

Sign up
for a local
semester-long
SST this spring!

Dreams & Journeys: Immigrants & Refugees

Better understand the journeys of immigrants and refugees to the United States, including the complexities of racial and ethnic identity, assimilation and conflict, the economic impact, legal issues and political ramifications.

A full semester of SST based in Northern Indiana — 14 credits total

- You can continue to be involved in athletics and other co-curriculars for the first half of the semester. During the second half of the semester, you will be off campus more often but will continue to return to campus most days. Although we will try to accommodate schedules, involvement in extracurriculars may be affected.
- Commuter students are welcome. Expect to be part of group reflection, weekly evening meals and other community formation work on campus. Residential students will live in group housing.
- 14 hours of credit: You will not be able to sign up for other credit courses on campus. Use the SST enrollment form online to register for INTL250 that will put you in all of these courses for the full semester.
- These classes could go online if conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic require it.
- **Faculty leaders:** Judy Weaver, *Director of the Academic Success Center* and Richard Aguirre, *Community Impact Coordinator*.
- **Cost:** Regular tuition and room and board costs apply for residential students. (Commuter students do not pay added room and board fees as they would for international units.)

Opportunities:

Much of what we hoped would happen internationally can still happen during an SST based on campus. During the new SST fall split semester, you can:

- Bond with a group of students. You'll learn to really know and appreciate each other.
- See the United States and its culture from a new perspective.
- Experience friendships and service in an intercultural context.
- Learn outside of the classroom with your hands and heart as well as your head.
- Save money and reduce your carbon footprint.
- Learn through a variety of mediums — oral histories, books, videos, lectures, service, field trips, personal interactions and first-hand observation.
- Study areas relevant and applicable to your major or minor.
- Learn from diverse individuals in intercultural contexts.
- Study an issue that has helped define human existence — the journeys of people from one place to another.
- Research a timely issue: Immigration will be at the forefront of the 2020 Presidential election as well as deliberations by Congress in 2021 and beyond.
- Engage in community service and make meaningful contributions to help others.
- Prepare for your future career through study, service and networking.



First half on campus: 6 weeks

Spend the first half of the semester taking two courses on campus and building community with a weekly evening meal and reflection.

INTL299

Topics: Pursuing the American Dream — Immigrant Stories

(3 credits)

This is the contextual course to give students a clear understanding of the culture of various immigrant and refugee groups through their literature and telling their own stories about migration. (Judy Weaver)

INTL260

Global Topics: Politics of the Global Migration Crisis

(3 credits)

The history, law, politics and current cultural and social context surrounding immigration to the United States within the larger global context of the movement of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. The course will explore what motivates people to leave their home countries, either as immigrants or refugees, and seek new lives in another country despite the many obstacles they must overcome. What are the different political categories of migrants, how do they get that status and what are the laws that protect them or not? What are the organizations — international, governmental and non-governmental — that help and support migrants? (Richard Aguirre)

CORE305

Integration Capstone

(2 credits)

Includes Comida & Conversación — Food & Conversation (Community Formation), a once-weekly evening gathering on campus for a group meal and conversation, as well as integration work at the end of the semester. (Richard Aguirre and Judy Weaver)

Second half off campus: 6 weeks

Spend the second half of the semester doing experiential learning by visiting refugee and immigrant communities in Northern Indiana and volunteering with an organization working on these issues, along with an action-research project. Do this while still maintaining your residence on campus or off.

INTL250-US

Cultural Perspectives: From Dreams to Reality-Life in Indiana

(3 credits)

This is the experiential cultural immersion part of the semester. We explore, interact with and learn from immigrant and refugee communities in Indiana and organizations that serve and help them. We will learn what attracts immigrants and refugees to Indiana and how their lives are transformed in the process. Immigrant groups studied will include local groups such as:

- Burmese immigrants in Fort Wayne
- Yemenis in Topeka
- Central American, Mexican and Venezuelan immigrants in Michiana.

We also will spend time with organizations committed to welcoming immigrants and refugees and helping meet their diverse needs, with possible overnight trips to Indianapolis and Chicago. (Richard Aguirre and Judy Weaver)

INTL270-US

Community Engaged Learning: Learning with Immigration Organizations

(3 credits)

Students volunteer with and study non-profit organizations assisting immigrants and refugees in Elkhart, LaGrange and St. Joseph counties. This will provide opportunities for students to make meaningful contributions to helping immigrants and refugees while learning in a cross-cultural context. Possible placements with organizations include:

- LaCasa, Goshen
- Center for Healing and Hope, Goshen
- National Immigrant Justice Center, Goshen
- Public schools in Goshen and Elkhart
- Local churches
- Casa de Amistad, South Bend
- Oaklawn
- Goshen College's ENL program (which always needs language partners) and our Certified Production Assistant Program (which involves manufacturing employees)

Students also will have the opportunity to complete an action-research project, analyze a critical issue from an interdisciplinary perspective within systems of unequal power and engage in cultural analysis from a perspective of empathy. Through personal interaction with immigrants and refugees, students will also develop an enhanced sense of social responsibility and social justice. (Richard Aguirre and Judy Weaver)



How to enroll:

To enroll in any full-semester SST option including this U.S. option:

- Log into MyGC.
- Look for the box labeled forms in the lower right corner.
- Click on SST Enrollment Form.

→ Sign-up now! Tell your friends so more students can have this great opportunity!