



Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR: ANTONIO F. JIMÉNEZ JIMÉNEZ

DEPARTMENT: SPANISH

ACTIVITY TITLE: UNIV 392: SOCIAL CHANGE IN SPAIN 2

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: JULY 20TH- AUGUST 11, 2013

E-mail to the IRA Coordinator with supporting documentation at lisa.ayre-smith@csuci.edu within 30 days after the activity.

Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!!

A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;

Students completing either SOC/SPAN 429 or SPAN 410 courses are given first preference to participate in the second portion of the course (Social Change in Spain II). The course this year consisted of three weeks based in Málaga, Spain, at the Instituto Andalusi. Students received 60 hours of language instruction, as well as excursions and guided visits to the following: Granada (Alhambra and Generalife), Nerja, Frigiliana, the Picasso Museum, the School of Flamenco, and the Thyssen Museum. Optional excursions included Morocco and Sevilla. Students boarded with Spanish families for a total immersion experience. There was a diversity of language levels in the group: one beginner, one intermediate, and the remaining 13 students were Spanish heritage speakers with difficulties in writing, reading and grammar. Students wrote a series of 10 essays on social issues and themes posed by the instructor. Topics included the difference between travel and tourism, the Spanish economy, unemployment, the neither-nor generation (no employment-no studies), etc. The students who participated majored in Spanish, Psychology, Mathematics, Biology, Nursing, Political Science, and Communication.

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

The language and cultural immersion portion of the summer course extends the material from SOC/SPAN 429, Social Change in Spain, which analyzes Spain in the post-Franco era since the democratic transition, and SPAN 410, Cultures and Civilizations of Spain, which focus on current cultural, social, and political issues in Spain. Both these courses study current issues such as immigration (and migration) in the European Union, racism, employment and unemployment, changing family ties etc. However, if there are not sufficient students from 429 or

410, the course is open to any other student wanting to participate who is selected by the admissions committee.

(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?

The program is designed to offer students an in-depth cultural and linguistic experience in Spain. The program is three weeks long and it provides students with ample opportunities to interact with locals and learn both the language and the culture. In addition, they stay with Spanish families and through them students get to experience first-hand the Spanish way of living. By the end of the program, students feel a strong connection with both the city and their host families. Many students have communicated their intent to go back to Málaga on their own to continue their linguistic and cultural immersion.

(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?

Since we accept students from all Spanish levels, at times they break in groups based on proficiency level. Since this is something that has happened a few times in the past, faculty directors are well aware of this and always emphasize a sense of inclusiveness, family, friendship, and support among all the students in the group. This year, for example, I didn't see students breaking up in smaller groups and they were able to maintain a very civic and friendly relationship among them.

(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?

After 7 years taking students to Málaga and Instituto Andalusi, I personally believe that we have developed a program of the highest quality. One thing that could be incorporated is a service learning component. However, this could be hard to achieve since students are busy in the morning with their language classes and afternoons are mostly used for cultural activities.

(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?

This was the seventh year of the program. I always request student feedback and learn from them. The host housing may be the best part of the experience, and our students learn from Spanish families and other international (generally Europeans from Germany, Netherlands, France and Denmark) students living in their households. The language instruction is superb. I feel that the three week long stay was the right amount of time. Language improvement was dramatic for the intermediate level learners and heritage students had greater opportunities to improve their writing skills. All students were able to really get to know the area and have their own experiences.

(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)

See students evaluations attached.



8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.

Instituto Andalusi (includes housing, half board).....	\$15460
Flights.....	\$26600
Group Activities and transportation costs.....	\$715

B. ATTENDEE LIST- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:

In addition to the report form, *in a separate document*, attach to your email a list of attendees complete with each student major and grade level. This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website. Include your name and the title of your IRA activity on the document.

C.IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:

Finally, attach to your email up to 6 images demonstrating student participation (under 2 MB total) with captions/titles. (attach these photos in JPEG format directly to email).
Thank you!

Initial Report

Last Modified: 07/19/2013

1. Please rate pre-departure program preparation (selection process, information sessions or orientations...)

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Pre-departure preparation	4.20	5.00	4.92	0.25	10

2. Comments about pre-departure preparation?

Text Response

The professor arrange a couple of meetings to give us practical information such as health insurance, documentation, etc.

I enjoyed taking cultures and civilizations of Spain during spring 2013 because I had the opportunity to learn more about the culture and it's people. When I arrived in Spain I knew what to expect and I wasn't shocked when interacting with the Spanish people.

We were given all the necessary information regarding baggage that was acceptable to take as well as measurements and weight it was all very well organized and we were well informed.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

3. Please rate the performance of the host institution and/or contracted agency.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Host institution or contracted agency	4.50	5.00	4.92	0.16	10

4. Please rate the in-country transportation arrangements (bus, train, plane...)

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	In-country transportation	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	10

5. Comments about host institution and/or contracted agency?

Text Response

Great staff, very outgoing and made me feel welcome since day one. I do wish we had air conditioned classrooms since the temperature was very hot. I am not sure that air conditioning is a norm at institutions in Malaga, but it was still a great experience. I liked that it was a relaxed environment, very good teachers, but they need to act (and talk) more professionally.

I had a great learning experience at the host site. Learned about teaching methods in Spain.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

6. Please rate the housing arrangements (quality, location, safety, cleanliness...)

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Housing arrangements	4.30	5.00	4.87	0.25	10

7. Comments about housing arrangements?

Text Response

The host family was amazing and catered to my immediate needs. Family was very attentive and polite. The area was quiet, safe and close to school. I loved my Spanish family and I still keep in contact with them.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

8. Comments about in-country transportation?

Text Response

Excellent and cheap transportation.

Transportation in Spain is amazing and for class trips we always had great transportation.

Very easy to get around as well as having transportation provided

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

9. Please rate the student group (in terms of group dynamics, maturity, cross-cultural sensitivity...)

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Group	4.20	5.00	4.88	0.25	10

10. Comments about the group?

Text Response

We all got along together. We were all a group of individuals who loved the amazing experience. Thank you!!!

Group was very respectful to cultural differences.

The student group was very interesting. There were 14 females and 1 male so it made it fascinating to see the interactions.

Lethe group was very good loved the group and the atmosphere

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	4

11. Please rate how health and safety issues were handled during the trip

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Health and safety	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	10

12. Comments about health and safety?

Text Response

I felt very safe during every trip we made.

For the most part it went well one person injured her foot, and another got a cold but other the that no major issues.

Great. Luckily I never got sick.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

13. 1. Please describe key positives and reflect on reasons for the success.

Text Response

The trip was very well organized, from meeting with the Professor at LAX to being introduced to our host family in Malaga.

The instructors were very outgoing, it is not something I am used to seeing here at CSUCI with my professors. I was able to make connections and feel very comfortable to engage in the course.

Great professor Academic excursions

We were on a great place in this case Spain, an amazing place to learn about a different culture and traditions. We were able to interact with other students who are not from CSUCI. We were surrounded by great people and an amazing environment.

I had the opportunity to be a part of something that I learned about in class. It's very beneficial to actually have the opportunity to be close to a topic or region that is being studied. It adds more meaning to the experience.

In addition to enhancing my Spanish language capabilities, I was able at the same time to explore a different country with a distinct culture. Living with a family, was a great experience because I was introduced to the food and customs that the families have. As compared with dining out, where you don't necessarily build a relationship with the server. The family along with the school faculty were there to help us with our communication abilities as well as exploring the area.

Statistic

Value

Total Responses

6

14. 2. What did you learn on this program that you couldn't learn at Channel Islands?

Text Response

First hand experience of living in a country where the language is unique to my own. Traditions and everyday life style.

I got a first-hand feel of what the "Spaniard way of life" was like. I lived some of the best experiences throughout this trip. I learned a lot from students that came from other countries, and I felt I was truly immersed in their culture, especially by using their slang.

The current situation of Spain that can be understood unless experience it through a host family and interacting with others from that country on a daily basis. The culture experience is one that is essential, which in order to enrich our education we needed to immerse in it and experiment by our own selves using our five senses in order to understand more profoundly.

The culture and people of Spain

I learned more about the Spain cultures, their poetry but the way they teach it is differently. Professors want you to learn the material not memorize it.

Learning directly from Spaniards and listening to what they had to say made it much more meaningful. For example, here in the states we learn about the economical crisis that the spaniards are going through. I thought that these people were dying in the streets. The reality is that most of them are being innovative and finding ways to still go out at night and have a good time with friends, acquaintances or family.

Different culture aspects that we aren't exposed to at Channel Islands.

Being in the country and actually seeing and experiencing things first hand was incredible. We learned so much about the culture and history, but being able to visit historical sites was unbelievable.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	8

15. 3. What do you know now that you wish you'd known before you went?

Text Response

N/A

I wish I would've known they eat a lot of fish in Malaga. I am not a big fan, but it was still worthwhile to taste all their different dishes because it is a big part of their culture in Malaga.

How to pack lighter that has nothing to do with the education part but on the other note, if I would have known to carry my CSUCI identification card I would have gotten discounts and even free entrance to the distinct museums and historical and anthropological locations.

That is very cheap to travel from one county to another in Europe.

I wish I could have learned more about the famous artist "Picasso" and his great artistic work as well as the traditions in Spain.

NA

N/a

I wish I would have known that I did not need to pack so much clothing.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	8

16. 4. What suggestions would you provide the faculty director for revisions that would produce a better international experience for future groups?

Text Response

I cannot think of anything, the overall experience was great. The only thing that comes to my mind is that I wish the trip had been planned so that we could've made it to the festivities they do that is a big part of the Malaga culture and it is a celebration that is awaited all year long.

A more comfortable plane.

The experience was great, I learned so much that it showed how great the professors in Spain are, I would just change where they place the student: not the location but the families, that way the families get to know the students and interact with them.

Making the stay in Spain longer. 4 weeks would be ideal.

Nothing everything was well organized and planned

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	5

17. 5. Please comment on your faculty director/s (organization, leadership, preparedness, knowledge of the country, helpfulness...)

Text Response

Professor Jimenez was a great leader, mentor, professor, and guide. He did everything possible to make sure our stay in Malaga was pleasant. I am beyond satisfied.

Professor Jimenez did a great job. He often asked us of how things were going on at home and how we felt about the trips we were doing. He checked in with us regularly and was very helpful in terms of advice of how to get around Malaga and what were things we must know about the region.

Profesor Jimenez is an amazingly educated individual who guided us through and have us an immense amount of knowledge. Everything was laid out for us, he really did a great job lining it all out for us which made it easier for us to have a more pleasant educated experience.

OUTSTANDING. Professor Jimenez is a true expert.

Everything was well prepared and the professors knew what they were doing and they didn't mind that you had another different about a certain topic in compare to the professors here on campus.

Our group leader not only made sure that we were always doing well but he prepared is also a native born of Spain. All his personal knowledge helped when going around in Spain and his closeness with the instructors at the institute made it beneficial for the students. This allowed us to get the best experience at the institute because we were learning about topics that were relevant to the professors course objectives.

Perfect he was well prepared and helped with any questions that we had about the town

The faculty director knew the area very well which made the experience so successful and enjoyable. The excursions were very well organized.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	8

18. 6. Please comment on the academic quality of the program (content, learning objectives, assignments, feedback, evaluation...)

Text Response

Great! The material of the class was always interesting and professors always used real life events to help us understand.

Our class was very interactive and participant which is what I think made the academic experience better. I learned a lot about the Spaniard culture and appropriate use of language. I was benefited academically more than I had expected and achieved my goals.

very good program. Doing a journal as part of the homework was very helpful and fun. The academic quality was great, we had great feed back on our assignments.

Assignments were great because they allowed the students to reflection.

Some of the material we covered was review from our class, but what was interesting was hearing it from the Spanish point of view. There was also sessions which covered grammar and poetry that had not been extensively covered at CI, therefore covering those topics was very beneficial. The teachers at the institute were very knowledgeable about all the information we covered and if we had any confusions or questions they figured out a way to address them.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	6

19. 7. Other comments:

Text Response

The overall experience was great! I cannot thank everyone enough for the wonderful opportunities our campus provides. I hope to take a similar trip again with my peers and I am sure that this trip is very beneficial for CI students.

It was the best experience of my life!

It will be amazing that we could have professors like the ones in Spain here on campus. The kind of professors that want you to learn the material and not just memorize it and that help you when need it with out judging you or making you feel bad.

Great experience and incredible professor. I would truly advice other students to do this next year. It is a lifetime experience.

I am so grateful I had the opportunity to do something like this. Never would I have imagined being abroad during my college years. The fact that I was there as a student and not just as another visiting tourist really helped me learn and become part of the culture the time I spent there. It 's incredible that the school grants funds for such marvelous educational trips that make an impact in the lives of students.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	5