OVERVIEW

In the Canada House program, focal aspects we will be emphasizing will be educating participants about geography, history, international relationships, and culture. Programmed living will provide an atmosphere for members to discuss openly and proactively all subjects related to Canada. As a program, we will review Canadian media on a regular basis as well as hold weekly meetings to be sure our members are consistently challenging themselves to learn more about Canada. The studies of Canada that we will do as a program will help members realize where they fit into Canadian relations as University Students and members of the United States. This program will provide a community atmosphere where members are encouraged to study a variety of topics surrounding Canada.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning Objective #1

To explore Canada through its connections and history with other nations and societies. Main focus will be placed on its relations with the United States, but a large concentration will also be placed on other countries represented in the Global Village and within the UVM and Burlington Community.

Action Steps:

- Using Canadian magazines and newspaper databases, we will research Canada’s current events concerning international relations. We will have bi-weekly meetings to discuss findings and talk about topics of interest.
- Members will look into their ancestral backgrounds to discover their family’s country of origin (as far back as they can). We will then research our individual countries and find connections with Canada, which will be presented at a community gathering sponsored by Canada House.
• We will explore the UVM and Burlington communities and ask citizens to take a quick survey on their perceptions of Canada. Involved in the survey will be questions of individual nationality, which we will use as a sample to generalize common perceptions and relations between Canada and the global community. Our findings will be posted for UVM and community members to see and weigh in on whether they agree or disagree.

**Learning Objective #2**

We will study the history of Canada, exploring the interactions between Natives and Settlers in early Canada, the Canadian political systems and its ties to England, and Canada’s ties to other countries. We will look at how all of these have shaped history in Canada and how they continue to do so today.

**Action Steps:**

• We will have a lecture by Professor David Massell (Director of the Canadian Studies Department) on the broad history of Canada. The lecture will look at Canadian history and compare it to American history. This will show members how, while both countries have had similar founding’s, the countries have shaped themselves differently. This will provide necessary background for members and provide context from American history that they will already be familiar with.

• We will watch *Canada: A People’s History*, a CBC documentary television series about the history of Canada. Told through the people directly involved in events, this series spans from Native history and first European contact in Canada in 1800 up to the 1990’s. This will give us a deeper look into Canadian history and let us see how Canadians view their history. With this series we will also be able to study Canada’s more current political history.

• We will also talk about current events during weekly house meetings. We hope that members will research at least two topics or articles (one per semester) in their spare time to share with the rest of the house. Research into events can be done online, through utilizing resources in the library and through Canadian newspapers and networks such as the National Post and CBC News.

**Learning Objective #3**

We will explore the geography of Canada, learning about both physical geography and the political geography, and touch on the natural hazards and resources of Canada.

**Action Steps:**

• As a program, we will create a trivia game that we can play at weekly meetings which touches upon aspects of Canadian geography. After playing this game throughout the semester, members will be able to retain knowledge about
Canadian geography and hopefully improve their skills each time this game is utilized.

- Each member will be expected to know the provinces and territories of Canada by the end of the first semester. We will also hold short presentations about general facts pertaining to each province and territory in Canada. Members will learn the provinces through a map of Canada located in the common area, through online resources, and through the presentations during the semester. Our open suite night event this past year was “Pin the province on the map,” so practicing this event can also help members learn the geography of Canada.

**Learning Objective #4**

We will explore the culture of Canada, focusing on music, dance, food, art, and holidays. We will look at the influence Canada’s culture has had on its relationships with other countries and how it has evolved throughout time.

**Actions Steps:**

- We will hold events within our program and info sessions which honor Canadian holidays so we can learn about these holidays and important aspects of the culture that each holiday is associated with. We will learn about how these holidays were originated, how they have evolved, and how they have influenced the Canadian culture as well as other cultures around the world.
- As one of our Wednesday night gathering events, we will be hosting an event which teaches members of the Global Village community and Canada House how to make poutine, a traditional Canadian Dish.
- Members will be encouraged to find online articles and videos or newspaper and magazine clippings that talk about the influence or history of Canadian culture, and we will be able to discuss these in our weekly meeting setting. We will also be able to discuss art, photography, and film that is from Canada and talk about the influences of these cultural pieces.

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**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, 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/globalvillage

GRS 025: The Global Village Seminar

GRS 025: The Global Village Seminar is a largely 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. All new Global Village residents must enroll in GRS 025 for one credit during the fall semester or spring semester. (Returning Global Village students who have not yet satisfactorily completed the class must enroll in GRS 025 during the fall semester.) This course will be graded on a “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory” basis. The course will be partly comprised of a series of “Common Hour” community gatherings held on Thursday afternoons. The primary purpose of the Common Hour meetings is to build a stronger sense of community among the members of the many Global Village houses and programs. As well, the Common Hour gatherings will help Global Village citizens build a common knowledge and skill set, including such topics as intercultural communication, globalization, etc. A variety of program offerings will take place during Common Hour meetings, such as special guest lectures, interactive dialogue and social gatherings. During weeks when the Common Hours are not held, you are expected to participate in one educational event or activity with a global cultural theme. We’ll provide you with a list of suggested events and activities, or you can identify other events/activities with a global cultural theme; you choose which ones you wish to attend.

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 Common Hours and the educational 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 GRS 025 during the fall semester or spring semester.

If you anticipate a problem with fulfilling this course expectation (such as if you will already be enrolled in 18 credits), please contact Prof. Joseph Acquisto, Faculty Director of the Global Village, at Joseph.Acquisto@uvm.edu

For more details about this course, visit: http://www.uvm.edu/~gvrlc/?Page=passport/passport.html&SM=passport/sub-menu.html