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## Education in Urban Street Schools: Cambodia

### Course Description:

This short-term international travel course offers graduate students the opportunity to teach basic English to students living in the “slums” of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Students, in multiple mandatory pre-departure meetings, will design the curriculum (e.g. educational lessons/games, etc.) they will deliver in the four Empowering Youth in Cambodia (EYC) schools, all of which are located in some of the poorest neighborhoods in Phnom Penh. While it is not necessary to be in education or have a background in teaching to take this course, the ideal student would be one who has some experience working with children between the ages of five and thirteen, is patient, flexible, and gets along well with others, even when hot, tired, and dirty.

In addition to working in the EYC schools, we will spend at least one day installing bio-sand filters with Water for Cambodia (W4C) in the rural villages outside of Siem Reap. While in Phnom Penh, we will also visit Mother’s Heart Cambodia, the only crisis pregnancy center in Cambodia. Because EYC, W4C, and Mother’s Heart are non-governmental organizations (NGOs), they rely entirely on donations. Figured into the cost of this trip is a \$600 donation for EYC and a \$500 donation for Water for Cambodia. This covers a month’s salary for four EYC teachers and buys ten bio-sand filters for W4C. We’ll also donate school supplies to EYC and baby clothes to Mother’s Heart.

When students are not in the classroom, they will visit local cultural and historical sites in and around Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.

**Warning:** This is a difficult travel course for a number of reasons. Cambodia is the poorest country in Southeast Asia, and you will be working in areas of extreme poverty. The course is not for the faint of heart. It’s important that students prepare themselves, emotionally, as much as possible, for what they’ll see. While we will be in country during the coolest part of the year, the days are extremely hot, and the air can be quite dirty. It’s not unusual for everyone on this trip to get sick at least once. Colds and stomach issues are common. You will be required to get vaccinated for Typhoid and Hep A.

### Required Texts:

Ayres, David M. *Anatomy of a Crisis: Education, Development, and the State in Cambodia, 1953-1998*

Karen J. Coates, *Cambodia Now: Life in the Wake of War*

Sebastian Strangio, *Hun Sen’s Cambodia*

*Lonely Planet Cambodia*

**Course Outcomes:**

- 1) Students will have first-hand experience teaching basic English to students between the ages of six and thirteen;
- 2) Student will have designed and delivered age-appropriate lesson plans to children between the ages of six and thirteen;
- 3) Student will have worked collaboratively (in groups of two or three) to design age-appropriate educational lessons for children between the ages of six and thirteen;
- 4) Students will have a deep understanding of Cambodian history and culture;
- 5) Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of Cambodian history, culture, and/or Cambodia's educational system in a final project (see course requirement #4 below).

**Course Requirements:**

- 1) Students must attend all pre-departure meetings. In these meetings students will make daily lesson plans for students at various levels of English fluency;
- 2) Students will co-teach in the schools, working together to deliver the lesson plan;
- 3) Students will keep a daily, informal journal;
- 4) Students will complete a project between 10-15 pages. This project may include:
  - a research paper about a specific aspect of Cambodian history, culture, its educational system, education and poverty, etc.;
  - travel writing;
  - a teaching unit on Cambodia about, for example, memoirs by survivors of the Khmer Rouge.

**Grading:**

Four mandatory pre-departure meetings (25%)

Delivering Curriculum in the Schools (50%)

Final Project (25%)

**Itinerary**

(Please note that this itinerary is subject to change.)

**December 29, 2019**

Leave BSU for NYC/JFK airport at 6:00 am

Fly from JFK to Incheon, South Korea (13 and ½ hours)

Fly from Incheon to Phnom Penh (5 and ½ hours)

**December 30** Arrive in Phnom Penh in the late evening (around 11:00 pm)

**December 31** 9:00am—Mekong Boat Tour, Wat Ounalom, Wat Phnom, Central Market,

Royal Palace

**January 1, 2020** Visit Silk Farm

**January 2** In the schools

**January 3** In the schools

**January 4** Wat Opot

**January 5** Visit Choeung Ek (“the killing fields”)

**January 6** In the schools

**January 7** “Victory Day”—Visit Tuol Sleng (Pol Pot’s “secret prison,” also known as S-21) and Russian Market. Dinner at Romdeng Restaurant (Tarantulas!)

**January 8** In the schools

**January 9** In the schools

**January 10** Mother’s Heart at 10:00 am; school in the afternoon. Say our goodbyes!

**January 11** Leave for Siem Reap by bus (6-7 hours depending on the condition of the road); evening free

**January 12** Visit Angkor Wat; watch sunset from Phnom Krom

**January 13** Install bio-sand filters with Water for Cambodia

**January 14** Kampang Khleang (fishing village)

**January 15** Free day; depart for Siem Reap airport late this evening and then home!

**January 16** Arrive back in U.S.

Contact Information for Pannasastra University of Cambodia:

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