

NOTE: This is a SAMPLE syllabus/itinerary and may not be the most up-to-date version. Please contact the faculty leader of this program for more recent information.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR AND ASSIGNMENTS

TBD:

Two dates in Fall, 2018 to meet with students, go over logistics, details, and expectations. Go over syllabus, readings, assignments. Work on pre-trip reflections, particularly around global travel and positionality. One of the meetings will include an in-person visit from Sarah Foy, Head of WE Schools US. Collect first assignment, the course ARP, prior to travel.

JANUARY 2:

Travel to Ecuador. Depart January 2, arriving in Quito the evening of January 2. Me to WE transportation picks us up at airport and drives us to Old Town section of Quito, where we stay at the San Francisco Hotel (or similar) for the evening.

JANUARY 3:

- Breakfast at the hotel and travel to Chimborazo
- Stop for lunch in a nice restaurant along the way
- Arrive in Chimbarazo late afternoon. Settle in to hotel, still to be determined but likely either Inti Sisa in Guamote or similar, depending on availability and how many students we are bringing
- Introduction to Ecuador and to Chimborazo by Me to WE Staff (including local, Ecuadoran staff)
- Dinner
- Evening talk by local leaders and reflective activity

JANUARY 4:

- Breakfast and talk on holistic, sustainable development model including: Education, Health, Sustainable Agriculture, Water and Sanitation, and Microdevelopment/Microbusiness
- Travel to local community to build site. What we will be building will be determined much closer to date of trip. We could be helping to build a school, health center, library, or other. Build is side-by-side with local workers
- Lunch at build site
- Time to play with and get to know the local school children and teachers
- Return to accommodations
- Leadership skill-building exercise run by Me to WE Facilitators.
- Local women come and speak to the group about issues most affecting women and girls in the region
- Journal time to connect day's activities to course readings
- Dinner
- Evening talk by Bentley professors

JANUARY 5:

- Breakfast
- Meet with women's group, in their community, to learn about their microdevelopment projects. In Chimborazo, these include sheep-shearing and creating wool products sold in North America; guinea pig breeding to produce meat for the community and to sell at local market; sewing. Students will learn about the products, but also the power of these women's groups in supporting their communities and in furthering girls' and women's rights in their community. As well, students will hear stories difficulties women face in their communities.
- Bagged lunch in the community
- Drive to a different WE Villages community and participate in a build site project

- Leadership skill-building exercise run by Me to WE Facilitators.
- Journal time to connect day's activities to course readings
- Dinner
- Evening talk by Bentley professors

JANUARY 6

- Breakfast
- Action Planning workshop led by Me to WE facilitators and/or professors
- Continue working on build site visited first day
- Bagged lunch in the community
- Village Water Walk with and work day support of local women. Students will have the opportunity to walk side by side with indigenous women and girls in the community as they gather water from the river. The women will plan best use of our students in helping them to move their essential projects (family garden, building project, etc.) forward. Incredible opportunity to connect closely with the girls and women of the community
- Journal time to connect day's activities to course readings
- Dinner
- Evening fireside talk by Sandra Morocho (personal friend of Prof. White) on the constitutional rights of nature. Ecuador is the only country to have adopted this powerful example constitutionally. The talk considers indigenous issues, global warming, and broader sustainability issues as well.

JANUARY 7:

- Travel day to the Minga Lodge (owned by Me to WE) in the Amazon. 5-6 hour ride.
- Lunch at a nice restaurant along the way
- Unpack and settle in. Take a tour of Minga with Richard, the Director of WE Villages projects in Ecuador.
- Meet with Scott Baker, Executive Director of WE Charity (and personal friend of Prof. White). This will include learning the strategies and specifics of how sustainable development projects work in these communities and will allow for an excellent opportunity for students to learn first-hand, to question models, and to bring their course readings on development to life. Very lucky opportunity that he plans to be in Ecuador at the same time as our trip.
- Students will begin creating action plans, using their Applied Sociology skills to start to imagine ways they can help with Chimborazo, the Amazon and other communities around the world as they continue to navigate their Bentley careers and beyond
- Dinner
- Evening talk by Bentley professors, connecting deeper political economy analysis to rural poverty in global context
- Journal time
- Snacks and stories around the camp fire

JANUARY 8:

- Global poverty simulation module, run by Me to WE facilitators and Bentley professors
- Student mini-presentations on course readings
- Lunch and speaker at the Center. Speaker will be a local elder leader
- Continue working on build site
- Trip to visit a local Shamman to learn about indigenous healing practices, followed by trip to WE Village health clinic to learn of synergized models of modern and indigenous medicine
- Dinner
- Discussion of global health disparities
- Continued work on creating action plans

JANUARY 9:

- Continued work on creating action plans
- Trip to the new Me to WE cacao farm. New social enterprise/microdevelopment project to bring Me to WE Chocolate to North American and European markets. Learn about Fair Trade, Sustainable, Organic, cooperative farming to empower the local communities economically
- Early lunch
- Visit to Los Rios, where Bentley has been raising money for the past 4 years to help build a school, doctor's quarters, sustainable water source, and sustainable agriculture source through BSLCE's BUILD initiative. Here, we'll particularly learn about clean water initiatives and visit another women's microdevelopment project focusing on creating bracelets to be sold through Me to WE Artisans in the North American and European markets.
- Dinner
- Continued work on creating action plans

JANUARY 10:

- Continue working on build site
- Final interactions with the kids and that community
- Time to complete action plans
- Dinner
- Evening fireside talk by Sandra Morocho (personal friend of Prof. White) on the constitutional rights of nature. Ecuador is the only country to have adopted this powerful example constitutionally. The talk considers indigenous issues, global warming, and broader sustainability issues as well.
- Final reflection activities, campfire, takeaways

JANUARY 11:

- Early rise and pack
- Travel back to Quito
- Stop along the way for nice lunch
- Check in to hotel, likely the San Francisco Hotel (or equivalent)
- Short tour of Old Town, Quito
- Students present Action Plans to each other for feedback loops
- Final group dinner at a nice restaurant in Old Town, Quito
- Early(ish) bedtime

JANUARY 12:

- Early departure to airport
- Arrive back home to Boston

END OF JANUARY, DATE TBD BY GROUP:

- Gathering at Professor White's house for final class and celebration
- Updates on Action Plans
- Tying service-learning and experiential learning piece back to academic components of the course
- Final papers due