



RUTGERS

Graduate School of Education

Advancing Excellence and Equity in Education

2018 SUMMER CULTURAL IMMERSION COURSE

Dates: July 13th – 28th 2018, *Three (3) Graduate Credits*

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS SAI?

Launched in the fall of 2001, the Rutgers Graduate School of Education's South Africa Initiative (SAI) provides experiences for students & educators to increase their cultural awareness and knowledge, cultural empathy and to better understand their cultural identity while observing and examining the sociopolitical realities of South African communities and schools.

The SAI vision is to develop a true exchange of talent and expertise via in-person contact and through distance-education technology, where students and adult learners from the U.S. & South Africa receive access to knowledge, support, and resources that are critical to cultural understanding and the improvement of teaching and learning.

COURSEWORK

Who is eligible for the class? How many credits will I earn?

This is a **three (3)-credit graduate hybrid course**, open to all academic disciplines. This graduate level course is open to Rutgers & Non~Rutgers grad students, alumni, educators, professionals in all fields, who may be interested in learning more about culture, the complex social and educational issues facing South Africa and the amazing spirit of “Ubuntu” (people are people thru other people). We also examine the power of forgiveness, change & reconciliation; as well as participate in service learning activities in South African schools, communities and empowerment projects.

School Educators can earn 45 professional development hours.

How do I gain entry to the course?

Applications are NOW OPEN! Complete an application (see https://globaleducation.rutgers.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10367)

Applications are due no later than March 15, 2018. Applications received after that time will be considered on a space-available basis. This is a rolling admission application process. Applicants will be immediately notified of acceptance into this program and be able to complete post-decision materials prior to the term's application deadline. To avoid being placed on the waiting list, early applications are strongly encouraged.

What is this class all about?

The course includes lectures, readings and online discussions with experts designed to provide a cultural lens for experiencing race and diversity within a different socio-political context. The course culminates with two-weeks of cultural immersion in South Africa. Through lived experiences, service learning and self-reflection learners challenge beliefs and assumptions, and develop critical thinking skills as part of their development of personal and professional competence.

Course objectives include: (1) increasing cultural awareness and cultural knowledge, (2) challenging cultural beliefs and culturally biased assumptions, (3) examining social conditions and systemic barriers that support social inequities, and (4) developing commitment to social advocacy in support of individuals and their communities.

Coursework is also divided into two parts: (1) pre-trip coursework online via Canvas Learning Management System & training in Blogging; (2) the two-week trip abroad in South Africa.

What kinds of organizations will we visit/engage?

Universities:

University of Cape Town, University of Pretoria & University of Johannesburg

Public Schools:

We will engage with a variety of township and rural public schools, all of which are under-resourced.

Non-governmental organizations (NGO's):

SAI supports local NGOs in the university community, and NGOs in South Africa such as **Teboho Trust**, an empowerment project for orphaned and vulnerable learners in Soweto. SAI also partners with **Infinite Family**, in their efforts to provide internet/video mentorship to HIV/AIDS orphans and "on the ground" support for mothers and learners in empowerment projects like **Nkosi's Haven**, in Johannesburg.

SHAWCO Center Khayelitsha/ Manenberg engages in outreach to community schools.

Community Chest of the Western Cape – engages and collaborates with organizations, concerned citizens and professionals to build resilient and responsive communities where access and opportunities to health, education and income-generation services are advanced.

Who is the instructor and when will class meet?

The class is taught by Dr. Darren Clarke (Senior Director of Strategic Alliances and Outreach). Classes are held online and two sessions are held at the GSE, prior to departure. Class times are to be determined based on participant schedules and will also take place while abroad in South Africa.

ABOUT THE TRIP ABROAD

What exactly do we do on the trip? What is our itinerary?

Our host cities include **Johannesburg, Pretoria & Cape Town!** Beyond meeting internationally renowned scholars, experts & change agents, highlights of the program include:

- ✓ Service Learning within culturally diverse settings
- ✓ Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned during the Apartheid era
- ✓ District 6, Hector Pieterse, Apartheid Museums & Voortrekker Monument
- ✓ Townships: Soweto, Kalkfontein, Khayelitsha, Gugulethu
- ✓ Universities & Schools
- ✓ “Home-away-from-Home” accommodation at “An African Villa”
- ✓ Indabas (Zulu word for meetings) with international students, experts, grannies & more!

What are our housing accommodations/meals?

Includes daily breakfast and some group meals and receptions. Students will stay in double rooms and share facilities with other students while residing in hotels and B & B accommodation while residing in Johannesburg & Cape Town.

The food can be excellent! South African cuisine can be quite varied, reflecting the various cultural influences in the region: traditional African cooking, Dutch and British cooking influences, Indian & Cape Malay.

PROGRAM FEES - Listed on website via link & Include:

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| ✓ Tuition & Fees | ✓ Program administration (course materials) |
| ✓ In-country airfare | ✓ Excursion (tours, receptions, expert speakers, surface transportation) |
| ✓ Housing accommodations, daily breakfast and some meals | ✓ HTH Health Insurance |

**PROGRAM COST DOES NOT INCLUDE
(Non-Billable)**

- Most meals
- All personal expenses
- Round-trip airfare to/from South Africa
- Major medical insurance
- Rutgers Summer Session Fee

Scholarships

Students are also encouraged to start researching Scholarship opportunities as early as possible. Please visit the “Rutgers Study Abroad Scholarships” section of their website for additional information about Rutgers and National Scholarships. SAI also provides scholarships for students who express need.

What is the current exchange rate?

The exchange rate is approximately 13:1 (13 South African Rand to \$1 U.S).

What types of documents will I need for travelling?

- ✓ If you are a U.S citizen, you will need a valid U.S passport, which does not expire within 6 months
- ✓ If you are not a U.S citizen, you will need a valid passport from your country along with an appropriate VISA.

More details:

https://globaleducation.rutgers.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=1036

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Please direct questions or interest to:

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