

THE
CRITICAL GLOBAL CLASSROOM

A JOINT PROJECT OF LATCRIT, INC., THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW &
THE INTERAMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO SCHOOL OF LAW

EMAIL: cgc@ubalt.edu WEB: law.ubalt.edu/cgc PHONE: (410) 837-6578 FAX: (410) 333-3053

A Unique Study-Abroad Program in Law, Policy and Social Justice Activism

January 31, 2006

TO: ALL FACULTY, STUDENTS and STUDENT GROUPS
FR: CRITICAL GLOBAL CLASSROOM PROGRAM

As students and faculty settle into the spring semester, the time for summer planning draws nearer and nearer. We therefore write you again now, asking that you please post the enclosed materials, and otherwise help us with outreach on your campus, to ensure that interested students at your school are able to take advantage of the 2006 Critical Global Classroom study-abroad program (CGC). Last year we did not offer the CGC so that we could re-structure the curriculum and faculty for this year's CGC, and thus ensure a cutting-edge program focused on international law, critical theory and social activism. As a result, we are especially proud to offer this unique opportunity to students across the country seriously interested in a rigorous, hands-on opportunity to study law and society with likeminded students and faculty. In addition, the CGC is the only study-abroad program in law with this specific substantive focus, and it offers up to eight academic credits toward graduation from a U.S. law school at an extremely cost-effective rate. Please take a moment now to review the enclosed materials, and please post or circulate them as you think best, to timely reach the students at your institution most likely to benefit from this unique opportunity in summer 2006.

Sincerely,
Frank Valdes
For the Critical Global Classroom

THE CRITICAL GLOBAL CLASSROOM: OUTLINE OF HIGHLIGHTS

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This brief Outline highlights five important features of the CGC program to help convey its unique benefits to social justice-minded students and others interested in studying abroad with likeminded faculty and peers:

1. The Focus: Social Justice Activism in Critical and Global Perspective.

The CGC is the only study-abroad law program in the world geared specifically to social justice activism and legal reform from local, regional and transnational perspectives – a unique benefit for students interested in social justice, legal reform, critical theory and international law. This social justice focus is ensured by an integrated curriculum that combines experiential and participatory learning with traditional methods and critical theory to ensure both a practical and theoretical grounding. The social justice substance and structure of the CGC are designed to present a rigorous, hands-on and cross-disciplinary education in the academic safety of likeminded faculty and students.

2. Practical Benefits: Up to Eight Academic Credits and Low Comparative Cost.

The CGC also offers up to 8 (eight) academic credits, which can aid students in two ways: (a) it provides the flexibility for CGC graduates to take reduced academic loads afterward, which in turn allows time for local clerking or similar opportunities and (b) it opens the possibility of early graduation, which some students may accomplish with advance planning at their home institutions. Additionally, the total cost of these credits – including lodging and all program events during 40 days/nights abroad – is less than on-campus credits at many law schools in the United States. The CGC presents a high-value AND cost-effective educational opportunity.

3. The Academic Menu: Unique and Varied, Complete and Convenient.

The CGC additionally travels to multiple destinations in the global South America to enhance the lived experience of comparative studies, and incorporates a four-day weekly class schedule (with “Free Fridays”) to accommodate students’ interest in other travel opportunities. All CGC activities are conducted conveniently on-site at well-located and comfortable hotels or nearby universities. All instruction is in English, and course materials are provided in advance. The CGC academic menu is paced, innovative, self-contained AND very convenient.

4. Building Networks of Critical Knowledge: The International and Comparative Law Colloquium.

The CGC also is the only study-abroad law program that assembles a colloquium of international, interdisciplinary scholars and activists as part of the formal curriculum. This Colloquium, organized by LatCrit scholars, exposes students to critical thinking during a two-day series of interactive events while also aiming to cultivate critical connections and relationships that will endure beyond the program and help to expand critical networks of knowledge.

5. Making the Most of Time: Splitting the Summer.

Finally, the CGC academic calendar commences in the last week of June and concludes in early August, enabling students to “split” their summer, which accommodates students’ interest in clerkships, internships and other opportunities. This scheduling is designed to encourage CGC students to make the most of their time in professional and personal terms.

Please use and circulate these “talking points” to all interested students – CGC enrollment ends on April 17, 2006, but availability is limited, so we encourage early student enrollment ... THANK YOU VERY MUCH for helping your students learn of, and act upon, this unique opportunity for a social justice legal education!!!!

THE CRITICAL GLOBAL CLASSROOM: INFORMATION SHEET

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Why Puerto Rico? Why Brazil? Why Argentina? Why Chile?

HERE'S WHY!

Barely a generation ago, Chile, Argentina and Brazil experienced militarized neocolonial governments waging brutal wars against defenseless populations clamoring for self determination. Abusing the power of Law to wage state terror and then to pardon themselves for it, during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s the ruling elites of those three nations "disappeared" thousands and traumatized millions with righteousness and impunity. In the meantime, Puerto Rico has remained a colonized island nation, denied the right of self-determination while still ruled from afar by northern elites. But by the 1990s, the human rights movements that these spawned in these locales had become key pivots in worldwide efforts to establish an international human rights legal culture. Events in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Puerto Rico and other locales of the global South thus have sparked pointedly comparative questions among critical global thinkers everywhere regarding international law and relations. What overarching lessons for human rights struggles should activists, policymakers, lawyers and others draw from the local experiences still unfolding in South America and other locales of the global South? What cautionary lessons might they counsel to the North, whose people live under the lengthening shadows of new "wars" without any certain foe or seeming end? Shall the recent history of the South become the future fate of the North?

The Critical Global Classroom (CGC) is a six-week study-abroad program in law, policy and social justice activism designed to help students from any discipline to develop independent answers to these and similar questions. The CGC is a rigorous, hands-on adventure in critical global education that satisfies all academic requirements of the American Bar Association (ABA). Upon successful completion, the CGC awards up to 8 (EIGHT) academic credits toward graduation from most ABA-accredited law schools in the United States (all applicants should check their school's study-abroad and financial aid policies). The CGC is a unique educational opportunity for serious students to grapple with social justice issues among likeminded peers and faculty in societies where the future of human rights law is being forged *now*. CGC enrollment is limited; please apply soon to reserve your space. For more information, visit law.ubalt.edu/cgc.

Spearheaded by a diverse team of faculty representing each host country and the U.S., the CGC convenes in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on June 25, 2006 for the first half (three weeks) of the program, where all students will take introductory courses on critical approaches to legal theory, comparative law, and international law. The LatCrit Colloquium on International and Comparative Law will conclude this portion of the CGC program. Then, with this foundational knowledge as a common baseline, students will travel to one of two sites for the second half (three weeks) of the program based on their self-selected enrollment choices. The first of these two concurrent sites during the program's second half will be Argentina and Chile, together, and the second will be Brazil. At both of these sites, students during the second half of the program will focus on the application of the baseline knowledge to the local conditions and communities. The CGC academic menu is an innovative mix of learning experiences using varied tools and methods to study law and policy both "in action" and in theory, as well as from a critical, comparative and cross-disciplinary perspective. Designed synergistically as one whole, the CGC curriculum aims to empower students from anywhere and everywhere to become local agents of global justice. Don't delay! Help spread the word at your school and visit our website to download and application: act now to join us in the CGC 2006!

2006 CRITICAL GLOBAL CLASSROOM

June 25-August 5, 2006

CGC 2006 STUDENT ENROLLMENT & APPLICATION FORM

Please attach the following **THREE** required items: (1) Your Personal Statement (of 500 words or less - see below)*; (2) Your Official Current Transcript OR Official Letter of Good Standing from your Current Home School; (3) the CGC registration fee of \$395.

Final Due Date for All CGC 2006 Applications: April 17, 2006

Please Print Clearly:

Full Name	
Social Security Number	
Gender	
Birth Date	
Present Mailing Address	
Address Valid Until	(date)
E-Mail Address/es	
Telephone	(home)
	(mobile)
Permanent Mailing Address	
Emergency Contact in the United States	Name
	Address
	Home Telephone
	Work Telephone
	Mobile Phone
Current School and Contact Information	

*Your Personal Statement should be a substantive explication of the ways in which you think the CGC will complement your legal education, extra-curricular activities, community activism and/or professional plans.

2006 CRITICAL GLOBAL CLASSROOM

June 25-August 5, 2006

CGC 2006 STUDENT ENROLLMENT & APPLICATION FORM

Please attach the following THREE required items: (1) Your Personal Statement (of 500 words or less - see below)*; (2) Your Official Current Transcript OR Official Letter of Good Standing from your Current Home School; (3) the CGC registration fee of \$395.

Final Due Date for All CGC 2006 Applications: April 17, 2006

1. FINANCIAL AID: I plan to apply for a student loan (U.S. students only).

_____ YES _____ NO

University of Baltimore Students Only: I plan to apply my scholarship towards the tuition portion only.

_____ YES _____ NO

If yes, name of scholarship: _____

2. While the first half of the CGC takes place in San Juan, Puerto Rico, each student may enroll in one of two options for the second half. Please mark your choice below. Due to contractual limitations, all choices are final.

_____ Brazil _____ Argentina and Chile

3. Do you wish to enroll in the elective course scheduled for the second half of the program at the location you chose in response to Question 2?

_____ YES _____ NO

4. I certify that I meet the CGC admission requirements and I will advise the CGC of any changes in status. Upon the program's completion, I request that the CGC send a copy of my transcript to the school I have listed on my transcript request form, when my final CGC grades have been recorded.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

5. The CRITICAL GLOBAL CLASSROOM will provide REGISTERED students with the names and addresses of all students. If you wish to be omitted, please check here.

WHEN COMPLETED, RETURN THIS FORM PROMPTLY TO:

CRITICAL GLOBAL CLASSROOM 2006

University of Baltimore School of Law

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Baltimore, MD 21201-5779

Voice: 410-837-6578

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Professor Morad Eghbal (meghbal@ubalt.edu)

Please retain a copy of both sides of this form for your records.