

Course title: Doing Business in Cuba

Instructor: Dr. Kislaya Prasad

Credits: 4 credits attached to a full spring semester course

Course description: Cuba is a country like no other. The beautiful buildings of Old Havana attest to its historical significance and former glory and riches. One also sees the consequences of its more recent history of socialism in the decay of the very same buildings. The Cuban revolution in 1959 led to a rupture of U.S.-Cuba relations and a U.S. embargo is still firmly in place. Travel from the U.S. that had opened up during the Obama administration is once again restricted. However, changes are underway. For the first time in more than sixty years, the country is being led by someone not named Castro. Cuba has also begun to reform its economic system, which was long dominated by subsidized state enterprises, a dual currency system, and hostility towards markets. Private enterprises are now allowed to function, but the government has so far resisted a transition to a full-fledged market-based system. This is motivated in part by the communist leadership's desire to hold on to power, but also to retain the "gains of the revolution" – universal housing, healthcare and education. All these circumstances make Cuba a fascinating place to study, at an interesting juncture in its history.

Course title: Doing Business in Portugal

Instructor: Dr. Judy K. Frels

Credits: 4 credits attached to a full spring semester course

Course description: The Portuguese Republic has undergone political and economic upheaval since the mid-20th century. Controlled by dictators from the mid-1920s to 1974, Portugal has since shed its colonies, established itself as a democracy, and joined the European Union. In 2004, Durão Barroso, a Portuguese, was named President of the EU, marking a high point of modern Portugal's place on the international stage. And yet, since the turn of the century, Portugal has struggled to achieve political and economic stability. In this course, we will explore how this relatively new democracy strives to create value by attracting entrepreneurs and the tech industry. Portugal offers a low cost of living, low taxes for the foreigners who come to work there in the tech industry, and a highly developed infrastructure to complement its moderate climate and beautiful landscape. Portugal promotes its educated workforce where English is widely spoken.

We'll start the course by learning a framework for international business analysis and studying Portugal through that lens. During the trip, you'll meet with several businesses and institutions that will help you understand how business is done in Portugal, which industries are thriving and which are struggling, and you'll meet with Portuguese business owners to consult on a project with them. When we return to the US, you'll wrap-up your consulting project and prepare a summary of your findings for the client firm. We'll visit the capital of Portugal, Lisbon, and Porto, the center of Portugal's thriving wine, fashion, and tourism industries.

Course title: Doing Business in Chile: Country at a Crossroads

Instructor: Bennet A. Zelner, Ph.D

Credits: 4 credits attached to a full spring semester course

Course description: “Doing Business in Chile: Country at a Crossroads” focuses on the economic, political, and social institutions shaping the Chilean business environment, and the design or adaptation of firms’ business models to fit with this environment. To grasp the Chilean business environment, it is useful to recognize the many crossroads at which Chile sits. In the past 40 years, this country “at the end of the Earth” has transformed from a closed economy ruled by Latin America’s first popularly elected Marxist president, Salvador Allende; to a free-market economy led by the right-wing military dictator Augusto Pinochet; to one of Latin America’s most developed economies. The class begins by providing you with conceptual tools for identifying and assessing the institutional influences shaping national business environments, as well as historical background and current information on Chile’s business environment. You will also be assigned a team tasked with doing a consulting project for a Chilean firm. During the travel portion of the class you will meet with local business leaders, participate in cultural activities, and meet with your team’s client firm. After your return to the US, you and your teammates will complete your consulting project and make a virtual presentation to the client firm.

Course title: Doing Business in Sweden

Instructor: Dr. Cristian Dezso

Credits: 4 credits attached to a full spring semester course

Course description: Develop a global mindset, sharpen your global business savvy, and gain hands-on experience through applied learning consulting projects while travelling abroad with a professor and peer students.

Course title: Doing Business in Iceland

Instructor: Dr. David M. Waguespack

Credits: 4 credits attached to a full spring semester course

Course description: Develop a global mindset, sharpen your global business savvy, and gain hands-on experience through applied learning consulting projects while travelling abroad with a professor and peer students. Iceland is an intriguing mix of constraints and opportunities. On the one hand, it is a small, culturally distinct, and geographically remote society and economy. On the other hand, it has several unique endowments, has developed and globalized rapidly, and presents the visitor with the opportunity to get a sense of the whole of an economy. On this visit we will tour firms in several key industries, talk with entrepreneurs, consult with government and academic officials, and get a first hand sense of what makes Iceland such a remarkable place.

In the event that programs are unable to travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic, travel components will pivot to a fully virtual format so that students can maintain credits and their global experiences.