Panama: Beyond the Classroom
Application for Participation

IDH 4200 Honors Geographical Perspective
IDH 4000 Major Works Major Issues
Fall 2010

Travel Dates: December 11 – December 19

Trip Overview and Course Description

Panama: Beyond the Classroom is a Geographical Perspective course which will include a voyage to the City of Knowledge in Panama. This course is designed to give students a hands-on, global experience to enhance their understanding of topics such as Panamanian culture and current issues facing developing countries, research opportunities, cultural and political comparisons between Latin America and the United States, and beginning dialogue about philosophies of personal and global leadership & service. Students will synthesize their academic knowledge and immersion experience as a means to learn about the social, political, and economic situation in the developing world. This course should appeal to students with a strong sense of adventure, a curiosity about our expanding global society and a desire to make a difference.

Students will engage in 15 weeks of coursework prior to a 9 day immersion experience in Panama (participation in the trip is a required part of the course curriculum). The pre-trip coursework introduces students to the principles of research, Panamanian history and culture, and current issues.

Students will use their immersion experience as a means to learn about the social, political, and economic situation in the developing world, with a particular focus on a cultural comparison between the U.S. and Panamanian health care systems. Through independent research, presentations, journals and group discussion students will synthesize academic knowledge before their immersion experience, and using information gained during the trip, will complete and present a final project after the trip. (Initial grade of S/U will be submitted at end of Fall Term, to be converted to a final letter grade after the class presents their final projects on an agreed-upon day in January 2011. Students will NOT have to register for the course again in the spring term to earn the final grade).
Application Process:

- Complete the attached paperwork including:
  - Application / Information Form
  - Liability and Memorandum of Understanding Forms
  - USF Overseas Study Programs Medical Questionnaire
- Attach a copy of your current passport or proof that you have filed paperwork to request a passport (10 – 12 week processing time)
- Submit all application materials to Honors College (SVC 1088)
  - Every student accepted into this course must pay a $500 deposit in order to guarantee their seat for fall term.
  - This deposit fee will be charged to the student’s OASIS account as soon as the application is approved, and will be due no later than **August 20, 2010**.
  - After the deposit is paid, the remaining trip costs will be billed to the student’s OASIS account.
  - Scholarship funds will be dispersed after Friday, August 27th at 5 PM (end of drop/add week).
  - Payments can be made in the Cashier’s Office, ADM 131 or online (convenience fee applies).

Space is limited for the program. **Students are urged to apply early!**

Eligibility to participate:

- Priority registration will be given to students who have not previously taken Honors Geographical Perspective (IDH 4200) and IDH 4000 Major Works Major Issues. If space remains after priority registration is completed, then those students who have already taken IDH 4200 will be allowed to register.
- Applicants must be in good academic standing at the time of application, and remain in good standing at the time of their program of study.
- Applicants who meet eligibility criteria are accepted in the order in which their complete application is submitted. Students are urged to apply early.
- A brief and informal interview with the instructor will be required of all applicants. The instructor will contact applicants upon receipt of the application to set up the interview.

Components of the Trip to Panama:

The City of Knowledge is an international complex for education, research, and innovation. It has been developed to promote and facilitate synergy between universities, scientific research centers, businesses, and international organizations. The City of Knowledge is governed by a private, non-profit organization, The City of Knowledge Foundation, which was created in 1995.

To clearly understand the health profile of a population is important to learn and understand social, cultural, political, and historical factors that might have an impact on the health of a nation. In this field experience, students will learn about the sociocultural and historical aspects that have affected the public health outline of Panama, including the construction of the Panama Canal, the division of the public health system, and sociocultural traits of Panamanians.
The USF Colleges of Nursing and Public Health have sponsored educational trips to the City of Knowledge in the past, with great success. During the immersion experience, USF Honors College students will visit several health care sites, potentially including (but not limited to) the Children’s Hospital, Parque Lefevre Community Health Center, Nutrehogar, Ministry of Health Center, Policlínica de San Miguelito, and other areas of interest. Participation in this project and the trip to Panama is a requirement of the course.

Cultural Activities and Experiences
- Will be provided in class

Group Excursion
- Will be provided in class

Trip costs approximately $1300 + Airfare

Scholarships:
Students will automatically be given the $250 course scholarship provided that they meet the Honors College minimum GPA requirement of 3.2 Overall and USF GPA. Students will also receive the International Study Airfare Scholarship which provides $500 towards the cost of airfare. The above listed scholarships will help offset the total trip cost.

Costs include:
- Housing accommodations in Panama
- Set meal allowance – will cover basic cost of most day meals
- Transportation to / from airport in Panama
- Transportation while in Panama (group related activities)
- Group Weekend Excursion (transportation, tour & lodging)
- Cultural activities
  o Panama City Tour/ Miraflores Locks
  o Visit Emberá Indian Community/ Traditional Healing Practices
  o Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI)
- Travel / Medical Insurance (Available Included in cost)

Additional costs not included in trip costs:
- Passport $97 (10 – 12 weeks processing time)
  o In order to be accepted into program students must provide a copy of a passport or proof that a passport application has been filed.
- Airfare to and from Panama
  Extra food, water & snacks (meals not included on weekend excursion)
  Optional recreational activities and transportation for independent activities
**APPLICATION / INFORMATION FORM**

*Panama Beyond the Classroom*

**Name:**

(Last)       (First)       (MI)

**Student U Number:** U__________

**Birth Date:** ________

**Gender:** M   F (Mo./Day/Yr.)

**Email(s):**__________________________________________________________

**Home Phone** (___)_________________    **Cell Phone** (___)________________

**Address:** _________________________________________________________

(Street)      (City)   (State)  (Zip)

**Emergency Contact Person** (Person to whom USF may release information):

Name:______________________________________________Relationship: ______________

Address: _______________________________________________________________________

Phone: (______)_______________________    Cell Phone (______)_____________________

Email(s):_____________________________________________________________________

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**Academic Level:** Freshman      Sophomore   Junior  Senior  Graduate

**Good Academic standing:** Yes      No

**Name of your academic advisor:**____________________________________________

**Department or College:** ___________________________________________________

**Present major or minor (if declared):**___________________________ **GPA:**__________

**U.S Citizen:** ☐ yes ☐ no  **Passport Number:**___________________ **Valid Until:**________

**Country of Citizenship if not US:**____________________________________________

*Note: You are responsible for obtaining a visa, if required*

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**Do you have health insurance that covers you while you are out of the US?** ☐ yes ☐ no

**Company:** ________________________________ **Policy #**____________________

*To participate in this trip you are required to have health insurance.*
What motivated you to apply for this opportunity to participate in this course/trip?

How did you learn about this opportunity?

Have you ever lived, traveled or studied in another country? Explain briefly:

List language proficiency, or prior language study, if any:

How do you see this course & trip fitting into your future plans (While at USF or in your career?):

What volunteer experience do you have?
RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK
USF STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM: Panama Beyond the Classroom
DATES OF PROGRAM: December 11 – 20 Fall 2010

I am aware of the unstable world conditions which might require changes in the program schedule or might cause inconvenience or even harm to me as it might to other travelers who go abroad, including but not limited to the hazards of various modes of transportation, forces of nature, acts or omissions of foreign governments, terrorism, war and insurrection and illness.

In consideration of the permission granted by the University of South Florida to participate in the above program, I hereby assume the risk of inconvenience and harm and release the State of Florida, the State Board of Education, The Florida Board of Education, the University of South Florida Board of Trustees and the University of South Florida, as well as the agents, employees, and members of the aforementioned from all actions, causes of action, damages, claims or demands which I, my heirs, executors, administrators or assigns may have against any and all of the aforementioned for any and all personal injuries known or unknown which I have or may incur by participation in the above stated program and for all damages to my property.

By registering to participate in this program, I certify that I am physically and emotionally capable of full participation. I realize that I am responsible for any injuries to persons or property that may be incurred as a result of my participation in this program.

USF has the authority to establish rules of conduct necessary for the operation of the program during the entire periods of the program, including free time. The use of illegal drugs during the entire period of the programs is strictly prohibited. Should an official representative of USF decide that a participant must be separated from the program because of violation of stated rules, for disruptive behavior, or for any conduct that might bring the program to disrepute or its participants into legal jeopardy, that decision will be final. Separation from the program will result in the loss of all academic credit. Persons dismissed from the program will remain responsible for all program costs incurred on their behalf.

The undersigned acknowledges and understands that in the event he/she becomes detached from the group, fails to meet a departure bus or train, or becomes sick or injured, the undersigned will bear all financial responsibility to seek our contact, and reach the group at its next available destination; and, the undersigned understands that he/she shall bear all costs attendant to contacting and reaching the program site.

I expressly agree that the foregoing Release and Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by Florida law and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect. I understand that the University of South Florida requires adequate medical insurance for illness or accidental injury valid outside the U.S. and provides such insurance coverage for the duration of the USF program abroad.

I, the undersigned, am at least 18 years of age. I have read this Release and Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk as well as the terms and conditions of this application and understand all of its terms and recognize and accept any risk associated with the program and its conditions, including the cancellation and refund policy as set forth in the USF Study Abroad Program brochure and as outlined in this application.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have executed this Agreement on the day and year written below.

____________________________________________________________________________
Participant’s Name          Participant’s Signature         Date            Student U Number
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

I, ____________________________ wish to participate in the Panama Beyond the Classroom course and trip in Fall 2010.

I understand that my work will consist of contributing to community improvement projects. I understand that I will be provided the following accommodations: Transportation, Housing, and some food during my trip abroad.

I understand and recognize that there exists the possibility and risk of bodily injury to me, or damage to my property while participating in this program, including travel to and from the program site.

I will not possess or use alcohol or other controlled substances while participating in any events sponsored by the program. I understand that any use of alcohol or drugs or any misconduct may result in my dismissal from the program with any costs for return to Tampa, Florida to be at my expense.

In consideration of the University of South Florida allowing me to participate in this voluntary activity, I hereby release, relieve, and hold harmless the University of South Florida, its trustees, officers, employees and agents from any liability or claim of liability arising out of my participation in the program, including travel to and from the program site.

This waiver is not intended to release liability associated with the intentional wrongful acts committed by, or from the sole negligence of the University of South Florida, its trustees, officers, employees, or agents.

I understand the commitment that I am making to this program and am aware that I am required to attend all regularly scheduled class meetings and pay a non-refundable deposit. The $500 deposit is due November 30th, 2009 and the remainder of the fee is due January 15, 2010. All fees are non-refundable.

Financial Understanding

A $500 non refundable deposit is required to confirm space in this program. Participants must make their final payment by January 15th, 2010. Program fees are paid to the USF Cashier’s Office, in person or online via a credit card payment.

Cancellation and Refunds:
Withdrawal by Students: Students understand that they are responsible for any and all costs arising out of withdrawal from the program before its completion, including withdrawal caused by illness or disciplinary action. Early withdrawal of dismissal may result in academic penalty.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand this agreement and agree to abide by it.

_________________________________________   _________________________
Signature, Participant                             Date
1. General state of health: ___ Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor

2. Do you have any specific physical condition or general health concerns that might limit your activity? If so, please describe the specific nature of your condition:

3. Do you have any chronic illness?
   ___ Heart condition
   ___ High blood pressure
   ___ Diabetes
   ___ Dietary restrictions or allergies (If yes, please list)
   ___ Migraine headaches
   ___ Other (Please specify)

4. Do you require any regulate medications? If so, please explain. Do you have a sufficient supply for the entire trip?

5. Have you been in good health during the past 12 months?

6. Are there any other precautions or requirements that the program director(s) should know about?

7. Person to contact in the event of a medical emergency?
   Name (Relationship)__________________________________________________
   Address____________________________________________________________
   Home Phone_________________________ Work Phone___________________

   Your Signature      Name (Print)    Date