



The UNIVERSITY of VERMONT

Global Village
RESIDENTIAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Spanish House

Guillermo Rodriguez Program Director

OVERVIEW

Spanish House is a dynamic program designed for students in the Spanish program or those who have studied abroad and are interested in reinforcing their knowledge of Hispanic language and cultures. Members of the program will participate in a variety of events focusing on Hispanic themes, including dinners, shows, movies and attending "Tertulia" (an informal hour of Spanish conversation). We also sponsor a variety of activities including Lectures, Film Series and the Annual Hispanic Forum that are open to the greater Burlington community. By participating in the program, members will have a great opportunity to improve their language skills while living in a supportive environment. Members of Spanish House are required to have a minimum proficiency in the Spanish Language since it is expected that Spanish will be spoken in the program suites. Spanish House residents receive one Language House credit each Fall semester for participation in program activities, and are expected to be enrolled in a Spanish course at UVM while living in the suite.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The primary purpose of Spanish House is to facilitate the contact with Hispanic cultures and to practice and improve the Spanish language. In order to fulfill these goals there are three main sets of interrelated activities:

I. In-House Activities: Students live in a suite at the Living/Learning dormitories, where they are encouraged to help plan and to participate in program events. During Fall semester, for which students receive one Language House academic credit, these events typically involve greater coordination with the Faculty Program Director, while Spanish House's Student Director becomes primary coordinator of Spring term events. These activities often include special dinners, discussion of movies, and other similar events where members discuss new ways to achieve the learning experience of the Hispanic cultures. Members are encouraged to speak Spanish at all times. The student director is responsible for maintaining the use of the Spanish language in the suite.

II. Out-of-House Activities: One of the activities outside the residence hall is the "Tertulia," an informal hour of Spanish conversation. "Tertulias" are open to everybody interested in speaking Spanish in an informal setting. Students are informed as to the place and time of the "Tertula" each semester. Tertulia gives the opportunity to members of the community to come and participate, occasionally bringing "tapas" or appetizers to encourage conversation. Other Out-of-House-Activities include the participation in current cultural and social events such as attending

meetings and performances. Events in the past have included experiencing Spanish Flamenco culture at the Flynn, visiting Art exhibits, and attending recently released films related to Hispanic themes.

Additionally, Spanish House has acted as a principal coordinator and sponsor of several activities such as lectures from prominent Hispanic authors, the presentation of Movie Series, and the very successful Annual Hispanic Forum which Casa Hispánica helped to establish back in 1993. Spanish House plans to continue organizing events that create an atmosphere where Hispanic issues are introduced and discussed among the UVM community and beyond.

III. One-Credit Course: Spanish House residents receive one academic credit each Fall semester. The requirements to obtain this credit are worked out with the Faculty Program Director, and have included in the past the following criteria:

1. Attend all dinners taking place at Restaurant “The Marché” (L/L) every Tuesday at 5:00pm. A number of guests are invited to share their knowledge with students of Spanish House. The conversations are conducted in Spanish. It is expected lively participation in the target language.
2. Attend a minimum of two movies from the “Spanish/Latin/o American Film Series” (Mondays/Thursdays, 7:30 pm. 427 Waterman).
3. Attend a minimum of two Tertulias (Wednesdays, 5:00pm. Billings Cafeteria).
4. Attend a minimum of two presentations from a series of lectures taking place over the semester.
5. Attend another activity related to Hispanic Culture during the semester, of free choice.

Dinners with invited guests in particular have proven successful events. At these dinners students are exposed to a variety of Hispanic themes given by experts in the field willing to interact with students in an informal setting. A given topic is presented in advance so students prepare the material prior to the meeting. Topics that have been discussed in the past have included “Latin American Women in Literature and the Arts;” “Globalization in Latin America;” “Poetry in Honduras” (presented by the Honduran National Poet Roberto Sosa); “Latino/Latina Writings;” “Popular Songs from Spain.” Students greatly enjoy these dinners and emphasize in particular the great opportunity for interacting with different guests, many of them teachers and professors from the Department of Romance Languages at the University of Vermont who look forward to these informal opportunities to share their experiences with students.

ACTION STEPS

- Members of Spanish House are required to have a minimum level of prior knowledge of the Spanish Language to be able to interact in Spanish with their peers and are asked to enroll in a Spanish course while living in the suite.
- Spanish languages will be spoken at all times in the suite, overseen by the Student Director.

- Any activity related to the program will be conducted in Spanish.
- Members of Spanish House are encouraged to participate in the events organized by the house and also to participate in community events that we are invited to. Suite residents will receive one academic credit each Fall semester for their participation in these activities.
- Members are an integral part of Spanish House and are encouraged to collaborate with the Student and Faculty Directors in the shaping of the program.



About the Global Village

This program is part of the Global Village Residential Learning Community (RLC). For UVM students interested in exploring other cultures, studying abroad, or pursuing lives and careers in an increasingly interconnected world, the Global Village may be just the place for you! Drawing on the resources of the Living/Learning Center and its dynamic network of student- and faculty-led programs, the community of learners that make up the Global Village will be engaged in coursework, lectures, concerts, exhibits, study sessions, faculty and peer mentoring, social connections with international students, group meals, and trips that:

- Explore the many connections among language, art and culture at regional, national, and international scales.
- Share disciplinary expertise within an environment that values a holistic approach to “living and learning.”
- Encourage formal and informal contacts among students, faculty, and staff within the Global Village, the Living/Learning Center, the other Residential Learning Communities, and the university as a whole.
- Aim to be a complement to existing international and cross-cultural programs at UVM.
- “Think globally and act locally” by outreach to the international community at UVM and within the greater Burlington area.

More information about the Global Village RLC can be found at: <http://www.uvm.edu/rlc>

AIS 095: The Global Village

AIS 095: The Global Village is a self-paced, one-credit course designed to help you get the most out of your experience as a citizen of the Global Village residential learning community. In addition to taking part in any courses that are required or recommended for your individual House, all new Global Village residents must enroll in AIS 095 for one credit during the fall semester (as must any returning Global Village student who has not yet satisfactorily completed the class). This course will be graded on a “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory” basis. As this a self-paced course, there will be no weekly class meeting time. Instead, you are expected to participate in an average of one House activity or one non-House cultural/educational event per week throughout the semester. Each House will have the opportunity to craft a “community learning plan” that will involve a combination of House and non-House activities that will fulfill the requirements of one-credit course. We’ll provide you with a list of suggested events and activities, or you can identify other events/activities with a cultural theme; you choose which ones you wish to attend. Finally, you

should plan to attend the Global Village community meetings, which are periodically throughout the year.

We'll provide you with a Global Village Passport; use it to keep track of your activities and explorations. In addition to documenting participation in your weekly events/activities, you will need to do reflective writing in the form of five short journal entries on the cultural/educational events that you participated in, along with a lengthier essay looking back on your most meaningful experience of the semester within the Global Village.

Returning Global Village students are also invited (but not required) to enroll in AIS 095 during the fall semester. Enrollment in AIS 096 for one credit during the spring semester is optional and encouraged for all students.

If you anticipate a problem with fulfilling this course expectation (such as if you will already be enrolled in 18 credits), please contact your Program/House director.

For more details about this course, visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/rlc/ais095096.pdf>

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