

Important Announcement from Drs. Sue Bae, Carolyn Montford, and Torrey Wilson regarding Study Abroad in Korea 2011

Greetings! We wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about the upcoming study abroad program in Korea in April 2011. You may have already heard about the Study Abroad Program at Argosy. It has been traveling to Amsterdam, Athens, Berlin, and Seoul, South Korea for the past six years. In April of 2011, we will be going to South Korea for the second time and will be offering two classes, **Social Psychology and Difference** and **Issues in the Assessment and Treatment of Ethnically and Racially Diverse Population** (otherwise known as Treatment Issues). If you have taken both of these classes already, but would like to participate in the trip, we are also offering **Independent Research Study**, where you can choose a topic of your choice to study in Korea. We are thrilled about this opportunity and hope that you will consider joining us. We will be going during spring break and the courses will count towards Summer I.

South Korea is known as the Land of Morning Calm and closely neighbors China and Japan. Its capital, Seoul is one of the largest metropolitan cities in the world with a population of over 10 million people. Korea is one of the oldest civilizations in the world, first inhabited as early as the Lower Paleolithic. South Korea is a unique country where the old and new worlds can truly coexist with thousands of years of history and traditions as well as modern technology and major global economy.

Social Psychology and Difference is a required course for all students in the Masters and Psy.D. program in clinical psychology. Study abroad in Korea affords us the unique opportunity to explore the adaptation of social psychology concepts, which are primarily and uniquely Western-based, to an Eastern culture. Students will engage in discussions about how the social phenomena explained by our theories may be similar or different in non-Western cultures. Much of the trip will comprise the experiential component, a cultural immersion which will allow students to explore how the experience of difference impacts their personal and professional self.

Social Psychology and Difference will focus on an understanding and critical evaluation of the theoretical constructs and the corresponding body of empirical research from the field of social psychology. In addition, emphasis will be placed on the constructions, meanings, and experiences of difference in an effort to prepare students to function as ethically-minded psychologists. Social psychological concepts will provide a theoretical framework for understanding specific "categorical" features of identity and difference including race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, physical difference and/or disability, gender, national origin, and social class. A self-critical social constructionist perspective will be the most common theoretical approach to be accompanied by treatments of the social psychological constructs of deviance, conformity, social influence, attributions, social cognition, mass communication and propaganda, and prejudice.

Treatment Issues is a required course for clinical doctoral students and students usually take this course in second or third year of their training. The course focuses on helping students develop awareness of and sensitivity to racial and cultural factors in the service of developing a better understanding of self in relation to clients with different cultural experiences and worldviews. The course aims to raise the consciousness of the developing clinician, thereby

aiding the student in the process of self-development. Optimal results from course participation include enhanced sensitivity, heightened awareness, and greater understanding of self and others. An essential element of this course is a focus on education through experiential learning and didactic presentations. Through this opportunity of study abroad, students have the rare chance to understand concepts and theories and be able to apply their knowledge and skills to real cross-cultural experiences in Korea.

One goal of the above two courses will be to promote students' own process of examination and exploration of aspects of difference. Particularly, students will be encouraged to reflect on their own personal and professional development and on the statuses and categories they occupy so as to gain greater self-awareness and sensitivity to their own and others' attitudes, biases, and preferences.

The first part of both courses will take place prior to the trip and will comprise discussions of the readings of theory and research as well as various assignments including appropriate films. These didactics will be conducted either on campus or via the web over the course of three weeks. There will also be didactics in the mornings during the study abroad, and students will be given assignments, e.g., readings, reflection papers. After the trip there will be a final class session to discuss students' impressions and consolidate learning. A final paper will be due at a date to be determined following the trip.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

- A total of 11 days abroad in Seoul, South Korea, followed by 1 day travel to the DMZ, (Korean Demilitarized Zone). 1 day will be spent on traveling
- Additionally, for several days prior to the trip, class will meet on campus or via web to prep for the abroad class, to go over theories and concepts so that students are prepared for the experiential component of the course in Korea
- After the trip, class will meet on campus or via web to process the experience in Korea
- 11 days in Korea will focus on
 1. what is it like to be the “other.”
 2. cultural immersion
 3. exploring clinics, hospitals in Korea, understanding the helping profession in Korea
 4. each day will begin with an experiential exercise during the 11 days in Korea
 5. exploring historical sites in Korea to understand the history of Korea and to understand the Korean American immigrant experience in the US
 6. history is divided into two parts, Korea before and after modernization and to think about the impact of the pre and post modernization on the Korean American experience
 7. understand acculturation, encapsulation of culture (e.g. Koreans from Korea are both similar to and different from Korean Americans).
 8. understanding assimilation vs. acculturation
 9. journaling throughout the trip
 10. participating students to prepare and present a common hour to Argosy students and staff to share immersion experiences the following semester

11. clinical cultural exchange between Korean mental health/psychiatry students and Argosy students to explore and understand professional development of psychotherapists and the role of culture in their professional development
 12. Argosy students will “shadow” Korean mental health/psychiatry professionals and report back to class about their perceptions of various mental health professionals in Korea and how this experience can be applied to working with diverse populations in the US
 13. Argosy students will get hands-on experience on non-traditional ways of healing including Korean traditional medicine (eastern medical procedures)
 14. cultural immersion activities: scavenger hunt wherein students will experience using Korean language and customs (however remedial) to order meal, purchase product or ask directions as way of understanding being “the other”
- All students must complete all readings and films prior to the trip.
 - Education en vivo
 - Application of concepts and theories into their cultural immersion experience in Korea.
 - All students to utilize specialized supportive materials to acclimate themselves to Korean language, history and customs prior to and during the trip, which will become a critical component of their cultural immersion projects
 - All lectures/classes will be held on campus of a major university in Seoul, Kyung Hee University (top ten universities in South Korea)

Projected Travel Costs (per person, based on 25 to 30 students total)

Round trip airfare: \$1, 450 from Chicago to Seoul, Korea

Hotel: \$900 Millennium Seoul Hilton Hotel in Seoul located in the heart of downtown Seoul, steps away from the number one national treasure, the South Gate (nam-dae-moon); daily breakfast included at the hotel (4-star accommodations)

Tours in Seoul and DMZ including transportation, guide fees and admission fees; guided tours with bus for entire party daily: \$800

Food: \$350 Several shared meals including one traditional Korean dinner with traditional Korean folklore and dance show

Total: \$3,500

Qualified students may use financial aid to pay for the costs of the trip and tuition of the class.

Proposed Itinerary

4/22/11 Leave Chicago O’Hare

4/23/11 Arrive in Seoul, Korea; check into hotel, city tour of Seoul
4/24/11 City tour of Seoul Cont; visit historical sites
4/25/11 Class in the morning; individual immersion in the afternoon
4/26/11 Class in the morning; visit psychiatric hospitals/clinics in the afternoon
4/27/11 Class in the morning, visit DMZ in the afternoon
4/28/11 Class in the morning, individual immersion in the afternoon
4/29/11 Class in the morning, group immersion in the afternoon
4/30/11 DMZ Tour
5/1/11 Historical site tours, Traditional Korean performances
5/2/11 Leave for Chicago
5/2/11 Arrive in Chicago

If you are interested in taking Social Psychology and Difference, Treatment Issues, or Independent Study in Korea in April of 2011, please email Dr. Bae at sbae@argosy.edu. We are encouraging students to sign up now before the classes fill up. One way to sign up for the course is to attend one of the **informational meetings scheduled on the following days: 9/28, Tuesday from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm in Room 1305; 10/1, Friday from noon to 1 pm in Room 1305; 10/4, Monday from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm in Room 1395; 10/6, Wednesday from 5 pm to 6 pm in Room 1304; and 10/7, Thursday from noon to 1 pm in Room 1394.**