

CREOLE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN CURAÇAO

May Term 2009

May 12 – June 3

Application Deadline: October 15, 2008

Program Description: The program will include 3 weeks of intensive immersion in the language and culture of Curaçao. Students are exposed to a variety of people, languages, social and natural environments and experiences through classes, excursions, family stays, visits to schools, and independent projects. There will be brief oral and written assignments and an oral presentation of students' projects at the end. One semester of Papiamentu, an Afro-Portuguese/Spanish Caribbean Creole language (offered spring '09), is strongly recommended. Some background in Spanish or Portuguese or permission of instructor required. The program offers enrichment to studies in CLL, LA Studies, AAAS, and Jewish Studies.

Course: Spanish 434, 3 credit hours.

Location: Curaçao, an island in the Netherlands Antilles (southern Caribbean, just north of Venezuela.)

Faculty: Kathy Taylor, professor of Spanish and Hispanic Studies. Kathy has led the May term in Curaçao three times and has made many other trips to the island. She has done linguistic research on Papiamentu and published poetry in the language.

Living Arrangements: During the first part of the program, the group will live together in a center in Willemstad, the capital of Curaçao. During the second part, students will stay with host families on the island. The program will cover all expenses for food, housing and travel (on the island.)

Orientation: There will be three orientation meetings during the semester. Much preparation for understanding of the language and culture will happen during the Papiamentu class. (MWF 10:00) If you are interested in the program and cannot attend the class, please speak to Kathy Taylor.

Costs: The program fee is \$2200. (for 10 students, less if there are more students.) Students will be responsible for their own travel costs to and from Curaçao. Tickets average around \$600-\$700, depending on point of origin. Occasionally there are cheaper tickets, so it pays to shop around. Students will want to bring some extra money for personal needs and shopping.

Application: Applications are available in the International Programs Office in LBC.

Additional information: For more information contact Kathy Taylor in the Spanish Department (C227, x1613) or email kathyt@earlham.edu.