

# Cross-Cultural Courses-Spring 2021

## **IDCC 260 – Southern California**

**CRN: 5307**

**Part of Term: Early 7-week (January 21-March 10)**

**Class Delivery: Asynchronous Online**

**Instructor: Shelly Skinner**

**Course Fee: \$50**

### **Seniors Only**

This domestic cross-cultural course will explore the culture of southern California through the lens of art, church, community outreach, education, food, leisure and music. We will focus on non-profit organizations including The Dream Center located in downtown Los Angeles and The Mom & Dad's Project in Big Bear, Ca. In addition, students will explore connections with educators from a variety of elementary schools, such as Murray Elementary in Azusa, Ca and the Monarch School (K-12 school for homeless students) in San Diego, Ca, all of which provide insight into the educational system in southern California. Students will spend virtual time in various cities throughout southern California exploring community, context, and everyday life. We will pay special attention to specific "hot topics" such as cultural humility, human trafficking, and immigration. This course highlights issues in southern California as well as in our global community. At the end of the course, students will integrate their diverse learning experiences into a Digital Story, which is an image-driven presentation that encapsulates the student's exploration of the culture of southern California.

## **IDCC 260 – Global Perspectives**

**CRN: 5309**

**Part of Term: Full Spring Term (January 21-May 6)**

**Class Delivery: Hybrid Asynchronous** (synchronous "face-to-face" Thursdays, 3-4:15 p.m. Remaining class time asynchronous online).

**Instructor: Erik Lindquist**

**Course Fee: \$50**

### **Seniors Only**

This course will introduce students to the intercultural learning and skill development. We will research and explore the complex interactions between human civilization, biodiverse zones and the physical environment in one focal (unique to each student) and select core countries around the world for comparison; Bolivia, Iceland, Jordan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Panama, Sweden, and Fiji. Each student will select a focal nation to research and explore. These diverse cultures will set the backdrop to understand similarities and differences among human cultures, with special comparison to each student's host culture(s). This course will examine the key challenges that humanity faces and unique culture-specific solutions to these global problems. We will give attention to key global issues such as the management of the novel coronavirus [COVID-19] pandemic and biodiversity loss and conservation, as well as cultural distinctions of the student's focal nation. This course will endeavor to explore human and environmental knowledge and challenges, not only from a Western point of view, but from authentic perspectives from non-Western countries. There will be an emphasis on attaining experience through interactive online conversation around the world.

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## **IDCC 260: Virtual Journey through the Netherlands**

**CRN: 5308**

**Part of Term: May Term (May 17-June 4)**

**Class Delivery: Synchronous Online** (Monday and Friday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.)

**Course Fee: \$50**

### **Seniors Only**

This cross-cultural will focus on the questions of “What is culture” and “What are its influences on the person and society” through the lens of a virtual tour of the Netherlands and its people. The primary text will be, *Why the Dutch are Different: A Journey into the Hidden Heart of the Netherlands*, by Ben Coats, and the academic portion of the experience will involve student presentations based on the text, reflective writing based on videos and websites, and reports on actual interactions via the internet with Dutch nationals. Various aspects of culture will be explored with an emphasis on how geography and the physical characteristics of a country influence its people, commerce, language, religion, politics, social policies and the general characteristics it presents to the world. Another big part of the class is reflecting on comparisons and contrasts between American culture and the Dutch. This cross-cultural will take you deeper into the Dutch culture, way beyond tulips, windmills, and wooden shoes!

## **IDCC 260: Culture and Civil Society in Ecuador**

**CRN: 5310**

**Part of Term: May Term (May 17-June 4)**

**Class Delivery: Asynchronous Online**

**Instructor: Robin Lauermann**

**Course Fee: \$50**

### **Seniors Only**

Despite a history of colonial and authoritarian rule, a vibrant and diverse civic life exists within Ecuadorian society. We will explore this resilient cultural context through the topics of geography, ethnicity, religion, class and gender, including their influence on contemporary society and its political force. Readings will incorporate a culture primer on Ecuador, as well as more focused readings on each of the themes. The course will incorporate foundational lectures, learning activities and an experiential component – a short-term internship project with community partners in and near Quito, Ecuador – through both synchronous and asynchronous learning.