Guidelines for Global Independent Study Projects [GLISP]

I. PURPOSE: The purpose of a Global Independent Study Project is to allow a student to initiate a course of study outside of the United States which in content, emphasis or procedures, cannot be duplicated in the established curriculum. The expectation is that no new faculty or staff will be required for these courses. In instances where Brown faculty may need assistance in evaluating students, colleagues from outside Brown may help out as a professional courtesy. Courses which require special financial support will not be approved by the College Curriculum Council. A maximum of one Global Independent Study Project will be approved per semester abroad.

II. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: Proposals for Global Independent Study must be submitted on the attached form. The deadline for submission of Global Independent Study proposals for fall semester is May 6, 2011 and for the spring semester, November 25, 2011 (semester prior to when Global Independent Study Project is planned). You must submit an ORIGINAL and FIVE copies (single-sided with pages numbered) to Kendall Brostuen, Director of International Programs, J. Walter Wilson Bldg., Suite 420.

III. FACULTY SPONSORSHIP: Each proposal must be sponsored by a member of the faculty. Teaching assistants or associates cannot serve as sponsors for Global Independent Study Projects. The sponsor is not expected to give regular tutorial instruction, but is responsible for providing assistance as required in the planning of the course and scrutiny of the proposal.

IV. The last page of the proposal is to be completed by the sponsor. The sponsor is expected to maintain regular electronic contact with the student, evaluate the work done by the student, and assign a final grade. All grades must be letter grades. The sponsor is expected to review the final draft of the proposal before submission. In addition, in cases in which the qualifications of the sponsor to carry out the required supervisory and evaluative responsibilities are not immediately apparent from the area of his or her University appointment, a statement should be appended addressing this point and affirming his or her competence to do so.

V. PROPOSALS INVOLVING CREATIVE OR PERFORMING ARTS: In the case of an Independent Study in the creative or performing arts, it is an expectation that the endeavor will be substantiated by a formal academic structure. As for any other type of proposal for independent study, a week by week syllabus and bibliography are expected.

VI. IDENTICAL PROPOSALS: Identical proposals which involve two or more students working under the supervision of a single sponsor shall normally be submitted as a single proposal for Group Global Independent Study.
Proposal for Global Independent Study Project
(Please Type)

Last Name __________________________________________ First Name __________________________________________ Initial ________________________________________

Telephone # ________________________________ Class Year ________________
P.O. Box # ________________________________ Student ID # ________________________________

Concentration ____________________________ International Relations, Middle East Studies

Intended program of Study Abroad: CIEE Language and Culture

Country Destination: Amman, Jordan

Descriptive title of Global Independent Study Project: Unrest in Jordan: A Political Response to Food Insecurity

Abbreviation of title for entry on permanent record (limit 22 characters and spaces):

FOOD SECURITY - JORDAN

Name of Faculty Sponsor: Professor Kathryn DeMaster

Environmental Studies ________________ 1943 ________________

Department ____________________________ Box # ____________________________ Phone # ____________________________

For Semester Fall ______ of the academic year 20 __________ - __________

All grades MUST be letter grades. S/NC marks are not an option.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Return the completed proposal to:
Kendall Brostuen, Director of International Programs, J. Walter Wilson Bldg., Ste. 420.1
Deadline for Fall 2011 – May 6, 2011, 5:00pm
Deadline for Spring 2012 – November 25, 2011, 5:00pm
This project description should be prepared by the student in consultation with the faculty advisor. Please address the following issues in order and by letter. Your proposal must be typed. Sign and submit this page with your completed proposal materials.

A. Provide a brief and cogent statement of the purpose of the study project abroad, indicating the nature and extent of the work to be pursued, and conveying a clear sense of the academic legitimacy of the project under consideration. The statement should describe previous study and experience that contributed to your perception of the problems involved in the study project abroad and qualifies you to undertake it, and suggest the ways in which this project helps you to meet your educational purposes at Brown.

Importantly, the project description will identify how, in the view of the student and faculty sponsor, the course will be significantly enhanced by tapping into local in-country resources that would clearly be unavailable in Providence. These might include local archives, museums and historical sites. They might extend to research organizations and recognized in-country experts in given disciplines. They might also involve hands-on participation in local cultural events (i.e., theater, arts, and music), interaction with local government, business and industry leaders, and access to non-governmental organizations.

Proposals that emphasize creative self-expression in one form or another must make clearly evident the intellectual purposes to be served, and indicate on the part of the student an awareness of other work that has been or is being done in the area.

B. Submit a formal bibliography for this project (authors, titles, publishers, and dates must be included). The bibliography submitted with the proposal is, of course, tentative, and may change during the course of the project. If your project will require no bibliographic research, please discuss the reasons why you feel no bibliographic research is necessary.

C. Provide a tentative syllabus of the activities and the supportive investigation and study you will undertake, indicating how you plan to schedule them over the course of the semester calendar abroad. The syllabus should include a week by week schedule of activities and should include selected weekly bibliographic readings for this project (identifying the authors, titles, publishers, dates and, where possible, page numbers). It's understood that your weekly reading may be supplemented/revised during the course of the project as you find additional literature on-the-ground that had not heretofore been available to you, but should, at a minimum, be the equivalent of the reading identified in your project proposal.

D. Provide a timeline for periodic electronic communication with the faculty supervisor, and indicate the basis on which a final evaluation will be made. Regular communication with the faculty supervisor is strongly encouraged. If a final paper, or a series of papers, will be submitted to the sponsor, describe the topic of these papers in a paragraph or two. Indicate the approximate length of papers. If the final evaluation will be based on a project other than a written paper, please describe the project.

Signature

Date

May 16, 2011

Faculty Sponsor Statement

Return the completed proposal to:
Kendall Brostuen, Director of International Programs, J. Walter Wilson Bldg., Ste. 420.1
Deadline for Fall 2011 – May 6, 2011, 5:00pm
Deadline for Spring 2012 – November 25, 2011, 5:00pm
To be Completed by the Faculty Sponsor

To assist the Screening Committee of CCC in the evaluation of this Global Independent Study Abroad proposal, please complete the following two items:

1. In view of the responsibility of the Faculty Sponsor for Assessing a proposed study, providing advice during the work, and evaluating the student's work, the committee charged with reviewing Global Independent Study Project proposals would appreciate an indication of how you see the relationship of your own thought and interests to the topic of this study.

Ms Quesada's work in global food security and international food policy aligns very well with my own work in global agro-food systems. Furthermore, her regional focus (Jordan, and the Middle East) is an area of both longstanding research and personal interest. I will be able to guide this work closely, and I will benefit from this research in that it will help inform my own work.

This project is, in my view, a first-rate study that has excellent prospects for success. As someone who studies, researches and teaches topics related to food sovereignty, food security and global agriculture, I believe that this project has the potential for being an example of cutting-edge work.

2. What do you think are the chief educational benefits of this study project abroad, and how likely do you think it is that the student will derive these benefits from the project as envisaged?

The chief benefit of conducting this study abroad is the opportunity to conduct field research in Jordan, something of irreplaceable value to the shape of this research. This project has broad-scale, cutting edge significance, but it would not be able to achieve that significance without an in-cultural experience that will include in-depth interviews with farmers and other individuals involved in the region. I hope that this work will be given high priority status due to its significance and relevance helping contribute to an emerging body of work that is fostering a more just and sustainable agricultural trade relations between countries, and in informing international agricultural policy.

Statement of Faculty Sponsor

This is to certify that I am willing to serve as Faculty Sponsor for the Global Independent Study as described. I understand that my responsibilities as a sponsor include the following:

1. To assist in the planning of the project, to evaluate the proposal and to affirm my satisfaction with the academic content and promise of the study.

2. To have a continuing awareness of the progress of the study.

3. To have final responsibility for evaluation of the study.

[Signature of Sponsor]

[Department]

Center for Environmental Studies

Return the completed proposal to:
Kendall Brostuen, Director of International Programs, J. Walter Wilson Bldg., Ste. 420.1
Deadline for Fall 2011 – May 6, 2011, 5:00pm
Deadline for Spring 2012 – November 25, 2011, 5:00pm
Unrest in Jordan: A Political Response to Food Insecurity

Project Description

This course is motivated by an interest in rising food prices and current challenges to food security. Food prices in 2011 have reached unprecedented heights. In countries where families spend a substantial percentage of their household income on food, even marginal rises in price may push millions of people below poverty levels. Threats to food security are bound to prompt a political response, and the wave of uprisings that has swept across the Middle East is in part motivated by food price inflation. These two trends—food insecurity and recent uprisings in the Middle East—are central to my study of food security in Jordan.

Jordan is highly dependent on food and fuel imports and has only limited potential to achieve food self-sufficiency. Reliance on imports makes Jordan especially vulnerable to price shocks, and a growing domestic population promises to create future challenges. The purpose of this course is to explore the recent food riots in Jordan as political responses to food insecurity—a complex problem at a global, regional and domestic level.

The course contains a reading and a research component:

1. Readings will explore the problem of food security at a broad scale. Readings first explore food security at a global level and then focus on this issue in the Middle East and in Jordan
in particular. Reactions to food insecurity, primarily food riots but also government policies and civil society initiatives, are studied towards the end of the course.

2. I will supplement the readings with research by drawing information from local resources such as NGOs, local experts, government offices and visits to rural sectors. Research will be a significant part of the course. I have identified a list of organizations, research institutions and universities in Jordan that handle food security concerns. The year 2009 was named the year for agriculture by Queen Noor and the government recently launched a new initiative for government responses to the problem of food insecurity in Jordan. I anticipate benefiting substantially from having accessibility to these institutions and local experts.

This project is of particular relevance given new constraints to food security and unrest linked to rising food prices in the Middle East. With changes in climate, population growth and fluctuating prices, accessibility to food is increasingly becoming a global concern—not one restricted to the Middle East. Research and readings will be central to an honors Senior thesis to be completed in the Spring 2012 semester. The thesis will be submitted to the Middle East Studies department and will be advised by Professor Kathryn DeMaster, who will also serve as advisor to this project. I am certain that expanding my knowledge on this topic will be of great academic benefit to me given my areas of concentration and personal interests. Professor DeMaster has also expressed her interest in addressing the topic of food security in the Middle East and looks forward to advising this project.
Unrest in Jordan: A Political Response to Food Insecurity

Professor Kathryn DeMaster
QIEE Language and Culture
Ammann, Jordan

Center for Environmental Studies
Brown University

I. Course Purpose and Description

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II. Course Requirements and Evaluation

The participant is expected to complete all assigned weekly readings. In addition, the student should carry out a substantial amount of research while in Jordan. The participant is expected to contact regional experts through local universities and research institutes. Additional resources may include NGOs, government offices, library materials and visits to rural areas.

Assignments will be structured as follows:
1. Biweekly reports: The student will keep in touch with the advisor and inform her of recent findings and research developments through reports posted every two weeks. Reports may take a variety of forms: commentary on the readings, a question or request for clarification, report of any research developments, etc. The approximate length of these reports is a page double-spaced, but this may vary according to each week's progress. Due dates for responses are posted on the syllabus.

2. Midterm paper: The student will write a research paper which draws from both readings and research to address the topic of food security in Jordan. This first paper should outline food security concerns at a global and regional scale, eventually centering on Jordan. The expected length is 15-25 pages.

3. Final paper: The final paper should be a logical continuation of the midterm paper. It should continue to draw from readings and research to explore the topic in further depth. The expected length will be 15-20 pages.

Assignments will be weighted as follows:

1. Biweekly Reports: 20%
2. Midterm Paper: 40%
3. Final Paper: 40%

III. Readings

Geoffrey Lawrence. *Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainability*
Alan Richards. *A Political Economy of the Middle East*
John Walton and David Seddon. *Free Markets & Food Riots*

IV. Course Outline

Food Security as a Global Concern
I. Global Food Security and Food Sovereignty
II. Food Price and Gas Inflation
III. Food Shocks: 2007-2008

Regional and Local Vulnerabilities
IV. Food Security Concerns and Vulnerability in the Middle East
V. Food Security Concerns and Vulnerability in Jordan
VI. Political Economy of the Middle East
VII. Land and Water Constraints
VIII. Food Imports, Storage and Distribution
IX. Agricultural Development
X. Household Economy and Poverty Levels

Responses to Insecurity
XI. Food Riots
XII. Food Riots
XIII. Government Food Policy
XIV. Projects and Initiatives-NGOs and the UN
V. Topics and Readings

Global Food Security and Food Sovereignty *
Week 1: September 12-16


Food Price and Gas Inflation
Week 2: September 19-23 (Report 1: Due Sept. 19)


Food Shocks: 2007-2008  
Week 3: September 26-30


Food Security Concerns and Vulnerability in the Middle East  
Week 4: October 3-7 (Report 2: Due Oct. 3)

Arab Human Development Report. 2009. *Challenges to human security in the Arab world*

IFAD, WB and FAO. 2009. *Improving food security in Arab countries*.

Food Security Concerns and Vulnerability in Jordan  
Week 5: October 10-14

FAO Country Profiles  

UNDP Jordan  
http://www.undp-jordan.org/index.php?page_type=projects&project_id=58&cat=1

Political Economy of the Middle East  
Week 6: October 17-21 (Report 3: Due Oct. 17)


Land and Water Constraints  
Week 7: October 24-28 (Midterm Paper: Due Oct. 26)


Food Imports, Storage and Distribution
*Week 8: October 31-November 4* (Report 4: Due Oct. 31)


**Agricultural Development**
*Week 9: November 7-11*


**Household Economy and Poverty Levels**
*Week 10: November 14-18* (Report 5: Due Nov. 14)


**Food Riots**
*Week 11: November 21-25*


Fraser, Evan, and Andrew Rimis. 2011. "The Psychology of Food Riots." Foreign Affairs (January 30).

Food Riots
Week 12: November 28-December 2 (Report 6: Due Nov 28)


Government Food Policy
Week 13: December 5-9


Projects and Initiatives-NGOs and the UN
Week 14: December 12-16


Final Paper Due December 22, 2011

VI. Local Resources

Local Institutions

- Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Irrigation
- Department of Statistics
- Coordination Commission for Social Solidarity
o National Centre for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE)
o Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO)
o Jordan Alliance Against Hunger (JAAH).
o UN agencies: UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, and WFP.
o High Level National Committee on Food Security
o National Agricultural Information System

Universities and Research Centers

o University of Jordan-Amman
o American University of Beirut, Environmental and Sustainable Development Unit.

Local Experts

o Mr. Issam Alqararah-Head of UNIDO Operations in Jordan
o Mr. Ali Bin Saeed Alsharhan-The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID)
o Dr. Rima Khalaf-ESCWA Executive Secretary
o Eng. Ahmer Hadidi-Minister of Industry and Trade, Jordan
o Mr. Hesham el Omari-Office of Urban Agriculture

VII. Bibliography

Readings are subject to change. Additional resources will be included as the course progresses and additional sources become available.


