

INDIVIDUALLY ARRANGED CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY PROPOSAL

Culture/Country of Choice:	Honduras
Program/Church (if applicable):	Shenandoah World Missions
Travel Dates/Duration of Study:	July 16 – 24, 2017
Supervisor/Main Contact:	Shirley Jones
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Accommodations (if applicable):	

Description of Activities:

I plan on going to the country of Honduras for 8 days. I will be staying in the Valley of Angels at Jim Lee's Villas. My time there will be spent interacting with many local people throughout four different villages. These villages surround Cantarranas which is located two hours north east of the capital Tegucigalpa. I will be visiting several local village schools, volunteering at a health clinic, and continually visiting small villages interacting with the local people. During many of the days spent in and around Cantarranas, I will be visiting several different village schools. The schools are located in the villages of El Encinal, El Zarzal, and Cofridea. Here, I will be interacting with young children through vacation bible school activities, donating school supplies, and repairing any structural needs the school may have.

My interactions with the children will include teaching them songs, playing games, as well teaching them short bible lessons. One day during my experience, I will have the opportunity to volunteer at a health clinic in Suyapa. This clinic helps provide vision screenings, and dental services to locals without healthcare. I will assist in comforting patients and managing the children while their parents receive the health services the clinic provides. Due to staying near the village of El Zarzal, I will have the opportunity to attend 3 local worship services. One day during my week spent here, I will have the opportunity to be given a tour of the beautiful countryside around the Valley of Angels. Every evening will be filled with interacting with locals as I navigate and explore my way through small markets for shopping and eating. Throughout every day while visiting these local villages, I will be immersed within the Honduran culture and will have the opportunity to interact with many Honduran citizens.

45-HOUR INTERACTION REQUIREMENT:

<u>Daily Itinerary</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Hours</u>
(July 16, 2017) Evening Church Service	(6:00-8:00)	2
(July 17, 2017) Visit El Zarzal Village School	(9:00-2:00)	5
Visit village market in El Zarzal	(4:00-6:00)	2
(July 18, 2017) Visit first Cofridea Village school	(9:00-2:00)	5
Worship Service in El Zarzal	(6:00-8:00)	2
(July 19, 2017) Volunteer at health clinic in Cofridea	(8:00-4:00)	8
Worship Service in El Zarzal	(6:00-8:00)	2
(July 20, 2017) Visit El Encinal School	(9:00-2:00)	5
(July 21, 2017) Visit Cofridea School #2	(9:00-2:00)	5
Visit Cofridea village market	(4:00-6:00)	2
(July 22, 2017) Tour Valley of Angels countryside	(1:00-6:00)	5
Visit Valley of Angels town market	(6:30-8:30)	2
(July 23, 2017) Morning worship service in El Zarzal	(9:00-11:00)	2
Visit Coridea village market	(2:00-5:00)	3
(July 24, 2017) Depart		

TOTAL = 52 HOURS

Based on your daily itinerary, list the goals you plan to accomplish:

I am currently an education major. Therefore, having the opportunity to visit a school in another country is going to fulfill a huge goal I already obtain. I would like to witness the teaching styles, resources, and curriculum the teachers of these small village schools utilize. I know that I will greatly enjoy witnessing how they are set up and ran compared to the elementary schools I have seen here in the U.S. The experience of interacting with and teaching children of another culture will also be a great experience as well. For my time in Honduras, I have made it a goal to visit more than one local worship service. I am looking forward to witnessing these services and participating in the worship styles and content of each. I would like to observe how the local churches impact the community, as well learn from the locals about their attitude towards the church's presence. I currently only speak one language, and that is English. Therefore, I have also set a goal of learning more Spanish. I will be traveling with a small team of 10 people, however there will only be two translators among us. Therefore, I have begun to try to learn the basics of the native language, Spanish, so I can try and authentically interact with locals. I want to learn and understand more about what their daily lives are like and what is important to them.

Explain how you believe this experience will fulfill the academic objectives of the cross-cultural requirement:

I am excited to witness the political, social, and economical aspects of the local villages and attitudes of the natives in Honduras. Politically, Honduras is seeking to "re-found" the country by rewriting the Constitution and having the government redistribute wealth, resources, and power to those who traditionally have had very little of these. Therefore, it will be interesting to visit these small villages outside of cities to see the conditions they are in and if the change has begun to affect them. While interviewing and interacting with natives, I will have the opportunity to witness their attitudes on this subject matter. I have heard many stories of the economical situation of families within these villages. Many adults in this region of the country are farmers, or work for local tomato or banana plantations. Therefore, they are limited on money for basic needs and resources. During my experience of working at the health clinic and touring the countryside I will have a first-hand account of witnessing the economic status of the citizens of these villages. I am also interested to see the social interaction between people within the culture, as well as cultural norms. I am going to enjoy witnessing greetings, communication styles, personal space dynamics, view of time, gestures, taboos, and laws.