



GLOBAL
MINDS
INSTITUTE

UNCOMMON TRAVEL-STUDY

- EDUCATORS (k-college)
- STUDENTS (hs-college)
- NONPROFITS

Collaboratively designing
solutions to real world problems.

Teachers earn PD credit
(includes NYS CTLE)



Collaboratively
designing solutions
across ideological
divides.

Replacing cultures of
blame and
vilification with
problem solving
mindsets.



WHO WE ARE:

Global Minds Institute is a tax exempt 501c3 nonprofit educational organization that takes groups of students and groups of teachers on travel-study expeditions to solve real world problems through collaborative design, often across ideological divides.

OUR MISSION:

Global Minds Institute endeavors to transform societal cultures of blame and vilification into ones of problem-solving mindsets through human engagement and the educative process of collaborative design.

HOW WE WORK:

Our groups travel domestically and internationally to engage directly with a broad range of communities affected by problems we grapple with. We draw on the field experiences we accrue as well as a range of academic disciplines to prototype, test, and redesign until objectives are achieved.

GMI EXPEDITIONS:

are bonafide academic courses with learning objectives, syllabi, assignments and assessments. Days typically begin with a classroom session in the morning, then discovery, fieldwork, and fun for the remainder.

TEACHERS EARN:

professional development credit required in most states to maintain licensure. In NY State, GMI awards CTLE credit on behalf of the NYS Department of Education.

STUDENTS EARN:

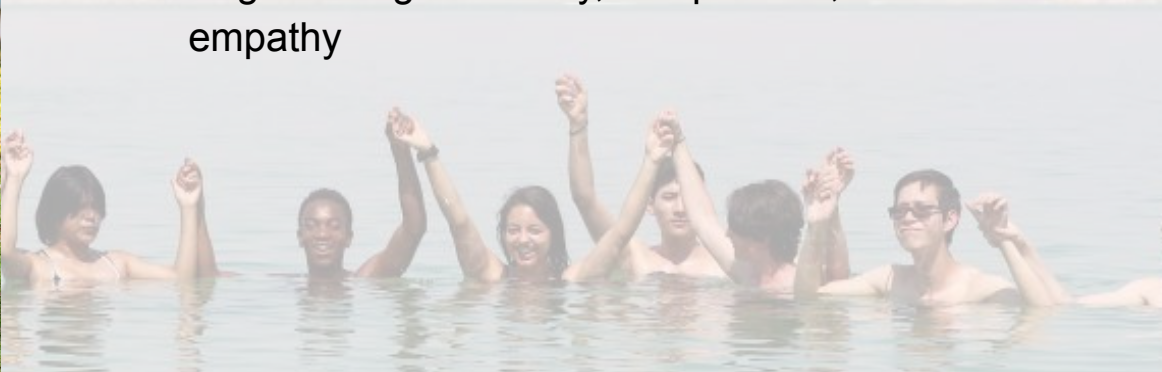
academic credit awarded by, and as per, their school of enrollment.





Learning Objectives for Educators & Community Builders

- Designing place-based curriculum, local to global
- Implementing collaborative design to solve real world problems
- Harnessing history, social science and other disciplines to inform and interpret
- Comprehending a range of competing narratives
- Engendering inclusivity, compassion, and empathy



~ The 2026-27 Course Catalog ~

next slides:

The Mexico-US Border (6-8)

Solve problems associated with Human Migration

¡ AY, CUBA ! (9-11)

Dive Deep into Socialism, Culture, History & Current Events

The Israeli & Palestinian Neighborhood (12-15)

Collaboratively design an agreement

NYC Gentrification & Development (16-18)

Collaboratively design solutions to problems associated with gentrification & development

Argentina: How to Dismantle a Military Dictatorship (19-21)

Collaboratively design measures for a democracy at risk

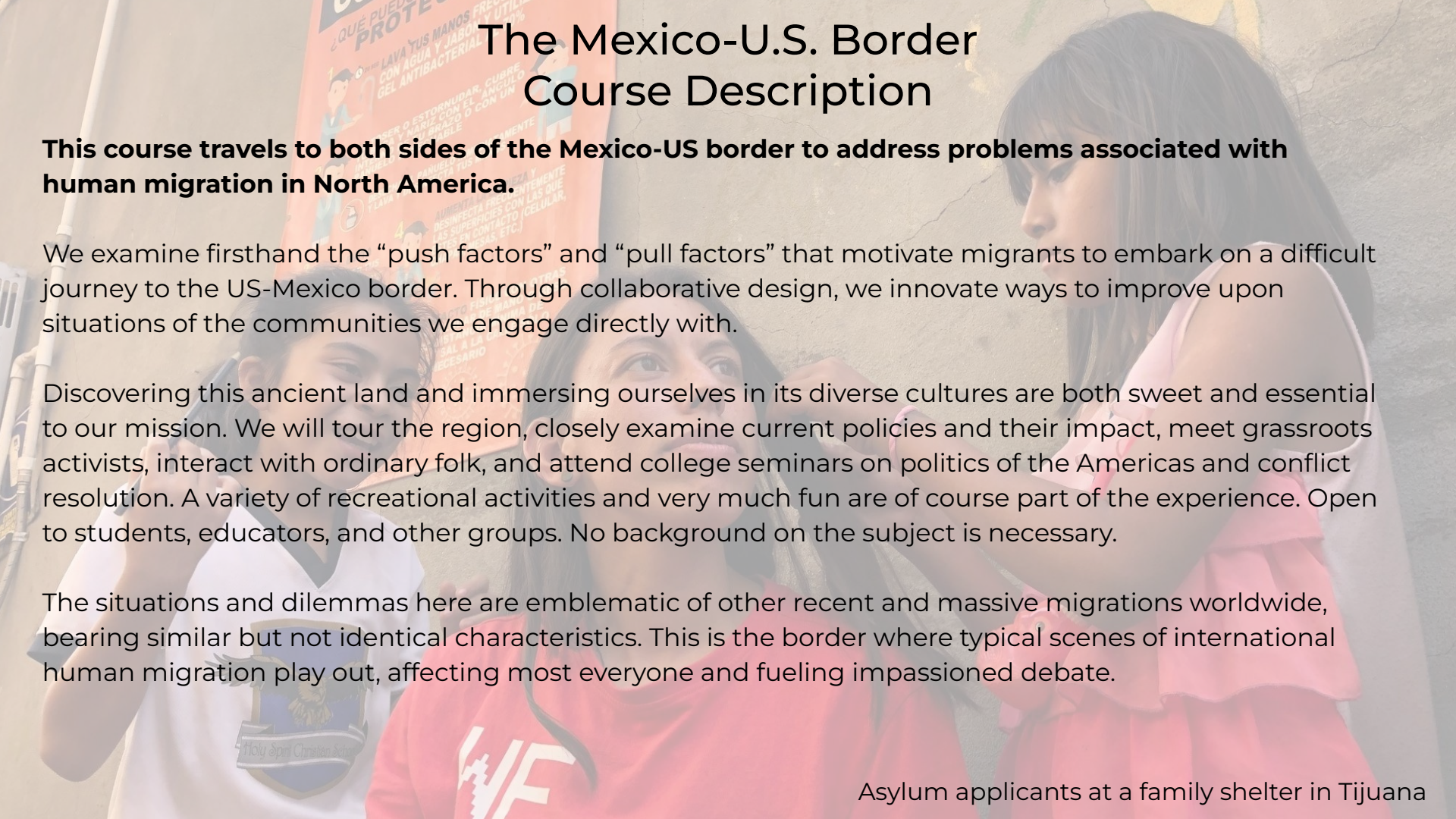
Puerto Rico: Colony, Statehood, or Independence (22-24)

Collaboratively design measures for a democracy at risk



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Image:
Collaborative
design with
UNINTER High
School,
Cuernavaca,
Mexico

The background image shows three children in a family shelter in Tijuana. On the left, a young boy in a white t-shirt with a blue crest looks towards the camera. In the center, a girl in a red t-shirt with a white 'WF' logo looks upwards. On the right, a girl in a pink dress looks down. In the background, there is a red poster with Spanish text about hygiene and health, including phrases like 'QUE PUEDEN PROTEGER', 'LAVA TUS MANOS', and 'GEL ANTIBACTERIAL'.

The Mexico-U.S. Border Course Description

This course travels to both sides of the Mexico-US border to address problems associated with human migration in North America.

We examine firsthand the “push factors” and “pull factors” that motivate migrants to embark on a difficult journey to the US-Mexico border. Through collaborative design, we innovate ways to improve upon situations of the communities we engage directly with.

Discovering this ancient land and immersing ourselves in its diverse cultures are both sweet and essential to our mission. We will tour the region, closely examine current policies and their impact, meet grassroots activists, interact with ordinary folk, and attend college seminars on politics of the Americas and conflict resolution. A variety of recreational activities and very much fun are of course part of the experience. Open to students, educators, and other groups. No background on the subject is necessary.

The situations and dilemmas here are emblematic of other recent and massive migrations worldwide, bearing similar but not identical characteristics. This is the border where typical scenes of international human migration play out, affecting most everyone and fueling impassioned debate.

Asylum applicants at a family shelter in Tijuana



The Mexico-U.S. Border Learning Objectives

- History of US-Mexico relations & border area
- The complex dilemmas presented by human migration
- The “push and pull” factors motivating human migration
- The range of competing narratives and proposals for addressing related problems
- The collaborative design process



GMI rides with the US DHS Border Patrol

Mexico-US Border, 4-Day Intensive

Sample Itinerary for Educator Groups

55 Hrs NYS CTLE / PD

DAY 1 (Thursday) - Breakfast in residence, San Diego > Meet in Ocotillo with [Water Stations](#) to assist with water placement in desert migration routes > Refresh and Lunch in [Jacumba Hot Springs](#) > Immigration control perspectives at a border community > Dinner in San Diego > Film and discussion: *Sin Nombre* > Overnight: San Diego

DAY 2 (Friday) - Bkfst & collaborative design session > El Centro Sector Headquarters, Dept. of Homeland Security US Border Patrol: Orientation and real-time briefing > Patrol the border barrier with DHS CBP Agents > Refresh and Lunch in Calexico > Immigration Attorney: Navigating the immigration process > meet migrants at encampments > > Dinner: San Diego > [Whiskey 8](#): Assist in distributing food and clothing to migrants as they arrive between the two border barriers. Debrief migrants. Overnight: San Diego

DAY 3 (Saturday) - Bkfst & collaborative design session > Cross into Mexico at San Ysidro > Refresh & brunch > Survey the border from the Mexico side at [Parque de la Amistad](#) > Migrant life at La Casa Migrantes & Undocumented Cafe > Visit Asylum Shelter Ágape Misión Mundial with Pastor Alberto Rivera > Lunch: [Tacos el Franc](#) > Briefing and discussion with Enrique Lucero, Director of Migrant Affairs, Tijuana Municipality > Dinner: Hacienda los Golfo, Valle de Guadalupe > Discussion and debrief around the fire pit > Overnight: Hacienda los Golfo, Valle de Guadalupe

DAY 4 (Sunday) - Bkfst at [La Cocina de Dona Esthela](#) > Collaborative design session > Walk with Senador Jose Juan Serna through his Baja village > Project presentations > cross to the U.S. at San Ysidro > Course conclusion

The background of the slide features a warm, golden-hour sunset scene. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a classic car is visible on the left. To its right, several people are silhouetted against the bright horizon, sitting or standing on what appears to be a beach or promenade. In the distance, the city skyline of Havana is visible across the water.

¡ AY, CUBA !

Course Description

Global Minds Institute, in partnership with La Universidad de la Habana, presents a course and curriculum that concentrate on understanding Cuba, socialism and US-Cuba relations.

Since the Columbian Landing in 1492 which foresaw the annihilation of the indigenous community until the onset of the Socialist Revolution of 1959, Cuba has been under the control and influence of a succession of external forces which have informed its politics and culture. Whereas United States Common Core Curriculum adopts a U.S.-centric approach to Cuba and the Americas as a whole, GMI, by contrast, will bring groups to Cuba to actively learn the Cuban perspective from its academicians and communities, directly and on-site.

Popular discourse of the socioeconomic spectrum in the United States is generally dominated by mass and social media, and consequent misunderstandings permeate throughout its society. This course compliments US curriculum on socio-economics by immersing participants in one of the world's most deeply socialist societies while closely examining the complexities involved.



¡AY, CUBA! Learning Objectives

- **History of Cuba** - This is one of the greatest stories told even though it is quite fraught. The balance of Cuba's future rests largely on its past.
- **Culture of Cuba** - No need to look for the music and art, as it will find you! African, Indigenous, Spanish, and French influences abound!
- **Socialism and Communism** - these areas of the socio-economic spectrum are learned best through immersive participation.
- ***"Respeto a la Determinación"*** - Cuban steadfastness to core values and perseverance in the face of imposed adversity is best fathomed by outsiders experientially through meaningful engagement with the Cuban people.
- **The collaborative design process**

Itinerario

Sunday - Depart NYC ► Lunch: connection at Miami airport ► Arrive in Habana ► Settle into [Hostal la Candelaria](#), Habana Vieja ► [Plaza de la Revolución](#) & intro to the socioeconomic spectrum and the icons of Cuban modern history ► Walkabout [Callejon Hamel](#) and tune into the surrounding Afro-Cuban culture including rumba rhythms and vibrant street art ► Dinner: Paladar home cooked meal ► Overnight: Hostal la Candelaria

Monday - Breakfast: Hostal la Candelaria ► Collaborative design session ► [Granma](#) restoration and memorial ► [Museo de la Revolución](#) ► [Habana Vieja](#) y La Colonia > Lunch & rooftop salsa lesson: [822 Studio](#) > meet local artists and create in their studios > Dinner: Paladar home cooked meal ► Overnight: Hostal la Candelaria

Tuesday - Breakfast: Hostal la Candelaria ► Class at [La Universidad de La Habana](#) 1) Survey of US-Cuba relations 2) Collaborative design session ► Lunch: Paladar home cooked meal ► [U.S. Embassy in Habana](#): Briefing and discussion ► [Hotel Nacional](#): Tour, enjoy mocktails, and reenact the “1946 Conference” (organized by “Lucky Luciano”). Hear the Meir Lansky story, and learn about the role of U.S. organized crime in Cuba ► Internet break ► Walk along [El Malecon](#), the popular seaside promenade ► Salsa Lesson & dinner: 822 Studio ► Overnight: Hostal la Candelaria

Wednesday - Breakfast: Hostal la Candelaria ► Depart for Playa Giron ([Bay of Pigs](#)) ► Visit and work in a sugar cane plantation for one hour ► See the role of the Crocodile in the Cuban Revolution up close at a Crocodile Nursery ► Snorkel Cueva de los Peces ► Bay of Pigs (class in the sea): learn about the 1961 failed invasion while swimming on site ► Dinner: Paladar home cooked meal ► Late return to Habana ► Overnight: Hostal la Candelaria

Thursday - Breakfast: Hostal la Candelaria ► Collaborative design session ► [ISA. Universidad de las Artes](#) ► Lunch: Habana Vieja ► Lunch: Guanabo ► Afternoon sand and swim at Guanabo Beach, east of Habana ► Sunset and conversation with locals on El Malecon ► Dinner: 822 Studio ► Overnight: Hostal la Candelaria

Friday - Breakfast: Hostal la Candelaria ► Collaborative design session ► Final Project Presentations ► Lunch: Habana Vieja ► One final walk through Habana Vieja ► 822 Studio: salsa Lesson, dinner and farewell to our Cuban friends ► Overnight: Hostal la Candelaria

Saturday - Breakfast: Hostal la Candelaria ► Depart Habana ► Lunch: connection at Miami airport ► Arrive NYC

The background of the slide features a photograph of several children playing soccer on a paved area. In the foreground, a boy in a blue shirt is kicking a yellow and black soccer ball. To his right, another boy in a yellow shirt stands watching. In the background, a girl in a grey shirt and a boy in a green shirt are also visible. They are all in front of a large, light-colored stone archway, possibly part of a school or community center. The text is overlaid on this image.

The Israeli-Palestinian Neighborhood Course Description

This course travels to Israel and to Palestine to negotiate and draft a peace agreement between prominent Israeli and Palestinian think tanks.

We will mediate between influential research centers that directly advise their respective governments on policy matters. Discovering this ancient land and immersing ourselves in its diverse cultures are both sweet and essential to our mission.

We will tour the region, closely examine current peacemaking models, meet grassroots activists, interact with ordinary folk, and attend college seminars on geostrategy and conflict resolution. In order to mediate effectively, this course will chronicle Arab-Israeli relations predominantly (but not exclusively) defined by conflict, by presenting a comprehensive range of agendas and arguments regarding how Arab-Israeli relations developed, where they currently stand, and the multitude of future possibilities. Special focus will be applied to Israeli-Palestinian relations. The Israeli-Palestinian Neighborhood features extraordinarily diverse cultures and historical narratives which we will examine to establish contextual background. As the course progresses students will be encouraged to develop their own critical thought, progressively becoming more discerning consumers of current events.

No background on the subject is necessary. The Palestinian-Israeli Neighborhood is strictly an academic endeavor which is firmly unaffiliated with any political parties or religious ideologies.

The Israeli-Palestinian Neighborhood

Learning Objectives

- The range of competing narratives
- Who the affected communities are
- Familiarity with the land, its geography, and shifting political borders

- Why relations between Palestinians and Israelis matter both regionally and globally
- The range of options for resolving the conflict
- Implementing collaborative design to solve real-world problems

Sampling street food in Al-Bireh, Palestine

The Israeli-Palestinian Neighborhood - Sample Itinerary (days 1-7)

Dates, Itineraries, and curriculum are all flexible & customizable.

DAY 1 - arrive ► orientation ► settle into Neve Shalom ► dinner: Neve Shalom

DAY 2 - Breakfast on Campus ► Depart to Jerusalem Davidson Center, Pier Warren & Hezekiah's tunnel Walk up ancient stairs and sewage system to Robinson's Arch ► Lunch on the Streets of the Old City Southern Wall excavations and the Destruction of the 2nd Temple Via Dolorosa to Church of the Holy Sepulcher ► Dinner on the Streets in Jerusalem ► o/n Neve Shalom

DAY 3 - Breakfast on Campus ► Reichman University, Herzliya: Mediation Training Seminar ► Lunch to go ► Peace Model: Palestinians & Israelis in shared workspace, Efrat. ► Visit and walk through Tekoa with Rav Shaul Yudelmann (Roots) Mediation ► Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (Dan Diker, JCPA) ► Dinner in Jerusalem (Makhane Yehuda or Takhana HaYeshana) ► o/n Neve Shalom

DAY 4 - Breakfast on Campus ► Haram al-Sharif ► Al-Quds University, Intro, tour, and collaborative design session ► Dinner in Bethlehem ► orientation & settle into Battir ► o/n Battir

DAY 5 - Breakfast on campus ► collaborative design session ► Amari Refugee Camp ► Lunch: al-Bireh ► Khalil Shikaki Palestinian Center for Policy Research ► Dinner in Ramallah ► o/n Battir.

DAY 6 - Breakfast on campus ► Al-Quds University - seminar & collaborative design ► Mountain biking "Area D" ► Picnic dinner, Wadi Qelt ► o/n Battir

DAY 7 - Breakfast on campus ► collaborative design session ► hike & picnic Wadi Qelt ► Bedouin dinner under stars ► o/n Battir

The Israeli-Palestinian Neighborhood - Sample Itinerary (days 8-14)

Dates, Itineraries, and curriculum are all flexible & customizable.

DAY 8 - Breakfast in Battir ► Yad b'Yad School in Jerusalem ► Lunch on Jerusalem Streets ► Dead Sea ► Dinner and collaborative design session in Abu Gosh ► o/n Neve Shalom

DAY 9 - Breakfast on campus ► collaborative design session ► Reichman University, Mediation Training ► Lunch on campus ► Drive towards Qalqilya and green line areas to see issues on both sides of Separation Barrier ► dinner on the streets in Kfar Saba ► Continue work on projects ► o/n Neve Shalom

DAY 10 - Breakfast on Campus ► tour Gaza Strip periphery ► teleconference with Palestinians living in Gaza ► lunch in Sderot ► collaborative design session in Sderot bakery ► swim in Mediterranean Sea ► dinner at Kibbutz Sde Avraham ► Movie: Bottle in the Gaza Sea ► o/n Neve Shalom

DAY 11 - Breakfast on campus ► archeological dig in Bet Guvrin ► visit and collaborative design session and lunch in Peres Center, Tel Aviv ► visit Anu Museum in Tel Aviv ► dinner: Tel Aviv street food ► o/n Neve Shalom

DAY 12 - Breakfast on campus ► Al-Quds University - seminar, lunch & collaborative design ► Folk dancing ► Dinner: gather vegetables from terraced gardens and group cook out in Battir ► o/n Battir

DAY 13 - Breakfast in Battir ► Visit both sides of Hebron / Khalil ► visit Cave of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs ► Dinner in Beit Jala ► o/n Battir

DAY 14 - Breakfast in Battir ► Bethlehem Church of Nativity ► Lunch in Bethlehem ► Work on projects on Campus ► Presentations ► pack ► Depart Ben Gurion Airport, TLV

NYC Gentrification & Development Course Description



This course guides students and educators through iconic areas of New York City to learn about and address problems associated with urban gentrification, development and underdevelopment.

Discovering New York City and immersing ourselves in its diverse neighborhoods and cultures are both sweet and essential to our mission. We will explore the city's many ethnic neighborhoods, closely examine current urban development models, meet grassroots activists, engage with community arts, and attend a college seminar on urban planning. No background on the subject is necessary.

In order to mediate and design effectively, this course will survey New York City history beginning with Native American tribes – First Nation in recognition that major U.S. cities are predominantly (but not exclusively) defined by human migration and diversity. Participants will become familiar with a comprehensive range of agendas and narratives regarding how urban centers evolved historically, and how they ought to develop. As the course progresses students will be encouraged to develop their own critical thought, progressively becoming more discerning consumers of current events.

Through direct engagement with the community, student inquiry, classroom sessions, and collaborative design, we will attempt to create an artifact that effectively addresses problems associated with gentrification and urban development in NYC while also respecting the affected people and their range of agendas.

Surveying immigrant stories through street art in "Spanish Harlem," NYC



NYC Gentrification & Development

Learning Objectives

- Modern history of New York City beginning with Native American-First Nation
- The role of human migration and diversity in urban settings
- NYC history's connection with current debates regarding immigration policy
- The dynamics of gentrification and urban development
- The range of competing narratives
- The collaborative design process

NYC Gentrification and Development - Sample Itinerary

DAY 1 - Meet, Intro, Program Orientation ► Collaborative design session ► Lunch: on board the ferry to or from Ellis Island ► Ellis Island, Immigration, and the Making of the United States of America ► Meet Victoria Confino at her home in the [Lower East Side Tenement Museum](#) ► Dinner: Roberta's Pizza, Bushwick ► Movie: [The Central Park Five](#), Overnight: [New York Moore Hostel](#).

DAY 2 - Breakfast: New York Moore Hostel ► Collaborative design session ► [NBAEH](#) - Orientation of East Harlem Neighborhood based Alliance, Engage with community members, listen to oral history, and volunteer with affected community members served by NBAEH ► Lunch: [Sylvia's](#) "Queen of Soul Food" legendary restaurant in Harlem ► Visit various sites in Harlem that illustrate the transformative effects of gentrification on this iconic neighborhood ► Meet with [New York City Councilman Yusef Salaam](#) in his Harlem District 9 regarding civics and governance as tools for addressing urban gentrification ► Coney Island: chronicling NYC from *the 1900s roaring twenties to the millennial roaring twenties* ► Ride options: The Cyclone, Deno's Wonder Wheel ► Dinner: Nathan's, Coney Island Boardwalk ► Brooklyn Cyclones (NY Mets minor league affiliate) vs. Aberdeen IronBirds ► Overnight: New York Moore Hostel

DAY 3 - Breakfast: New York Moore Hostel ► Collaborative design session ► Meet with the Hasidic Jewish community of Borough Park, Brooklyn. Compare and contrast the history of this diverse group, its challenges, and its triumphs while exploring the neighborhood ► Lunch: East Village Food Trucks ► Greenwich Village vs. NYU with [Village Preservation](#) ► Meet with community leaders sharing the history and current dynamics of Greenwich Village. Learn how nonprofit organizations may be used to effect change ► Walk through NYU expansion sites opposed by Village Preservation ► [African Burial Ground Site & National Monument](#) ► Surveying Immigration History through Lower Manhattan ethnic neighborhoods (5 Points, The Tombs, Collect Pond, Chinatown, NoLiTa, Little Italy, LES) ► Dinner: Little Italy Pizza ► Movie: [Style Wars](#) ► Overnight: New York Moore Hostel

DAY 4 - Breakfast: New York Moore Hostel ► Collaborative design session ► Tour Bushwick Brooklyn's world class street art scene, learn graffiti art history and interpret its social messaging ► Visit a brooklyn graffiti art studio, learn aerosol art techniques and create our own graffiti aligning with collaborative design theme ► Lunch: Packed to go ► [UCC East New York Farms](#): volunteer at an urban farm that addresses facets of gentrification such as food deserts and nutrition ► Option to chill @ the crib or walk the footsteps of [The Notorious B.I.G.](#) with musical interpretations and a sunset hike across the Brooklyn Bridge ► Dinner: Bushwick Taqueria ► Movie: [Sin Nombre](#) ► Overnight: New York Moore Hostel

DAY 5 - Breakfast: New York Moore Hostel ► Walkthrough *Hell's Kitchen* with [Clinton Housing Development Company](#) to review different models of urban development ► Lunch: Midtown Food Trucks ► Full Circle: Visit & interview asylum seekers at the Roosevelt Hotel, dubbed "*The New Ellis Island*" ► Program Conclusion

A crowd of people is shown at a protest or demonstration. They are holding several blue flags with white text that reads "¡Ni un paso atrás" (Not a single step back). In the foreground, a large blue banner with white text is partially visible, showing the words "LA RIQUEZA YA". The background shows a city street with buildings.

Argentina: How to Dismantle a Military Dictatorship

Course Overview

This immersive course, set in Argentina's vibrant and culturally rich capital of Buenos Aires, offers an in-depth exploration of the historical, political, and social dynamics that have shaped Argentina's complex past, inform its multifaceted present, and influence a future filled with both promising opportunities and challenging uncertainties. We will examine up close the struggles, resilience, and ongoing societal developments that continue to impact Argentina's trajectory and its national identity.

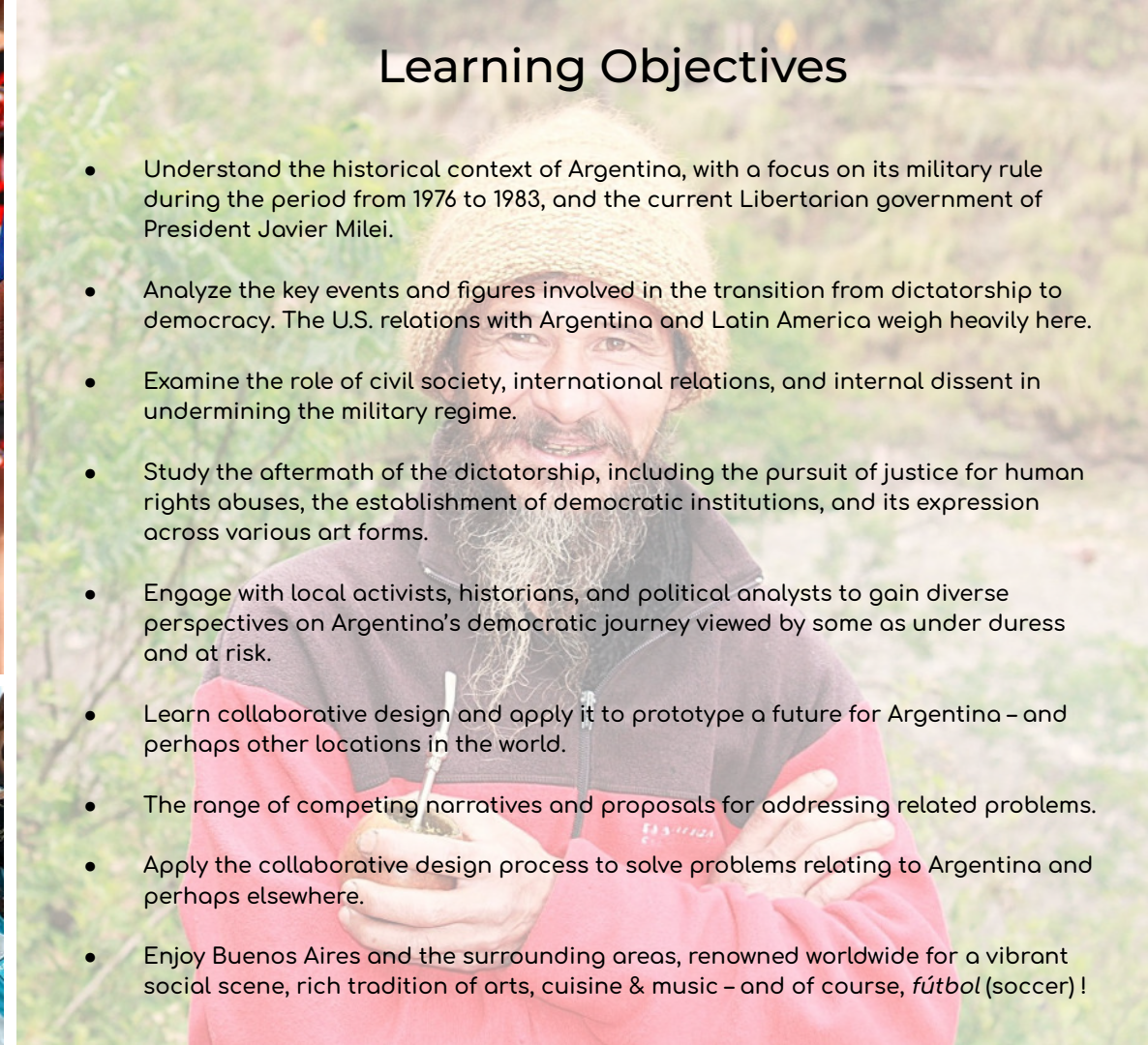
Through direct interactions with communities impacted by these events, active fieldwork, and collaborative design sessions, we will uncover the critical turning points and innovative strategies that played an essential role in restoring democracy in Argentina. Additionally, we will analyze how these lessons and approaches may hold valuable insights and potential applications for similar democratic movements and social transformations in other parts of the world.

Fútbol, asado, tango and the engagingly expressive *porteño* spirit means this expedition will be very much fun.



Learning Objectives

- Understand the historical context of Argentina, with a focus on its military rule during the period from 1976 to 1983, and the current Libertarian government of President Javier Milei.
- Analyze the key events and figures involved in the transition from dictatorship to democracy. The U.S. relations with Argentina and Latin America weigh heavily here.
- Examine the role of civil society, international relations, and internal dissent in undermining the military regime.
- Study the aftermath of the dictatorship, including the pursuit of justice for human rights abuses, the establishment of democratic institutions, and its expression across various art forms.
- Engage with local activists, historians, and political analysts to gain diverse perspectives on Argentina's democratic journey viewed by some as under duress and at risk.
- Learn collaborative design and apply it to prototype a future for Argentina – and perhaps other locations in the world.
- The range of competing narratives and proposals for addressing related problems.
- Apply the collaborative design process to solve problems relating to Argentina and perhaps elsewhere.
- Enjoy Buenos Aires and the surrounding areas, renowned worldwide for a vibrant social scene, rich tradition of arts, cuisine & music – and of course, *fútbol* (soccer) !



Argentina: How to Dismantle a Military Dictatorship

Sample Itinerary

DAY 1 - Palermo Hotel: Breakfast, Introduction & Program Orientation ► Walk La Boca, el puerto, La Bombonera ► Lunch: San Telmo, feria y mercado San Telmo ► Meander Puerto Madero and cross Puente de la Mujer ► Neighborhood stories through Tango: La Boca ► Dinner: Peron Peron Vivo ► Overnight: Palermo Hotel

DAY 2 - Breakfast: Palermo Hotel ► Collaborative design session ► Scholarly Introduction to Peronismo at Plaza San Martin ► La Recoleta & Cementerio ► Lunch: La Recoleta ► Neighborhood stories through Tango: La Recoleta ► Futbol match: Academia Racing vs. Platense at “El Cilindro” de Avellaneda ► Dinner: choripan ► Overnight: Palermo Hotel

DAY 3 - Breakfast: Palermo Hotel ► Collaborative design session ► Meet with families of *Desaparecidos* over [mate](#) in a park ► Lunch: Panaderia ► Learn about the military dictatorship at [ESMA](#) (former clandestine center for detention, torture and execution) ► open hours for reflection ► Classical concert at Teatro Colón ► walk through the theater district along El Obelisco and Avenida 9 de Julio (said to be the widest in the world) ► Dinner: Pizzeria on Avenida Corrientes (revered among pizza aficionados) ► Overnight: Palermo Hotel

DAY 4 - Breakfast: Palermo Hotel ► Collaborative design session ► Briefing on *Argentina Today and Tomorrow* at Government Ministry of Foreign Affairs ► Plaza de Mayo: Footsteps of Las Madres y Las Abuelas ► La Catedral ► Explore La Casa Rosada ► Lunch: Cafe Tortoni ► Neighborhood stories through Tango: La Plaza De Mayo ► Dinner: Bodegon ► Tango Lesson at La Viruta ► Overnight: Palermo Hotel

DAY 5 - Breakfast: Palermo Hotel ► Collaborative design session ► Human Rights & Culture in Argentinean Art ► Walk through the Once neighborhood and hear family histories from the immigrant communities ► Visit [AMIA](#) (Jewish Community Center), scene of the second deadliest foreign terrorist attack on the western hemisphere ► Interpret Buenos Aires' world famous street art ► Tango Lesson at La Viruta ► Dinner: traditional parrillada ► Overnight: Palermo Hotel

DAY 6 - Breakfast: Palermo Hotel ► Collaborative design session ► Free time & recommended options ► Farewell dinner: Bodegon ► Soiree: Dance Tango at La Viruta with the locals

Puerto Rico: Colony, Statehood, or Independence ?



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Learning Objectives

- Understand Puerto Rico's history from Taino civilization, to Spanish colony, to U.S. territory, and the origins of today's status debate.
- Engage directly with local communities and educators representing diverse perspectives.
- Apply collaborative design methods to co-create practical, community-informed solutions.
- Evaluate competing narratives and proposals through dialogue and field experience.
- Experience San Juan and its surrounding areas. A history, culture, and politics nexus.

Arts, bomba y plena dance, and cuisine with the Afro-Caribbean community in Loiza

Puerto Rico: Colony, Statehood, or Independence ?

Sample Itinerary

DAY 1 - Breakfast & orientation: *Les presento a Puerto Rico!* ► Walk through Old San Juan and survey its colonial history and impact on Puerto Rico and the Americas ► Tour Castillo San Felipe del Morro, the colossal iconic fortress guarding San Juan Bay ► Lunch: Old San Juan street food ► Late afternoon at Escambron Beach ► Freshen up at hostel ► Dinner: La Barrachina ► Salsa dance lesson ► Overnight: Hotel

DAY 2 - Breakfast: Hotel ► Walk Santurce and learn about Boricua identity through local artists, vibrant street art, and how gentrification is transforming the neighborhood ► Lunch: Santurce street food ► Meet with community elders in Loiza to learn about issues confronting descendants of the Taino indigenous people ► Learn about the Afro-Puerto Rican heritage, Yoruba religion, and bomba y plena local music ► Volunteer at mangroves and help preserve communities at risk of hurricane damage ► Community dialogue with NGO about youth, education, and post-hurricane recovery ► Late afternoon at Playa La Posita tide pool ► Dinner: authentic Loiza cuisine ► Sunset walk on the Pinones Boardwalk ► Overnight: Hotel

DAY 3 - Breakfast: Hotel ► Depart for El Yunque National Forest ► Meet with a Forest Service educator to learn about reforestation and climate resilience efforts ► Hike short trails and waterfalls on the only tropical rainforest in US territory ► Lunch: picnic in the forest ► Learn folklore and practice Indigenous art techniques with local artists, Amigos del Yunque ► Freshen up at hotel ► Dinner ► Overnight: Hotel

DAY 4 - Breakfast: Hotel ► Volunteer with CREARTE delivering arts-based social programs for at-risk youth ► Lunch ► Guided manatee snorkeling excursion in Escambrón Marine Park, San Juan ► Freshen up at hostel ► Salsa dance lesson ► Dinner ► Overnight: Hotel

Included & optional for your organized groups

- Curricular standards
 - Course syllabus
 - Diversified Instruction
 - Active and project based curriculum
 - Primary sources
 - Formative and summative assessments
 - Volunteer service
 - English, Spanish (all 100% fluent)
-
- Logistical arrangements
 - Emergency plans
 - Lead instruction & field guiding full-time
 - Budgeting
 - Calendar management
 - Flexibility and adaptability
 - Presenting to administrators, colleagues, students and families



The Southern Steps, Jerusalem



This travel-study is different. **Very different.**

- **Teachers earn PD credit** (includes NYS CTLE)
- Meets your curricular standards
- Engages meaningfully with affected communities
- Collaborative design to solve real-world problems
- Robust academic field work
- Fully customizable curricula, dates, and costs
- **Branded as your program**

Inquire & apply:

www.globalmindsinstitute.org

info@globalmindsinstitute.org

+1-518-929-6537



History is right now.