



Cultural Connections The Global Villa

MLNG 293-01

0-1 cr.

**Department of Modern & Classical Languages
Saint Louis University**

Fall 2009

Objectives

The *Language Floors* in the Global Villa provide linguistic and cultural experience in a second language through interactive community living. Proficiency in more than one language and culture enhances personal and professional development while enabling students to connect with multiple disciplines and to become better informed citizens in an increasingly complex world.

Villa Expectations:

- Speak the language of the floor as the primary means of communication and encourage other students to do so;
- Share at least one meal per week with others in your language group;
- Participate in the cultural activities planned for your language floor (coffee hours, museum visits, etc.);
- Attend all General Sessions organized for the Villa (see the *Cultural Connections Schedule*);
- Participate in the *Cultural Connections* Discussion Groups for your language. The themes cover cultural, historical and social subjects of general interest to all Villa participants. In Fall 2009, topics of discussion will also be linked to themes relating to HIST 112, "Origins of the Modern World Since 1600", and/ or to POLS 193, "Politics of the Developing World". First-year Villa students in Fall 2009 are typically co-enrolled in one or both of these courses.

Cultural Connections Schedule, Fall 2009

Week 1: Sunday August 23 *Welcome!*

4:30 PM General Session – *The Concept of a Learning Community*

5:00 PM *Cultural Connections* discussion (grouped by language) – *Basic Language Strategies for Everyday Living in the Villa*

6:00 PM Dinner with all the Villa residents @ the Villa

Week 1: Tuesday, August 25, 5:15 PM General Session – *Tips for Learning a Foreign Language* (Dr. Kara McBride, with input from the Language Assistants on their own language learning experiences)

Week 2: No Cultural Connections Session

Week 3: Tuesday, September 8, 5:15 PM General Session – *Immigration Issues in France, Germany, Italy & Spain* (Language Assistants)

Week 4: Tuesday, September 15, 5:15 PM *Cultural Connections* discussion (grouped by language)

Week 5: Tuesday, September 22, 5:15 PM *Cultural Connections* discussion (grouped by language)

Week 6: Tuesday, September 29, 5:15 PM *Cultural Connections* discussion (grouped by language)

Week 7: Tuesday, October 6, 5:15 PM General Session – *Multi-Culturalisms /Diversity & Ethnicity in Europe* (Language Assistants)

12 – 16 October: Midterm exams Week

19-20 Oct.: Fall Break

Week 10: Tuesday, October 27, 5:15 PM *Cultural Connections* discussion (grouped by language)

Week 11: Tuesday, November 3, 5:15 PM General Session – *Internships and Careers in Foreign Languages* (Claire Chase, Career Services with input from students' own internship experiences)

Week 12: Tuesday, November 10, 5:15 PM General Session – *Youth & Pop Culture in France, Germany, Italy & Spain* (Language Assistants)

Week 13: Tuesday, November 17, 5:15 PM *Cultural Connections* discussion (grouped by language)

Week 14: No Cultural Connections Session

Week 15: Tuesday, December 1, 5:15 General Session – Evaluation & Dinner Party!

Note: The schedule is subject to change.

General sessions will be held in the Smart Classroom on the first floor of the Villa (Notre Dame Residence Hall). Language specific session locations will be announced.

Evaluation

- Participation in the General and Language-specific Sessions. Please note that only excused absences are acceptable. Check with the Faculty Liaison for your language if you need additional information.
- Participation in 10 or more cultural activities (to be explained in greater detail by the Faculty Language Liaison).
- Final reflection paper (3-4 pages) on a cultural/historical aspect of the material covered the General or Language-specific Sessions. Students having sufficient proficiency write the paper in the foreign language. Please check with the Faculty Liaison for details.
- Grading Scale: S/U

Faculty Liaisons (Fall 2009)

- *French:* Ms. Arline Cravens, Tel. 977-3200, arline7@yahoo.com
- *German:* Dr. Evelyn Meyer, Tel. 977-7254, emeyer16@slu.edu
- *Italian:* Dr. Claudia Karagoz, Tel. 977-3667, ckaragoz@slu.edu
- *Spanish:* Ms. Michelle Batterson, Tle. 977-7007, mbatters@slu.edu

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