Director; Nathaniel Thompson, CIEE Resident Coordinator*

PUCMM Elective Courses: Spanish for Foreigners

These classes are offered for foreigners by PUCMM staff, although up to five Dominican students per class may also enroll, space permitting. Courses are not always offered each semester and a minimum enrollment of six students is needed to run each class.

Levels I, II, and III

Caribbean Short Stories

This course offers a panorama of Spanish Caribbean literature in Spanish from the colonial era through the present, with an emphasis on the 19th and 20th centuries. Course content is developed through lectures, readings, discussion, and analysis of representative works of each period from Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic.

Community Service Practicum

Designed for students interested in development or social work, the course seeks to identify the causes of problems in the areas of education, health, and neighborhood level social service, as well as give students an understanding of the Dominican reality. Complementing the academic coursework is a minimum of four volunteer hours weekly working in a social service activity in Santiago. There is also a requirement for a final paper that combines knowledge learned in the classroom with what was experienced in the volunteer practicum, plus an end-of-semester public presentation of the students' community service experience. Contact hours: 28 theory, 56 practicum. Recommended credit: 3 semester/ 4.5 quarter hours. Please note: This course is offered on a for-credit basis only with home institution approval. This course may become a 4-credit course because of the internship component, depending on the policies of the home institution.

Culture and Society of the Hispanic Caribbean

This class examines the parallel and contrasting cultural characteristics of the Hispanic Caribbean through analysis of the different ways in which Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic developed. Students study the history and society of each island, focusing on the intellectual movements, political thought, and artistic and literary movements.

English as a Second Language (ESL)**Teacher Training Methodology Course and Directed Teaching**

This course trains students in Teaching English as a Second Language, giving an overview of recent theories of second-language acquisition and teaching methodologies, practical application, and theoretical principles through class presentations and student teaching. Credit is granted for the course in conjunction with teaching (but not for teaching alone). There is also a requirement for a final paper that combines knowledge learned in the classroom with what was experienced in the directed teaching segment. Contact hours: 28 theory, 56 practicum. Recommended credit: 4 semester/6 quarter hours. Please note that although each student who successfully completes this course receives a certificate, the certificate does not fulfill U.S. or foreign requirements for Teaching English as a Second Language. This course is taught in English and is offered on a for-credit basis only with home institution approval.

Introduction to Dominican Folklore

This class presents a complete and systematic panorama of the different aspects and branches of folklore, with rich Dominican examples so that students can easily understand and appreciate the cultural context into which they have been immersed. Examples used include verbal folklore (spoken, proverbs, poetry, legends, stories, songs); partially spoken (superstitions, magic, children's games); nonverbal (gestures, costumes, food); and field work methodology.

Latin American Cinema and Society

Cinema is recognized as one of the most effective mediums to understand the social, political, and cultural reality of both the past and the present, as well as the general diffusion of human ideas across time and place. This course combines the theoretical bases of cinematography with in-depth analyses of the best Latin American and Hispanic-Caribbean films in an attempt to help students gain a more profound understanding of Latin American society.

Levels II and III**Afro-Caribbean Cultures**

This course looks at the diversity, uniqueness, and unity of the African experience across the Caribbean, seeking to help students understand the historical roots and social processes of Afro-Caribbean heritage in society, politics, the arts, and various other cultural aspects, including Afro-Caribbean religious beliefs and practices.

Contemporary Dominican Literature

Dominican literature of the 20th century is surveyed with an emphasis on developments since the advent of Modernism. Topics include the influence of race, geography, and politics—the 20th and 21st-century “Dominican reality”—on literary trends, while helping students understand and appreciate the imagination, esthetic literary values, and spiritual expressions of this country's contemporary authors of short stories, poetry, and novels.

Contemporary Latin American Literature

This course provides a survey of modern Latin American literature from 20th-Century Modernism through the Latin American boom in Post-Modernism. Students read and analyze some of Latin America's most renowned authors of poetry, short stories, essays, and novels.

Dominican-Haitian Relations

This course examines the realities of contemporary Haiti and the Dominican Republic, with a review of the historical and structural underpinnings that have influenced relations between the countries. The course addresses historical events that define Dominican-Haitian relations, beginning with the colonial period through the Trujillo Era and into the present.

Gender and Society of the Hispanic Caribbean

The situation of women in the Hispanic Caribbean is analyzed from a human development perspective using comparative analyses in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. The course examines the variables of health, education, work, politics, and art, starting from the level of development of the individual Hispanic Caribbean countries. (Student participation requires extensive field work in Santiago and other sites around the Dominican Republic.)

History of the Caribbean

Caribbean history from the colonial period to the present is surveyed in this course, with an emphasis on the Spanish Caribbean. Topics include conquest and colonization, the rise of sugar, the Haitian revolution and the abolition of slavery, independence movements, financial imperialism in the 20th Century, and the Cuban revolution.

Latin American Culture and Society

In an exploratory and introductory manner, students examine the formation and evolution of the various Latin American cultures and societies in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Focus is on the principal historic events and the socio-cultural forces and processes that have impacted their development, provided development potential, or blocked the development of Latin American societies.

Literature of Latin American and Caribbean Women

This course introduces students to literature written by Latin American and Caribbean women from the 19th and 20th centuries. Emphasis is on gender and women's actual experiences throughout history in terms of their political, social, and cultural circumstances, as well as the discrimination that women have faced in the literary arena.

Panorama of Hispanic American Literature

This course seeks to help students learn that the writing of literature is an evolutionary and dynamic process that can help them understand the reality of life in a particular Hispanic country at a particular time in history. Students read about and analyze literary movements through the works of the most representative Hispanic American authors from the Conquest Era through present day.

Spanish Caribbean Literature

Literature of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean is examined from its origins to the present, with emphasis on authors and works of the 19th and 20th centuries. Literary movements such as indigenism and negritude are read and analyzed through the works of representative Dominican, Cuban, and Puerto Rican authors.

PUCMM Regular University Courses

Following are some of the regular PUCMM University courses available to CIEE students at Levels II and III. Not all courses are available every semester and some may require a prerequisite.

Levels II and III**Catholic Church in Today's World**

This course examines the historic vision of the Catholic Church from the era of World War II through Vatican II and from Vatican II through the New Millennium. Themes discussed touch upon all of the most urgent problems affecting the world today, including changing culture and values, economic and social progress, marriage and the family, politics, religious thought, social justice, and world peace. [2-credit course]

Catholic Sacrament of Matrimony

This course examines themes related to egoism, violence, abortion, divorce, and the general crisis of values that are affecting our society and the world, which Catholic doctrine teaches are rooted in the current family and matrimonial crisis. The course seeks to turn the tide of the crisis by helping students discover a moral value in marriage and family as “an intimate community of life and love” to the service of the Church and the world. [2-credit course]

Christian Anthropology

This course attempts to explore all that it means to be human, including the origins of humankind, the greatness that is the human body and soul, humankind's limitations, patterns of thought, and capacity to relate to others in different societies, to relate to nature, and to relate to God. The aim is to instill in students a clear vision, through readings and discussions, of the role of Christianity in the rediscovery and reevaluation of the dignity of the human being. [2-credit course]

Dominican Economics and its Background

The fundamental characteristics of the Dominican economy and its environment or background are presented in this course, in particular the country's recent history and how this has impacted the principal sectors of its economy. Among the themes to be covered are macro-economic indicators, sector analyses, political economics, and other themes that have affected the present state of the Dominican economy. [Macroeconomics pre-requisite]

(courses continued from previous page)

Economics I

This is a basic course that covers the economic terms and concepts that are necessary for an analysis of the problems inherent in modern economic theory. Among the topics covered are supply and demand, balance of trade, cost and production, the market structure (both goods and capital), and microeconomics.

Foundations of Western Civilization

Students are introduced to the foundations of Western civilization from the Greeks and the emergence of Christianity through the Renaissance and the rise of industrial capitalism. Emphasis is placed on Third World perspectives and the relationships between developing countries and developed countries, including the processes of de-colonization, revolution, and cultural nationalism.

Fundamentals of Economics

This course introduces students to the study of economics in general, with a focus on macroeconomics. Topics include the international monetary-finance system, national budgets, costs and trade balances, the public sector, and international economic development.

General Psychology

This is a general and scientific view of psychology as a science, as well as its evolution, methodology, and contemporary currents. The course focuses on the areas of learning, motivation, personality, and behavior.

History of Political and Social Ideas

This course examines the evolution of political and social ideas from the Ancient East through modern times with a focus on the principle historical events, "markers," from which diverse concepts emerged and evolved, with the aim of understanding them and their influences in historical context.

Human Sexuality

This psychology course provides an introduction to human sexuality in an integrated format that encompasses all of its multiple facets, both its normal and abnormal aspects, and the relationship between mental health and the exercise of sexuality as an integral element of the personality. Sexuality will be seen from a physiological perspective, exploring its links to the psychological processes. Throughout, the course takes a critical approach toward the role of psychology as a viable agent for resolving any conflicts in the area of human sexuality. (Biology prerequisite)

Introduction to the Bible

This course provides an in-depth introduction to the Bible and its wide variety of versions and modern languages. (2-credit course)

Introduction to the Dominican Reality

This sociology course encourages students to analyze human development in peripheral countries, in particular, the principal variables that have affected and created today's Dominican socio-economic reality. Topics covered include socio-economic variables, gender roles, health, education, ecology, migration and immigration, and politics.

Introduction to Economic Development

This course offers a critical examination of theories of economic development in both advanced countries and developing regions, problems of development, and development policies, including some specific examples from the Dominican Republic.

Introduction to Environmental Sciences

This course brings home the planet-wide reality of the urgency with which the study of the principles of ecology must be associated with the concept of sustainability. Furthermore, it encourages students to consider the study of services and their environmental costs with relation to and in interaction with the ecological, technical, economic, and social aspects that must be analyzed and incorporated into the process of development. It offers students a unique learning opportunity to integrate concepts, practices, and real research, in accordance with the environmental situation within each region, including the Dominican Republic. Students will confront new situations and problems upon which they and their professor will work scientifically, seeking solutions and alternatives to manage global problems in a professional manner.

Introduction to the Hospitality Industry

This course is aimed at introducing students to the wide range of distinct businesses and organizations within the tourism sector and the importance of developing both the worldwide and local tourism industries, which encompass hospitality and services that go far beyond providing simple accommodation, transportation, and recreation to tourists and business people. There is a focus, however, on the structure of the hotel and restaurant industries as the most important and most developed components of the tourism industry.

Introduction to International Commerce

This course introduces students to the operation of the international market (both of products and capital), as well as to the stock market, how values are set and maintained, methods of international payment and customs operations, and international agreements, along with their legal aspects and effects upon the world economy. The final unit in the course examines the specific case of the Dominican Republic. (Macroeconomics pre-requisite)

Introduction to Philosophy

Students are introduced to the principles of philosophy and logic and their relationship to religion, mythology, and the natural sciences.

Introduction to the Scientific Research Method

Students gain an in-depth introduction to the logic of scientific procedures (the scientific method), while studying the differences between scientific knowledge and the generalizations of common sense.

Introduction to Sociology

This course covers the basic theoretical concepts of the science of sociology, focusing on topics that affect Dominican students' lives, often without their awareness, such as social conduct and social inequalities caused by economic, racial, ethnic, and gender discrimination.

Introduction to Women's Studies

This course is a response to the necessities of future Dominican professionals in diverse career fields to help them actualize their vision of equality. It presents a general panorama of themes related to the role of women in contemporary Dominican society (feminism, equity and empowerment; discrimination and sexual violence; self esteem and identity; domestic violence; power relations and laborers; and women and poverty) with the aim of modifying the attitudes of both women and men with regard to gender and equality.

Jesus, the Person

Through an examination of various documents (including the Old Testament and ancient maps), and a study of Jewish society and religion at the time of the birth of Jesus, this course aims to introduce students to the events of Jesus' life and death, his legacy, and, most importantly, to Jesus as a person. (2-credit course)

Professional Ethics

This course examines Dominican society from the basis of its foundations in ethics and justice, the principles and values that are indispensable for the healthy exercise of any profession, with the aim of instilling a new moral conscience in Dominican professionals of the future. Readings and discussions include a review of ancient systems of morality and justice as taught by Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, St. Augustine, St. Thomas, the Old and New Testaments, as well as modern moralists like Kant and exponents of Existentialism. (2-credit course)

Rural and Urban Sociology

Students examine agrarian and urban systems and social organization in the Dominican Republic from a historical perspective. The main topics include rural family organization and habitat, the agrarian economy and social relations, migration, urbanization, and industrialization.

Social Anthropology

The foundation of social anthropology is the life of man and how it is regulated by a particular society's norms, beliefs, and values. But human cultures are very diverse and offer almost unlimited solutions to common human problems. In this course, students learn about these diverse cultures, together with their responses to human problems, considering them within the terms of their specific societal structures. Students also analyze the nature of the culture that is manifested in Dominican society.

Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church

This course examines in depth the great documents related to the Catholic Church's social doctrine, beginning with the encyclical *Rerum novarum* [1891] of Pope Leo XIII, which laid the foundation for the establishment of a society that offers respect, justice, and recognition of human dignity to all, especially to those who have been marginalized. Humanistic Christianity is compared and contrasted to Marxism and Existentialism, while exploring changing concepts of what justice means, in general terms, as well as in terms of distributive, legal, and social justice. (2-credit course)

Sociology of Human Space

This course focuses on the regulative norms of human space, paying special attention to the concept and functions of territoriality among human beings, population density and social behavior, and the regulative norms of visual, auditory, olfactory, and tactile space. Cultural variations in the use and organization of human space will also be covered, including a comparative review of Arabic, Japanese, and Dominican spatial relations in their transcultural contexts.

Women and Society

This course, with its in-depth focus on the evolving role of women in Dominican society, is taught in five modules, each by a different professor specializing in the five areas of: women and health; women, work, and production; women and education; women, language, and literature; and women and the communication media.

PUCMM One-Credit Courses

The following classes are open to all CIEE students.

Arts: Artistic Drawing, Drama, Guitar, Oratory, Photography, Sculpture, Silk-Screening, Stage Scenery Design

Dominican Dance and Folklore

Dominican folklore is introduced through regional dances and musical instruments. Students learn to dance traditional merengue, bachata, and salsa.

Physical Education: Baseball, Basketball, Judo, Karate, Gymnastics, Soccer, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Track, Volleyball

a student's story

My friends who studied abroad before me told me, "You need to make it past the six-week mark. Once you are past that, you are in." Having just passed the six-week mark of my stay here in the Dominican Republic, I can officially say that I feel "in," but not in the way that I had expected. Sure, I love my host family, my classes are great, and I have made some really good friends among the other CIEE students, but it is outside of these experiences, by "stepping outside my comfort zone" that I stumbled upon the great fortune that makes me want to call the D.R. "home."

Having just broken into triathlons in the last year in the U.S., I signed up for a swim class at PUCMM with the hopes of working on my stroke a little, and ended up discovering a triathlon training group here in the D.R. I took the leap and accepted an invitation to practice with them. My experience has been amazing. Not only am I advancing athletically like I never have before, but I am also practicing my Spanish in ways that I never expected and making real Dominican friendships that I would not otherwise have been able to make. My first race with the team was very recently in Santo Domingo, and it was an incredible experience, not because of how we placed or the medals that we won, but because every time I rounded the corner, I had a whole team of Dominicans cheering me on, running next to me, and shouting encouragements at the top of their lungs. This is my Dominican triathlon family and an immersion experience I never saw coming, but could not be happier to have.

— Annamarie McCormick, Shippensburg University

