** **

2024 Short-Term Educational Program

***Education, Culture & Change in South Africa***

**Dates**: July 17th – 4th August 2024*, Three (3) Graduate Credits*

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the SAI Summer Short-term Educational Program?**

Launched in the fall of 2001, the Rutgers Graduate School of Education's South Africa Initiative (SAI) provides experiences for students & educators to increase their cultural awareness and knowledge, cultural empathy and to better understand their cultural identity while learning about the historical and sociopolitical realities of South African communities and schools.  The 2024 program is a course *Education, Culture & Change in South Africa,* 15:310:607, offered through Rutgers Global.

**Course**

**Who is eligible for the class? How many credits will I earn?**

This is a three (3)-credit graduate level course is open to Rutgers & Non~Rutgers grad students, alumni, educators, professionals in all fields, who may be interested in learning more about culture, the complex social and educational issues facing South Africa and the amazing spirit of “Ubuntu” (people are people thru other people). We also examine the power of forgiveness, change & reconciliation; as well as participate in service learning activities in South African schools, communities and empowerment projects.

School Educators can earn 45 professional development hours.

**How do I gain entry to the course?**

Apply Online: <https://global.rutgers.edu/program-search/details/summer-rutgers-education-culture-change-south-africa>

**Applications are due no later than March 1, 2024**. Applications received after that time will be considered on a space-available basis. This is a rolling admission application process. Applicants will be immediately notified of acceptance into this program and be able to complete post-decision materials prior to the term's application deadline. To avoid being placed on the waiting list, early applications are strongly encouraged.

**What is this class all about?**

The course includes lectures, readings and online discussions with experts designed to provide a cultural lens for experiencing race and diversity within a different socio-political context. The course culminates with two-weeks of cultural immersion in South Africa.  Through lived experiences, service learning and self-reflection learners challenge beliefs and assumptions, and develop critical thinking skills as part of their development of personal and professional competence.

Course objectives include:

* increasing cultural awareness and cultural knowledge,
* challenging personal beliefs and culturally biased assumptions,
* understanding historical legacies and social contexts that impact social inequities,
* understanding one’s role as an outsider in a community-driven effort,
* developing an ability to use self-reflection in the learning process, and
* appreciating local perspectives, beliefs with respect and cultural humility.

Coursework is divided into two parts: (1) pre-trip coursework online, and in-person instruction in the areas of Blogging, Storytelling and Reflection; (2) a two-weeks in South Africa.

**What kinds of organizations do we visit/engage?**

Universities:

University of Cape Town, University of Pretoria & University of Stellenbosch

Public Schools:

We engage with a variety of township and rural public schools.

Non-Profit/ Non-governmental organizations (NGO’s):

**Nkosi's Haven Village**, HIV/AIDS orphanage in Johannesburg.

**Vilokhaya Cycling Academy** – provides service-learning programs in Khayelitsha Township.

**Teboho Trust**, an empowerment project for orphaned and vulnerable learners in Soweto.

**Pinotage Youth Development Academy -** youth empowerment projects in Stellenbosch.

**The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation**

**Who is the instructor and when will class meet?**

The class is taught by Dr. Darren Clarke (Senior Director of Strategic Alliances and Online Learning). Classes are held online and two sessions are held at the GSE, prior to departure. Class times are to be determined based on participant schedules and will also take place while abroad in South Africa.

**ABOUT THE TRIP ABROAD**

**What exactly do we do on the trip? What is our itinerary?**

Our host cities include **Johannesburg, Pretoria & Cape Town! Beyond meeting internationally renowned scholars, experts & change agents, highlights of the program include:**

* Service Learning within culturally diverse settings
* Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned during the Apartheid era
* Slave Lodge, District 6, Hector Pieterson & Apartheid Museums & Voortrekker Monument
* Township Visits: Soweto, Khayelitsha, Alexandra
* Universities & Schools
* Spice Route Winelands visit to Paarl
* Indabas (Zulu word for meetings) with international students, experts, grannies & more!

**What are our housing accommodations/meals?**

Includes daily breakfast and some group meals and receptions. Students will stay in double rooms while residing in hotels and B & B accommodation in Johannesburg & Cape Town.

The food can be excellent! South African cuisine can be quite varied, reflecting the various cultural influences in the region: traditional African cooking, including Dutch , Indian & Cape Malay.

**PROGRAM FEES -** Listed on website via link & Include:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| check_markTuition & Fees | check_markProgram administration (course materials) |
| check_markIn-country airfare | check_markExcursion (tours, receptions, expert speakers, surface transportation) |
| check_markHousing accommodations, daily breakfast and some meals | check_markHTH Health Insurance |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PROGRAM COST DOES NOT INCLUDE (Non-Billable)** |  |
| •Most meals | •Major medical insurance |
| •All personal expenses | •Rutgers Summer Session Fee |
| •Round-trip airfare to/from South Africa |  |

**Scholarships**  
Students are also encouraged to start researching Scholarship opportunities as early as possible. Please visit the “Rutgers Study Abroad [Scholarships](http://studyabroad.rutgers.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Abroad.ViewLink&Parent_ID=0&Link_ID=D2BEE5D1-5056-9B67-E41C2996E8809D46&pID=8&lID=43)” section of their website for additional information about Rutgers and National Scholarships. SAI also provides scholarships for students who express need.

**What is the current exchange rate?**

The exchange rate is approximately 17:1 (17 South African Rand to $1 U.S).

**What types of documents will I need for travelling?**

* If you are a U.S citizen, you will need a valid U.S passport, which does not expire within 6 months
* If you are not a U.S citizen, you will need a valid passport from your country along with an appropriate VISA.

**More details:**

[**https://global.rutgers.edu/program-search/details/summer-rutgers-education-culture-change-south-africa**](https://global.rutgers.edu/program-search/details/summer-rutgers-education-culture-change-south-africa)

**Please direct questions or interest to:**

**Dr. Darren Clarke**

**Darren.clarke@gse.rutgers.edu**