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HI – 122 – 01 – Haiti: Window on Our Worlds

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Haiti - Window on Our Worlds: (1 cr) This international “service learning” course combines academic learning and critical reflection with relevant service in a rural Haitian community to enable students to identify critical, global issues affecting Haiti and to deepen their understanding of cross-cultural issues and the connections between the US and countries like Haiti. Through this experience students also grow in their awareness and understanding of self and contribute to building a global “culture of solidarity” and engaged citizenship at St. Vincent College.

Students will:

1. Learn about Haiti – her culture and history – and the impact on rural Haiti of some of the critical, global issues affecting Haiti and the world today
2. Participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs in a rural host community in Haiti
3. Reflect on the service activity and experiences in Haiti in order to gain a deeper understanding of the academic material, a broader appreciation of the host community and cross-cultural issues, and an enhanced sense of global relations and their responsibilities as citizens

Course objectives: By the end of this course, students will…

1. Articulate an understanding of elements of Haitian history, culture and language.
2. Identify critical global issues affecting Haiti in general and rural Haiti in particular and relate these issues to their Haitian host community and their local communities.
3. Have engaged in culturally relevant activities alongside Haitians in their host community to achieve their service goals.
4. Have collaborated in a community needs assessment in rural Haiti and assist in developing proposals for future service activities that meet identified needs in their host community.
5. Have engaged in critical reflection (both individually and collectively) before, during, and after their service experience in rural Haiti.
6. Exhibit an enhanced awareness and understanding of self in relation to the people and culture of Haiti and their own country.
7. Contribute to building a culture of “global solidarity” and engaged citizenship at St. Vincent College.

Requirements:

1. Participate in all pre- and post- trip classes; complete all readings and assignments on time
2. Participate in Haitian host community activities (work, reflection, cultural activities, etc.)
3. Complete a personal and international service reflection journal
4. Assist in post-trip planning for future trips and for a presentation to the SVC community