

**Rutgers International Service Learning:
Empowering Turkish Women Farmers (01:959:412)**

Professor: Robin G. Brumfield, PhD Professor and Specialist in Farm Management, DAFRE	Place: Boztepe, Turkey	Dates: May 16-June 3, 2013
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Course Description:

The *Empowering Turkish Women Farmers* program is a new three-credit offering in the growing list of summer International Service Learning programs through Study Abroad. Students will help develop case studies to teach women who are running small farms to think of their farms as small businesses. The program will be coordinated with Akdeniz University in Antalya, Turkey. An integral part of the course will be observation and participation in *Suzanne's Project*, a workshop taught by Dr. Robin Brumfield, PhD and Dr. Burhan Ozkan, PhD that trains women farmers in basic business and farm management and technical production topics to equip them to maximize the efficiency and economic benefits of their farm business. Evaluations show that *Suzanne's Project* has increased the knowledge, skills, and confidence of Turkish women to manage and grow their farm businesses. Alongside regular participation in *Suzanne's Project*, students will also attend lectures and discussion sessions both before departure and in country that examine a variety of themes and topics related to the deployment of *Suzanne's Project*.

The overall learning experience will be comprised of four main parts:

- 1) A structured academic component both in country and prior to departure. This will consist of pre-departure background of the goals and purpose of *Suzanne's Project*, an introduction to basic farm management and agriculture, and an intensive beginner Turkish language course, followed in country by regular lectures and group discussions. Assessments will include required blog posts, a case study of a family farm, and regular participation in service projects.
- 2) The service portion of the program will consist primarily of observing and participating in *Suzanne's Project* workshops and developing a case study to be used in future *Suzanne's Project* classes. There will also be opportunities to assist host families on their farms to gain a sense of what life is like in a small, rural, agricultural village. There will also be opportunities arranged to teach and tutor English in the local primary school.
- 3) Homestays. During your time in Boztepe, you will stay in the home of a local family. This is designed to give you full immersion in the cultural habits and daily routines of the women in the village and their families, and to facilitate greater cross-cultural interaction through less didactic forms of educational and personal enrichment. This is also an integral part of the

global learning experience, and one for which you should prepare yourself as rigorously as the more structured aspects of the course.

- 4) Guided excursions to historical and cultural sites of interest. These group trips will take place mostly on weekends, and are not optional. The majority of this cultural component will take place on the final weekend in Istanbul. In addition to mandatory cultural excursions, there will also be a few recreational trips arranged in and around Antalya, in which students can choose to participate. ****NOTE: The excursions are mostly pre-arranged, but are subject to change at the discretion of the faculty directors (Drs. Brumfield and Ozkan).**

I. Academic assessment:

A. Development of case studies by students for business management training in Turkey by interviewing women farmers, observing and assisting with *Suzanne's Project* classes.

B. Reflection blog by students which will serve as a means of reflecting on and critically analyzing different aspects of their experience.

- a. Requirements: 5 posts per student, 500-word minimum each. Students are encouraged to include photos, videos, or other forms of multimedia that might enrich their entries.
- b. Areas of Focus:
 - i. Suzanne's Project/Classroom
 - ii. Domestic/Family life & Daily living
 - iii. Travel/Sight-seeing-Leaving the village
 - iv. Relationship to academic work at Rutgers
 - v. Overall comprehensive experience and reflections

C. Participation in group discussions and reflection sessions: defined as preparedness for discussion and active contribution to group discussions.

D. Completion of service learning activities and guided excursions.

Course Goals:

- 1) To provide a profile of a selection of women farmers in the village, to be developed into case studies for trainers to use in educating women farmers in other villages in future years.
- 2) To collect data on the attitudes and behaviors of farmers and the problems they face, i.e., are they keeping pesticide and financial records? Do they have business plans or other plans for their farms?
- 3) To foster respect, understanding, and dialogue between people from a predominately Christian country and a predominately Moslem one.
- 4) To offset the costs of our presence in Boztepe for the residents of the village with the benefits of our service and the mutual sharing of ideas, interests, and cultures.

Learning Objectives:

- 5) To understand and appreciate village life in small farming community.
- 6) To learn about the horticultural marketing system in Turkey to understand basic agricultural economics in a developing (middle income) country.
- 7) To cultivate an awareness and understanding of **global connectivity** in the sector of agriculture, and to see how the decisions we make in our local communities can affect communities around the world.
- 8) To participate in mutual sharing and unstructured cross-cultural dialogue, bridging divisions of nation, culture, religion, age, and religion, while always remaining humbly aware that we are guests in another land.
- 9) To develop a more mindful, globally aware and culturally sensitive attitude toward international travel, and to think critically about the world and our place in it.
- 10) To reflect on our service learning experiences by preparing and presenting blogs about their experiences

Course outcomes will be assessed using the following methods:

- 1) Faculty review of the case studies: 50%
- 2) Quality of student participation lectures and group discussion sessions in New Jersey and Antalya: 20%
- 3) Student reflection blog entries: 30%

Tools required:

- 1) TURKISH PHRASEBOOK / RELIABLE TURKISH-ENGLISH DICTIONARY
- 2) SAKAI: You must have an RU email account to access SAKAI.
- 3) Laptop computer: Since participants will be reading articles that have been uploaded in the RESOURCE BOX in SAKAI during your stay in Boztepe, you will need to bring a computer with you. Furthermore, you will be able to write your reflection essays at your convenience. The local primary school has internet access after 3 PM.

Other items you should bring to assist your learning and writing:

- 1) Flash drive to save and share files (pics, Word docs)
- 2) Earphones to call home on SKYPE (open an account before you leave: Free.
- 3) Flip camera and/or digital camera that can take video to enhance blogs, picture essays, and other materials you create. f. USB cable to insert camera, earphones, etc.
- 4) Cables, plugs adaptable for Turkey.

Supplementary Readings (Not required)

- 1) *Turkey: What Everyone Needs to Know* by Andrew Finkel. Finkel is a Brit who lives and works

- here as a writer so this book offers a lot about history as well as contemporary issues too.
- 2) The *Blue Guide Turkey* will give tons of historical information covering ALL historical periods.

Policies about attendance and plagiarism

- 1) Attendance is mandatory for the three-week program. In case of some emergency, you call the emergency # you will be given during our orientation on Day 1.
- 2) Regarding academic integrity: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

DATE	Orientation Weekend		
Sat 5/17	Arrive in Antalya; meet host families		
Sun 5/18	Morning: In-country orientation Afternoon: International Youth Festival at Akdeniz University		
DATE	ISL Course	Homework	Suzanne's Project
Mon 5/19	Morning: Turkish lesson at primary school Afternoon Lecture: Video of Suzanne's Project Overview of the project, and the course syllabus, the importance of a Mission Statement to empower women farmers. DISCUSSION Why is the empowerment of women in agriculture important? Evening: Welcome Dinner with Host Families and Community	Familiarize yourself with the Suzanne's Project workbook and Power Point Presentations	3:30-5:30 PM (15:30-17:30) Opening ceremony Farm Business Management Session 1: History of Suzanne's Project; Base line survey Importance of a business plan and a mission statement. Evening: Welcome Dinner with ILS Students Host Families and Community <i>HW for SP: Develop a mission statement for your farm.</i>
Tues 5/20	Morning: Students work on host families' farms Afternoon Reflection Session: What have been the most exciting parts of the experience so far? Most rewarding? Most	Develop a mission statement for your case study farm	Technical Knowledge Session 1; Alternative Production Systems; IPM in Greenhouses: Plant Protection, Biological and Biotechnical

	<p>challenging? <u>Intercultural communication: Dos and don'ts</u></p>		Methods
Wed 5/21	<p>Morning: Turkish lesson at primary school</p> <p>Afternoon Lecture: SWOT Analysis – where is your business now? Estate planning: life, health, and crop insurance</p> <p>DISCUSSION Does a farm need a SWOT Analysis and Estate Plan? Why do farmers resist developing an Estate Plan?</p>	<p>Develop a SWOT Analysis for Your Case Study Farm - Complete a Business Description, Estate Plan, and Insurance Plan for Your Farm</p>	<p>3:30-5:30 PM (15:30-17:30)</p> <p>Farm Business Management Session 2: SWOT Analysis – where is your business now? Estate planning: life, health, and crop insurance</p> <p><i>HW for SP: Develop a SWOT Analysis for Your Farm - Complete a Business Description, Estate Plan, and Insurance Plan for Your Farm</i></p>
Thurs 5/22	<p>Morning: Visit primary school English class</p> <p>Afternoon Lecture: Where does my food come from? The importance of local farming and the international slow food movement.</p> <p>DISCUSSION What are the benefits of buying locally grown goods?</p>	<p>Read (relevant article) and be prepared to discuss your opinion of the author's argument.</p>	<p>Technical Knowledge Session 2: Agriculture and environment relationship and waste pollution management, sustainable production and protection of soil and water resources, greenhouse construction and ventilation</p>
Fri 5/23	<p>Morning: Turkish lesson at primary school</p> <p>Afternoon Lecture: Management, marketing, and production plans</p> <p>DISCUSSION What marketing opportunities and different crops could farmers in Boztepe consider? Can they improve their production systems? What about pesticide safety?</p>	<p>Read (Relevant Article): How might the author's argument be applied in the context of the women in this village?</p> <p>Develop managing, marketing, and production plans for your case study farm</p> <p>First blog post due</p>	<p>Farm Business Management Session 3: Review SWOT Analysis;</p> <p>Management plan, marketing plan, production plan</p> <p><i>HW for SP: Develop managing, marketing, and production plans for your farm</i></p>

Sat 5/24	Optional trip to beach and Turkish spa		
Sun 5/25	Visit to mountains and organic restaurant and visit to Old Town Antalya		
Mon 5/26	<p>Morning: Turkish lesson at primary school</p> <p>Afternoon Lecture: Financial Statements and Financial Plans</p> <p>DISCUSSION Women traditionally keep the books on the farm, but often don't make major decisions. Can understanding financial statements help empower them?</p>	<p>Read (Relevant Articles – cost of production):</p> <p>Develop Enterprise Budgets, an Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and Cash Flow Statement for Your Case Study Farm</p>	<p>Farm Business Management Session 4 Financial Plan: Enterprise budget, income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement.</p> <p><i>HW for SP: Develop Enterprise Budgets, an Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and Cash Flow Statement for Your Farm</i></p>
Tues 5/27	<p>Morning: Visit primary school English class</p> <p>Afternoon Reflection Session: Sustainable and organic agriculture: the local and the global.</p>	<p>Read (Relevant Articles – Pros and Cons of organic agriculture):</p> <p>How might the authors' argument be applied in the context of the women in this village?</p>	<p>Technical Knowledge Session 3: Soil Productivity and Nutrition; Work Calendar and Program in Agriculture</p>
Wed 5/28	<p>Morning: Turkish lesson at primary school</p> <p>Afternoon Lecture: Women in agriculture, women in Muslim society: where do the two intersect?</p> <p>DISCUSSION Turkish Society: Women between Tradition and Modernity</p>	<p>Read (Relevant Article):</p> <p>How might the author's argument be applied in the context of the women in this village?</p>	<p>Evaluation Review Production, Marketing, Management and Financial Plans</p> <p>End of workshop survey</p> <p><i>HW for SP: Complete Suzanne's Project workbook.</i></p>
Thurs 5/29	<p>Morning: Morning: Turkish lesson at primary school</p> <p>Afternoon Reflection Session: Economies of Scale. Large farms are more efficient than small farms. Turkey has a large</p>	<p>Second blog post due</p>	<p>Closing ceremony Presentation of certificates</p>

	number of small farms. What happens to small farmers like those in Boztepe if farms in Turkey become large? What happens to the quality of food?		
Fri 5/30	Morning: Final goodbye to host families and villagers Depart Antalya to Istanbul		
Sat 5/31	Visit historical sites in Istanbul		
Sun 6/1			
Mon 6/2			
Tue 6/3	Depart for US or travel on your own in Turkey		