

University of Denver
ABRD 3520/4520: Project Bosnia-Herzegovina: Transitioning Together
Summer Session 2008
5 credit hours

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Project Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH) combines pre-departure academic study at the University of Denver (DU) with Volunteer Service Learning Internships (VSLI's) in BiH. The course requires attendance at four classroom sessions and a weekend retreat. The classroom sessions and weekend retreat allow us the opportunity to explore the historical, political and cultural attributes of the region, facilitate team building; cultivate intercultural skills and awareness, and reflect on the international service-learning model.

The pre-departure academic component of the course includes: basic language instruction, general history of former Yugoslavia and the Balkan region, review of government structure, exploration of postwar trauma including orphaned children, rape victims and the aftermath of genocide. The class also will review film documentaries and discuss political and economic challenges regarding the difficult work of transitional justice and the evolution of civil society.

Upon arrival in BiH and before starting one's VSLI, students participate in a multi-day cultural and city orientation including a visit to the US Embassy in Sarajevo. Students then will begin their full time (40 hours/week) volunteer service internships at a governmental or non-governmental Community Partner Organization (CPO). Participation in educational lectures, excursions, weekly reflections and completion of a series of journaling/writing assignments is required.

Upon returning to the States, students will prepare a final paper/capstone project (due on August 29th) and are required to attend a re-entry meeting to be scheduled sometime in September.

This is the thirteenth consecutive year of the University of Denver's service learning program in the Balkans, making "Project Bosnia-Herzegovina" DU's longest running service learning initiative. Project BiH offers a unique way to experience daily life in a foreign country that is not focused on tourism or consumption and helps one examine his or her individual and collective role as a world citizen. Project BiH is a living, breathing didactic laboratory whereby students move from academic

theory to practical implementation of their educational experience. Together we will go, serve, and learn as we lean into the heart of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

ISL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

As a result of participating in a DU ISL program which includes regular participation in reflective discussion and writing, students will:

- Increase their knowledge of the culture, politics, society, and language of BiH through academic study and personal interactions
- Integrate academic content with their service experience
- Examine critical community issues from multiple perspectives.
- Engage in effective dialogue about local and/or global issues with individuals and groups, thus improving their inter-cultural communication skills.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation of the challenges faced by post conflict government and civil society.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Journal: You will keep a journal starting the first time we gather and continue journaling throughout the Program. **PreDeparture Weekly Journal Assignments** must be emailed to Rene and Jo no later than 5:00 MST on the following Thursday's April 10, 17, 24 and May 1. In the *subject line of the email* put your name and the week of the journal assignment. (Example: J Smith, Week 1 Journal) **In-Country (BiH) Journal assignments** must be delivered to Rene or Jolene no later than 4:00 the day of the Thursday evening reflection.

In addition to answering specific questions posed, the following themes should be addressed in your journal:

Before Departure:

- Reflections on your experiences as you relate with PBiH colleagues
- Reflections on your academic and personal preparations

In-Country:

- Mission and goals of the CPO/Vareš summer school
- Communication structure and function of the CPO/Vareš education program
- Tasks you are asked to perform
- Successes of the CPO/ Vareš school in meeting stated goals
- Challenges the CPO/ Vareš school faces in meeting its goals
- Your daily personal, emotional and educational experiences in light of the culture

Self-Evaluation

Generally, self-evaluate and articulate questions with which you are struggling. Good journaling integrates analysis of experience, attitudes, behavior and course content. Your ISL Portfolio journal entries should represent your intellectual and experiential development.

2. Film Analysis: (4-5 page paper due no later than 4:30 pm, Friday May 23rd) (You must email a copy of your paper to Rene and Jolene and deliver a hard copy to the International House PBiH collection box. Again in the subject line use Example: J Smith, Film Analysis)

Film artists and journalists have captured life both during and after the war in former Yugoslavia. These films help us gain insight into the cultural difficulties and struggles faced by the Bosnian people. Before departing, you will watch three films; *No Man's Land*, *Grbavica* and at least one episode of the six part series *Street Under Siege*, a film documentary of life in Sarajevo from November 1993 – January 1995.

You then will write a reflective essay where you analyze: 1) common cultural dynamics and themes, 2) challenges faced by individuals, communities, civil society and government in reconciling differences and 3) reflections and suggestions on how Bosnian communities and government can move forward in collective alliance.

3. Lectures: BiH faculty and professionals will conduct lectures in Sarajevo. You will be expected to attend, take notes, and whenever possible, participate in the discussion. We will set the schedule of lectures when we arrive. Possible lecture topics are:

- Culture and Religion
- Current Politics
- Education
- Economic Structure
- Gender

4. Service: Each student will perform approximately 40 hours per week of internship service at a community partner organization (CPO). Service with the CPO bridges academic theory with practical experience within cultural context and perspectives, thus enriching the higher education paradigm. Program Director, Rene Wright, will assist with CPO placements in Sarajevo and Program Coordinator; Jolene Lockwood will assist with facilitating and directing the Vareš multi-ethnic educational program.

5. Final Project: *(Due 4:30 pm, Friday, August 29th.) (You must email a copy of your project to Rene and Jolene and deliver a spiral bound hard copy to the International House PBiH collection box.)*

The portfolio must follow these guidelines:

- 12 point, Times New Roman font
- Double-space the body of the text and only one double space between paragraphs.
- Double space between each reference in the reference list, but single space within each reference in list for readability.
- Single space within large tables to improve readability and fit them on one page where possible.
- Minimum 15 pages not including the title page, table of contents, and bibliography. You may be creative with photos, video clips etc. **By July 4th**, choose a topic for your final project then submit your proposal to Rene and Jolene via email. The portfolio should be outlined as follows.

- **Title Page**
- **Table of Contents**
- **Introduction**
- **Literature Review (relevant to topic)**
- **Critical discussion/analysis**
- **Personal Reflection**
- **Conclusion**
- **Bibliography (APA format)**

Your project *must* include *substantial* critical analysis of your topic and draw upon your service/internship experience, reading, research and lectures. The following prompts may assist you in your project.

- a) Describe a social problem or issue from your service experience.
- b) How did your coursework enable you to analyze and evaluate the issue?
- c) How did engaging in community dialog with your CPO contribute to your understanding of the issue?
- d) In what ways, if any, were you able to assist with implementing change in the community in which you were involved as a result of gaining knowledge about relevant civic structures?
- e) What knowledge, resources, and experiences from prior courses were you able to apply to this CPO experience? What was the effect of applying that knowledge and experience?
- f) In what ways do you think this course and the related VSLI contributed to your civic and/or academic development?

6. Attendance & Participation: Participation in all activities related to the program, including the pre-departure retreat, Friday classes, in-country orientation, service/internship, lectures in BiH and other group activities is required, as well as the September re-entry session. There will be free time and tourist activities scheduled. Primarily we are in Bosnia to work and learn. Your grade will be negatively affected (or lowered) if you fail to participate in mandatory activities.

GRADING POLICY:

Journals	20%
Film Analysis	20%
Final Project	40%
Participation	20%

(Includes attendance and participation in required activities, service internships, and a positive contribution to group dynamics.)

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT:

We all are expected to follow the University's honor code which states:

All members of the University community are entrusted with the responsibility of observing certain ethical goals and values as they relate to academic integrity. Essential to the fundamental purpose of the University is the commitment to the principles of truth and honesty. The Honor Code is designed so that responsibility for upholding these principles lies with the individual as well as the entire community.

The Honor Code fosters and advances an environment of ethical conduct in the academic community of the University, the foundation of which includes the pursuit of academic honesty and integrity. Through an atmosphere of mutual respect we enhance the value of our education and bring forth the highest standard of academic excellence. Members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, administrators and trustees, must not commit any intentional misrepresentation or deception in academic or professional matters.

Possible violations will result in academic conduct review. See <http://www.du.edu/honorcode/statement.htm> for the full code and the review process.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Sacco, J. (2000). *Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia 1992-95*. Seattle, WA: Fantagraphics Books.

Power, S. (2008). *Chasing the Flame, Sergio Vieira De Mello and the Fight to Save the World*. New York: Penguin. Chapters 7-9. (Available on Penrose Library E- reserve)

WEBSITES:

<http://www.ohr.int/>

Domestic and international news from the Office of High Representative in BiH.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk>

In the search window type in Bosnia Herzegovina; this takes you to the country overview and recent articles about Bosnia and the region.

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/ees>

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, East European Studies

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Malcolm, N. (1996). *Bosnia: A Short History*. New York: New York University Press. Chapters 9 & 13-16

Ramet, S.P. (2002). *Balkan Babel: The disintegration of Yugoslavia from the death of Tito to the fall of Milosevic* (4th Ed.). Boulder: Westview Press.

Hunt, S. (2004). *This Was Not Our War: Bosnian Women Reclaiming the Peace* Duke University Press.

Neuffer, E. (2002). *The Key to My Neighbor's House*. Picador.

U.S Foreign Policy Perspectives:

Albright, M (2003) *Madame Secretary: A Memoir* (read sections on Balkans & Bosnia)

Albright, M. (2007). *The Mighty & The Almighty: Reflections on America, God & World Affairs*. Harper Perennial.

Power, S (2002). "A Problem From Hell" *America and the Age of Genocide*. Basic Books. Chapter 9 (Available on Penrose Library E- reserve)

CLASSROOM SYLLABUS & RETREAT

(Tentative class schedule subject to change based on Speaker availability.)

Friday April 4: (2-6pm, Room 301 Ben Cherrington Hall)

- Syllabus and Class Structure Review, InCountry Orientation Dates and VSLI updates
- History of Yugoslavia
(Political Structures, Ethnic Groups, Nationalism, Dayton Peace Accords)
- Film, “*Yugoslavia, Death of a Nation*” (BBC & Discovery) (Parts 1 and 2)
- Language instruction, Eldijana Bjelcic (4:30 – 5:30)
- Retreat Review and Preparations

Required Reading (Week 1)

- #1. Gorde, P. (1996) The judges of the War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague called on Professor Paul Garde to give an historic overview of the Balkans region and Garde then fielded questions from the judges. Garde's testimony was given June 27-28, 1996. He is a professor of Slav literature and languages and has written many linguistics books. Since 1991 Garde's research and writing have focused on the break-up of Yugoslavia.
- #2. U.S. Department of State, (1995) *Summary of the Dayton Peace Agreement on Bosnia-Herzegovina*. <http://www.state.gov/www/regions/eur/bosnia/dayton.html>.
- #3. Outline – History of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Outline - A Region Transformed;
(1920-1931 Ashes of War)
(1945-1991 Tito's Federation)
(1995-2002 Break Up)
(2003–2008 Yugoslavia Vanishes)
- #4. Listen to: *Making Sense of Bosnia*. (Re-broadcast) (April 10, 1999)
<http://www.npr.org/programs/weed/archives/1999/apr/990410.weed.html>
- #5. BBC News (2006) *Timeline: Break-up of Yugoslavia*

Saturday and Sunday April 5-6: (DU Retreat Facility Echo Lake)

- Bring an item to the retreat that reflects a part of who you are or what you enjoy. Be prepared to share the significance of the item with the group.
- Meet at the International House at 8:30am, students will drive to Echo Lake.

Required Reading (Retreat)

- #1. Feinberg, B. (2002) *What Students Don't Learn Abroad*
- #2. Hodzic, R. (1995) *In the Service of Life*
- #3. Illich, I. (1990) *To Hell with Good Intentions*. In J. Kendu (Ed.). *Combining Service and Learning*

Friday April 11: (2-6pm, Room 301 Ben Cherrington Hall)

- The Siege of Sarajevo
(*Street Under Siege*, Video Documentary; Map of Serbian Forces Surrounding City)
- Conflict Psychological Trauma: presented by Dr. Elaine Hanson (3:00 – 4:30)
- Language Instruction, Eldijana Bjelcic (4:30 – 5:30)
- Multi-Ethnic Education and the Vareš summer program: presented by Jolene Lockwood

Required Reading (Week 2)

- #1. Zbanic, J. (2007) *Grbavica* . Noir Film.
- #2. Levy, N (2004) *Identity Politics in the Schools of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia*. ISEES News letter Summer 2004
- #3. Walton, N. (Sept 28, 2006) *Bosnia Tries Multi-Ethnic Education*. BBC News
- #4. Dervisbegovic, N. (Feb 5, 2007) *Bosnia Therapy Knitters See Luxury Retail Future*. Reuters

Friday April 18 (2-6pm, Room 301 Ben Cherrington Hall)

Peace, Justice and the Courts (Students Present)

(ICC, ICTY and State Court for BiH)

Refugee Story

Language Instruction, Eldijana Bjelcic (4:30- 5:30)

Required Reading (Week 3)

- #1. Citizens for Global Change, (2005) *International Criminal Court: At a Glance and Victims of Sexual Violence & the ICC*.
- #2. Profiles: Radovan Karadzic, Ratko Mladic Safe and Carla Del Ponte. (Compiled by David Ackerson, 2007)
- #3. BBC News (June 9, 2005) *Timeline: Seige of Srebrenica*.
- #4. Simons, M. (April 9, 2007) *Genocide Court Ruled for Serbia Without Seeing Full War Archive*. The New York Times
- #5. *The Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, The Registry 2007*.
<http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/?jezik=e> (Review Jurisdiction of the court re War Crimes)

Friday April 25 (2-6pm, Room 301 Ben Cherrington Hall)

Bosnia, Facing the Past and Celebrating the Future, Current Events

(UN, Foreign Policy; Coffee Culture and the Hope for the Future)

Student Panel and Final Project example

Language Class, Eldijana Bjelcic (4:30 –5:30)

Required Reading (Week 4)

- #1. Power, S. (2008). *Chasing the Flame, Sergio Vieira De Mello and the Fight to Save the World*. New York: Penguin. Chapters 7-9.
- #2. Sacco, J. (2000). *Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia 1992-95*. Seattle, WA: Fantagraphics Books.
- #3. Vuynovich, M. (Dec 4, 2005) *Sarajevo Remembers History, Celebrates Now*. San Francisco Chronicle
- #4. Ignatieff, M. (2002) *When a Bridge is not a Bridge*. The New York Times

BIH IN-COUNTRY ORIENTATION

Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Tentative Schedule based on Embassy Availability

June 8 Sunday

Group excursion to Bosne

June 9 Monday

Bus Tour around Sarajevo including visits to Cultural Institute, National Museum and Sverzo's House (typical BiH home). Also a walking tour of Bascarsija (old town) and BiH lunch.

June 10 Tuesday

Visit US Embassy and meet with an Embassy representative
Walking tour of internship placements

June 11 Wednesday

Internships commence and continue through Friday, August 1.

June 14 Saturday

Group excursion to Lukomir. BiH's highest village, which is cut off from the outside world during winter months. An hour long intermediate hike through the mountains followed by lunch with the locals.

RE-ENTRY SESSION

September Date TBA

University of Denver International House