MAN 4680/geb 6957

Foreign Seminar in International Business
Summer 2016

Professor Information
Dr. Donna Cooke
LA 466 Davie
Cooke@fau.edu
954 236 1064

Office Hours
By appointment

Required Text and Materials
Below are some resources with useful information about Costa Rica.


Culture Crossings http://guide.culturecrossing.net/index.php
Executive Planet http://www.executiveplanet.com/costa_rica-2/

US Embassy in Costa Rica http://costarica.usembassy.gov/

World Bank http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/costa-rica

Recommended Text and Materials (Optional)
Hofstede’s website http://geert-hofstede.com/costa-rica.html

Course Description
Combined intensive study of selected foreign nations with travel abroad to observe and investigate firsthand the political, economic and administrative conditions encountered by American firms in foreign countries.
Course Prerequisites and Credit Hours and Class Time Commitments

“According to Florida State Statute 6A-10.033, students must spend a minimum 2,250 minutes of in class time during a 3-credit course. Additionally, students enrolled in a 3-credit course are expected to spend a minimum of 4,500 minutes of out-of-class-time specifically working on course-related activities (i.e., reading assigned pieces, completing homework, preparing for exams and other assessments, reviewing class notes, etc.) and fulfilling any other class activities or duties as required.” The course schedule for this course reflects this expectation of students.

Course Learning Objectives

The purpose of this course is to provide an opportunity for a better understanding of specific and important aspects of doing business with or in Costa Rica. While a tour is a poor substitute for living in Costa Rica for learning about business in that country, that option is not feasible for most. The experiences on this study tour will help to make the abstract concepts in international business management real and relevant. Stops on the itinerary were selected because they represent significant segments of the Costa Rican economy. At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to generate recommendations for a particular business interested in Costa Rica.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used: A (93 and above); A- (90-92); B+ (87 - 89); B (83 - 86); B- (80-82); C+ (77 - 79); C (70 - 76); D+ (67 - 69); D (63 - 66); D- (60-62); F (below 60).

Incompletes are not an option for failing students. All extra credit opportunities are noted on this syllabus. Grades are posted on Blackboard™. Students wishing to discuss course grades have within five days of general notification of grades to the class to do so. Students desiring passing grades must adhere to the professor's requirements; ignorance of the policies stated herein is not an acceptable excuse.

Course Evaluation Method

Grades are a function of attendance, participation, and performance on assignments.

Attendance at all scheduled activities prior to, during, and after the trip is required. Students are expected to interact with representatives from the public and private sectors, multinational and local companies, and to participate in all planned activities............................................ 40%

The pre trip assignment is to ensure that students are adequately prepared for the trip. Lack of preparation decreases the potential benefits of the study tour. Prepare a three page summary of doing business in Costa Rica. Evaluate Costa Rica’s business climate for US companies, in general. Cover the various environments (social, political, environmental, legal, regulatory, etc.)................................................................. 10%
The post-trip assignment is a chance for students to reconcile their research and experience by revising and expanding their pre-trip submission. It is advised that students maintain a daily journal of their experiences to assist in recall of information for the paper.

**Undergraduate’s post-trip assignment**
Select one of the companies that you were exposed to on the study tour and imagine that you are a consultant responsible for recruiting employees from the US to Costa Rica.
1. Prepare an orientation package for the company informing the recruits about the company and Costa Rica. Be sure to integrate your own now first-hand knowledge.
2. Select a senior-level position. Prepare a detailed position description with a job description, job specification, and terms of the contract.

**Graduate’s post-trip assignment**
1. What industries might be the most attractive for US companies interested in establishing subsidiaries or joint ventures in Costa Rica? Explain.
2. Assume that a US company from one of those industries has decided to set up a subsidiary in Costa Rica for the first time. Identify an actual company so that you will have sufficient context (e.g., Shake Shack). The president of the subsidiary will be from the headquarters. Prepare a job offer contract detailing the job description and job specification, and the total compensation package (salary, bonuses, benefits, allowances).

**Additional Course Policies**

**Late Assignments**
Late assignments will attract a late penalty. The professor will exercise her discretion to determine the extent of the penalty, depending on the evidence presented regarding the circumstances.

**Attendance Policy**
Attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences, tardiness, leaving early will attract a grade penalty.

**Anti-plagiarism Software**
Written components of any assignment or project may be submitted to anti-plagiarism software to evaluate the originality of the work. Any students found to be submitting work that is not their own will be deemed in violation of the University’s honor code discussed above.
Course Outline
Pre-trip orientation  TBD
Field Experience  May 7-14, 2016
Post-trip paper  June 25, 2016

Selected University and College Policies

Code of Academic Integrity Policy Statement
Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

Disability Policy Statement
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodation due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) – in Boca Raton, SU 133, (561) 297-3880; in Davie, MOD 1, (954) 236-1222; in Jupiter, SR 117, (561) 799-8585; or, at the Treasure Coast, CO 128, (772) 873-3305 – and follow all OSD procedures.

Religious Accommodation Policy Statement
In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. For further information, please see Academic Policies and Regulations.

University Approved Absence Policy Statement
In accordance with rules of the Florida Atlantic University, students have the right to reasonable accommodations to participate in University approved activities, including athletic or scholastics teams, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the course instructor at least one week prior to missing any course assignment.

College of Business Minimum Grade Policy Statement
The minimum grade for College of Business requirements is a “C”. This includes all courses that are a part of the pre-business foundation, business core, and major program. In addition, courses that are used to satisfy the university’s “Writing Across the Curriculum” and Gordon Rule math requirements also have a minimum grade requirement of a “C”. Course syllabi give individualized information about grading as it pertains to the individual classes.
Incomplete Grade Policy Statement
A student who is passing a course, but has not completed all work due to exceptional circumstances, may, with consent of the instructor, temporarily receive a grade of incomplete (“I”). The assignment of the “I” grade is at the discretion of the instructor, but is allowed only if the student is passing the course.

The specific time required to make up an incomplete grade is at the discretion of the instructor. However, the College of Business policy on the resolution of incomplete grades requires that all work required to satisfy an incomplete (“I”) grade must be completed within a period of time not exceeding one calendar year from the assignment of the incomplete grade. After one calendar year, the incomplete grade automatically becomes a failing (“F”) grade.

Withdrawals
Any student who decides to drop is responsible for completing the proper paper work required to withdraw from the course.

Grade Appeal Process
A student may request a review of the final course grade when s/he believes that one of the following conditions apply:
- There was a computational or recording error in the grading.
- Non-academic criteria were applied in the grading process.
- There was a gross violation of the instructor’s own grading system.

The procedures for a grade appeal may be found in Chapter 4 of the University Regulations.

Disruptive Behavior Policy Statement
Disruptive behavior is defined in the FAU Student Code of Conduct as “… activities which interfere with the educational mission within classroom.” Students who behave in the classroom such that the educational experiences of other students and/or the instructor’s course objectives are disrupted are subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior impedes students’ ability to learn or an instructor’s ability to teach. Disruptive behavior may include, but is not limited to: non-approved use of electronic devices (including cellular telephones); cursing or shouting at others in such a way as to be disruptive; or, other violations of an instructor’s expectations for classroom conduct.

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities
Florida Atlantic University respects the right of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions which do not impede their exercise. To ensure these rights, faculty members have the prerogative:
- To establish and implement academic standards
- To establish and enforce reasonable behavior standards in each class
- To refer disciplinary action to those students whose behavior may be judged to be disruptive under the Student Code of Conduct.