

PRAC GRANT APPLICATION

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7. Project Title: "Students Assessment on Race: Haitian and Dominican populations"
8. Project Dates: May 19-July 19, 2008
9. Project Checklist
 - Statement of support from the department chair or school dean
 - Budget
 - IRB

Abstract

The purpose of applying for a PRAC grant is to provide additional tools of learning to the students of WLAC F100 (Cultural Relationships and Global Interaction. International Service Learning in the Dominican Republic), a study abroad class in the Dominican Republic. In addition to class assignments (attending lectures and outside activities, writing a diary and a research paper, having oral presentations, etc.), students will be engaged in interviewing Dominican and Haitian populations on the subject of Race. The participants in this course are African American students. The information gathered by them would expand their views on how Race is viewed by individuals from other parts of the world. This experience will enrich them both academically and personally.

The WLAC F100 course will take place in the Dominican Republic during the 2009 Summer Session I, but in order to prepare the content and assessment of the interviews, the students and I will have class meetings in March and April. We will have a final class session on June 19, 2008.

Purpose of the Project

Last year, I created a course for African American students, WLAC F100: Cultural Relationships and Global Interaction. International Service Learning in the Dominican Republic. The purpose of the course was to study Race in a context that, although different from the United States, would expose these students to the challenges presented by diversity. Students had daily lectures that emphasized how geography, history, politics, economics, and education dealt with the issue of Race between Dominicans and Haitian populations. In addition to attending daily lectures, students were required to

participate in outside activities, read a series of articles, have several short oral presentations, and write a diary and a 10-12 page paper. Upon their return from the Dominican Republic, the students gave an oral presentation open to the public.

This year I will take another group (16 students approximately) to the Dominican Republic during Summer Session I. It is my belief, however, that the students' knowledge on the topic of Race would expand dramatically, if they were provided with the opportunity to have interviews with Dominicans and with Haitian populations living in the Dominican Republic as well. The PRAC grant would help me to accomplish this goal.

The students and I will have three class meetings previous to our trip. In two of those meetings, I will discuss the purpose of the study, how the interviews and assessment results will be analyzed, and how students should incorporate this data into their research papers. I will show them the questionnaires I will have prepared for this purpose and add or delete questions according to the discussion with them. Fifteen of these questions will be for both Dominican and Haitian populations and five questions will be devoted to either Dominicans or Haitians only. The students will be divided into two groups. Each group will interview either female or male populations only.

The results of these interviews will be assessed by the groups in our last class meeting in the Dominican Republic. Upon their return to the United States, each group will prepare a written analysis of the information gathered. For their interpretation of the questionnaires and answers, the students will follow a document prepared by me (Analysis Criteria Sheet). Students will incorporate part or all of the data obtained in their particular group into their research papers (a requirement to complete the course).

The students and I will have a final class session on June 19, 2008. On this day, the students will present to the academic community the results of the interviews and will state the importance that this data had on the preparation of their research papers. They will also share with the audience how these findings impacted them academically and personally.

I will elaborate a final document integrating the interviews, the written analysis of the students, and aspects from each student's research. I will highlight how my preparation of the Questionnaires and Analysis Criteria Sheet, the supervision of the interviews, and the participation of the students in this experience greatly impacted their perspectives on the subject of Race. I will use this valuable information in a paper presentation and/or article that would put emphasis on assessment as a crucial and successful tool for the acquisition of knowledge.

Budget

Project Director's duties (Questionnaires and Analysis Criteria Sheet preparation, gathering individuals for students' interviews, students' supervision, translating from Spanish and French when required)	\$ 2,150.00
Transportation to Dominican and Haitian communities	200.00
Materials and copies	<u>150.00</u>
	\$ 2,500.00