

**East Carolina University**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**East Carolina University, Summer 2022 (Session 2)**  
**PADM 6111 Contemporary Problems in Public Administration**

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**Note:** This section of PADM 6111 counts as 3 credit hours towards a 6 credit hour program in June 2022 in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

**Overview of PADM 6111:**

The circumstances of international politics and human services change constantly. To understand change, we must first understand the continuity provided by the complex network of political, economic and cultural relationships, and institutions that structure events, both within and between countries. Further, as it is for policy-makers, we must explore ways to analyze change effectively, so that we can understand where change is taking us and what we might do about it. A critical issue is why countries behave as they do: how can we better appreciate the goals and actions of other countries? To answer this question, this course uses a study abroad in Bolivia to allow students to engage with a community and participating university to learn about other cultures and teach about their own around the themes of science in the public interest, racism, and colonialism.

**Description of Study Abroad Component:**

The “City of Eternal Spring,” vibrant and sprawling across a valley in the Andes, full of cuisines to sample and causes to support. A growing, modern city—home to thousands of indigenous people. Cochabamba makes an impression that will not soon be forgotten.

For more than 20 years, Amizade volunteers have traveled to Cochabamba and returned transformed. The fourth largest city in Bolivia has a history of mobilization against corruption and a strong network of grassroots organizations working tirelessly to address a range of pressing issues. This wealth of activism combined with decades of service-learning programs makes Cochabamba a wonderful place to be an Amizade volunteer.

The time that you spend in Bolivia is sure to be one filled with many new experiences: new outlooks, new cultures, and new situations. Therefore, the Amizade experience is enhanced by looking at some of the things that have been written in relation to the country and the issues over the last several years, getting a rough idea of what's

happening, and going with an informed set of questions in mind. The entire experience is about getting in deep enough and starting to dream enough to realize that your time abroad can't possibly be enough to see and understand all of Bolivia or Latin America, but it can be enough to get an idea of it, connect with new friends, meet and struggle with some significant challenges, make connections, create difference, and begin to understand an entirely different kind of place. That's really a lot for such a short amount of time, yet much of it will happen. And all of this will take place in the context of a relatively unpredictable environment. Unpredictable does not mean that it is unsafe. All programs work through our partner individuals and community organizations. Unpredictable simply describes the "climate" of Amizade programs' in Bolivia. That means it's characterized by something called a "lack of redundancy." Lack of redundancy refers to an absence of continuously present and reliable systems and products. With water supply, that means it may go out sporadically. With transportation, it means buses may be delayed. In stores or restaurants, it may mean the things they sell are not what they advertise outside, but rather whatever they have in stock (or can quickly get from a neighbor) inside. All of this relates to an absolutely essential ongoing Amizade motto, which is: "ok, good."

"Okay, good" refers to moments when we show up for transit at the right time, yet quickly learn that transit will not be arriving for eight hours. "Okay, good," we have an opportunity to hang out in Cochabamba. "Okay, good" refers to moments when we long for some familiar comfort foods, but we have another helping of the same, exotic local foods. "Okay, good," we have a great deal more exotic local food than most of those around us. "Okay, good" refers to times when we're crammed into transportation (cars, vans, trains) in a way that we did not previously believe was possible. "Okay, good," we have transportation and are moving to our desired destination more easily than most people in the area. "Okay, good" is about remembering – even when we feel that we are struggling– that we are fortunate for the opportunities to travel and serve; that we are still in amazing places with incredible people; and that life will go on even though (unlike in our local environment) the day-to-day life is just not all that predictable. Of course, "Okay, good" is also useful when the last leg of the return flight home doesn't connect at the right time!

**Course Objectives:**

1. Introduce central concepts and concerns of international and comparative politics (Bolivia).
2. Provide the opportunity to understand, explore and appreciate the nature of international politics through interaction with people from other countries (Bolivia).
3. Foster international partnerships through study abroad to prepare people for future international interactions.

**General Education Program Student Learning Outcomes for Social Sciences:**

*Students who have completed the General Education Social Sciences requirements can:*

SO 1: Apply discipline specific knowledge in the social sciences to explain the key factors that shape social institutions, structures, and processes that shape human behavior and social interaction.

SO 2: Explain how cultural and historical contexts influence individual behavior, society or culture.

SO 3: Apply discipline specific theories and modes of inquiry in the social sciences to analyze social contemporary behavioral or cultural issues.

**Global Diversity Requirement:**

*Global Diversity Goals:*

1. Students understand how cultural beliefs and values shape people's perceptions and impact global decisions and actions.
2. Students apply critical thinking skills to evaluate global issues and events from multiple perspectives.

**Course format:** Students will participate in a study abroad experience in Bolivia in partnership with Amizade, our global learning nonprofit partner. Students will have the opportunity to engage with local community organizations as well as study the intersection of politics and culture through co-taught lessons with both ECU faculty and Amizade program leaders. Students will be required to participate fully in all community-related service experiences and will be required to complete an online reflective module.

**Course expectations:**

- (a) complete assignments in a timely manner
- (b) actively participate in the learning process
- (c) express needs to the instructor through appropriate and timely communication.

**General information:**

*Academic integrity* – All students are held to the Honor Code of East Carolina University. Any violation of the Honor Code will be reported. It is your responsibility to be aware of East Carolina University's Academic Integrity Policy. This policy is available online and in the university catalog. Any forms of cheating or plagiarism are included.

Academically violating the Honor Code consists of the following:

- A. Cheating - Unauthorized aid or assistance or the giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work.
- B. Plagiarism - Copying the language, structure, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and adopting same as one's original work.
- C. Falsification - Statement of any untruth, either spoken or written, regarding any circumstances relative to academic work.

- D. Attempts - Attempting any act which if completed would constitute an academic integrity violation as defined herein.

*Support for students with disabilities* – East Carolina University seeks to fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a covered disability must go to the Department for Disability Services located in Slay 138 to verify the disability before any accommodations may occur. The telephone number is 252-737-1016.

*Student Code of Conduct* – All participants in this study abroad course are expected to adhere to the ECU student code of conduct at all times during the program's duration.

### **Pre-Service Reflection & Preparation Module**

#### **Session #1**

##### **Overview & program goal setting**

- **Topics/goals:** Teambuilding; overview of program goals; participant expectations (including a pre-trip video call with Amizade program staff in Bolivia)
- **Readings:**
  - [“Helping, fixing or serving?” by Rachel Naomi Remen](#)
  - [Sumka et al.'s \(2015\) \*Working Side by Side\* chapters 1 & 2 \(pp. 7-30\) -- alternative breaks definition and history of alternative breaks](#)
  - [Amizade Bolivia handbook](#)
  - [“Moving beyond flexibility” by Karen Kupusta-Pofahl](#)
  - [“Becoming more human, building a better world” by Eric Hartman](#)
  - [“American students abroad can't be global citizens” by Talya Zemach-Bersin](#)

#### **Session #2**

##### **What is community-based global learning?**

- **Topics/goals:** international service-learning and global learning
- **Readings:**
  - [“To hell with good intentions” by Ivan Illich](#)
  - [Sumka et al.'s \(2015\) \*Working Side by Side\* chapter 24, 25, 26 \(pp. 299-333\) -- chapters on “going global”](#)
  - [“White privilege: Unpacking the invisible knapsack” by Peggy McIntosh](#)
  - Selected readings from:
    - Yashar, Deborah. 2005. *Contesting Citizenship in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press.

- Lewis, Paul H. 2006. *Authoritarian Regimes in Latin America: Dictators, Despots, and Tyrants*. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Klein, Herbert S. 2003. *A Concise History of Bolivia*. Oxford University Press.

### **Reflection Module Assignment (due Friday, July 29, 2022)**

My hope is that your time abroad is enriching --- academically, socially, and culturally. Part of a successful immersive study abroad experience is the ability to critically reflect on that experience and articulate it well to others. Consequently, in order to complete the language and culture requirement of the core curriculum through study abroad, you must write a reflection paper. Although there is no page limit on this paper, in order to adequately reflect on the cultural aspects of your experience a minimum four double-spaced page reflection paper is required. College-level writing that has been spell-checked and proofread is expected.

Preparation:

1. Plan in advance for this paper by keeping a journal, mementos, or correspondence.
2. Spend some time brainstorming: review specific events, striking conversations, sights, sounds, and even smells.
3. Try to sum up your experience in a sentence or two. Is there a word, phrase, or theme that captures it?

Analysis:

In your paper reflect on some or all of the following questions:

1. In what ways is the culture where you studied different from your own?
2. How is this culture similar to your own?
3. What, if anything, shocked you?
4. How does this culture define "learning" or "knowledge"?
5. How have cultural differences made you more aware of your own culture---of its benefits, limitations, strengths, or biases?
6. In what ways might your own culture/society benefit by learning from that of others, specifically from the one in which you studied?
7. How do cultural differences allow others to view you differently than you view yourself?
8. You must address the following question: How might your experience abroad affect your future --- with regard to academic, social, career, and/or personal choices?