



The UNIVERSITY of VERMONT

Global Village
RESIDENTIAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Exploring Culture through Tea

Overview

In the Exploring Culture through Tea program we will expand our knowledge of several different cultures where tea plays a significant role. We will explore the ways in which tea is experienced, the purpose behind its uses, and how different cultural values and histories are reflected in those practices. Living in a residential learning community will enable us to learn about a fundamentally social practice socially, as it was meant to be experienced. Our strategy is to have weekly meetings in which we focus on individual regions and their tea and cultures together. We also plan on working together to bring cultural information and understanding to the Living and Learning and greater UVM community through presentations and possibly guest speakers, hopefully in collaboration with specific culture based Living and Learning Programs.

Learning Objectives

Members will be knowledgeable about the different teas, tea practices of several world regions where tea has a significant position in culture. They will be able to understand specific cultures and how they are manifested in the way their region experiences tea.

ACTION STEPS

- A) Members will independently research from a variety of sources throughout the year.
- B) Members will work in small groups periodically to research specific teas and cultures related to them to be brought back to a program discussion group (monthly).
- C) Members will work as a group to coordinate presentations in the Fireplace Lounge regarding specific cultures (ex. World Tea Tasting,

Chinese Culture and Tea, Japanese Culture and Tea) in collaboration with specific culture themed houses. We will potentially bring in guest speakers.

- D) We will organize a program field trip to a teahouse to have high tea when we focus on English tea and culture.

Members will have an understanding of the different mental, physiological and medicinal uses of teas across different cultures.

ACTION STEPS

- A) Members will independently research from a variety of sources throughout the year. Specifically we hope to purchase 20,000 Secrets of Tea, which focuses on the many different uses and properties of different teas. Cost \$20
- B) During finals week members of the program will work together, possibly in collaboration with Mind, Body, and Soul to host an Finals De-Stress Session in the fireplace lounge. We will provide tea and information on the different benefits of tea, specifically relaxation, and energizing properties.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

We plan on focusing our energy on unifying the Global Village Community and Living and Learning community. We hope do this through events such as the World Tea Tasting. Also we plan on bringing some relaxation to our community during finals week through the Finals De-Stress Session. If members of the program express an interest in a community service activity that relates to the program we will adjust our calendar to participate.

PLANS FOR INTERACTION WITH OTHER L/L PROGRAMS

We'd like to collaborate with Chinese House, and Japanese House to bring presentations on Chinese and Japanese culture, tea, and tea practices to the L/L community.

Also we'd like to work with the Pottery House to create tea mugs in the pottery studio.

Finally we'd like to team up with Mind, Body and Soul to host a Finals De-Stress Tea Session during finals week, presenting information on the benefits of tea.



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>