

# EMPOWERING CHILDREN IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*SOC 4396 - Special Topics in Sociology: Intercultural relations, education and community engagement in sociological practice (3 credit hours)*

## What to expect through this Service Learning Program

### MEANINGFUL SERVICE

Working side by side with locals, you'll gain insight into the challenges they face and build lasting solutions to help empower the community.

#### Projects include:

- Tutoring local students in English
- Educating community members about local health issues
- Mentoring children in the community through afterschool activities and programs

### CULTURAL IMMERSION

Live in the communities you serve—celebrating customs and forming lasting connections with locals.

#### Activities include:

- Exploring a tropical beach where local marine and plant life abound
- Visiting a mangrove forest and learning about conversation efforts
- Practicing Spanish with locals

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Your Field Director takes your global service experience even further, developing and strengthening leadership skills through activities and workshops.

#### Exercises include:

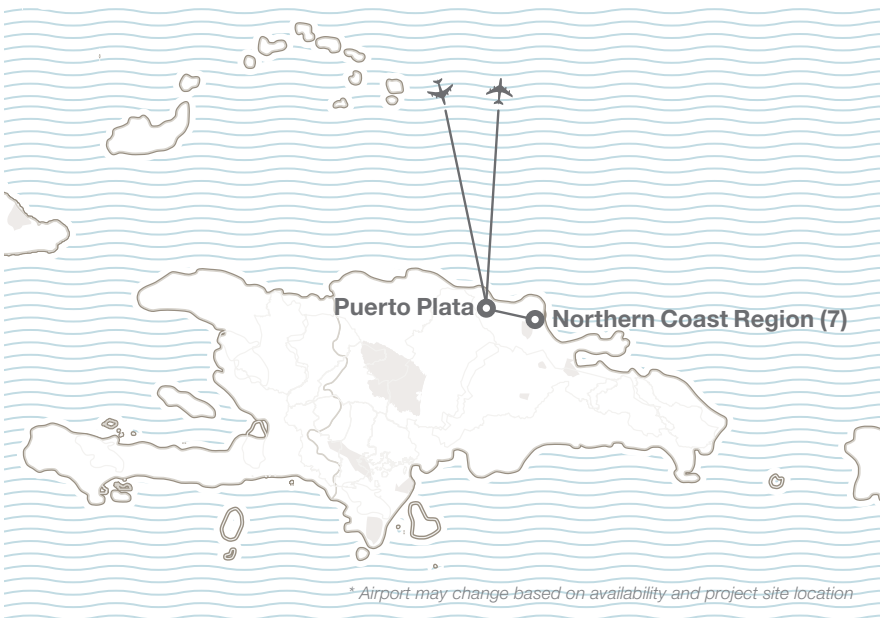
- Investigating global issues, exploring social justice and building leadership skills in expert-led workshops
- Contextualizing the day's events through thoughtful discussion and group dialogue
- Reflective journaling to deepen the service experience



Local students enjoy some afternoon games before diving back into their schoolwork



Painting a mural is always easier when you have help from local kids



\* Airport may change based on availability and project site location



Students and local kids team up for a battle of dominoes

## Faculty Led Study Abroad with

**Dr. Sheryl Skaggs**

**Course dates: May 10, 2018 - June 15, 2018**

**(Service learning travel from May 28 - June 4)**

### 8-DAY ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Arrive in Puerto Plata

Meet your Field Director at the airport. After you arrive at your accommodations, settle in and meet your group for the country orientation and safety overview.

#### Days 2-6: Service Project—Northern Coast Region

As communities evolve so do their needs. That's why we work closely with non-profits to better understand the local challenges. Since projects are determined closer to your actual program date, here's a glimpse at what a typical day might look like.

- Each morning, begin your service project with children in a nearby village.
- Spend afternoons immersed in cultural activities.
- Evenings are a chance to reflect, discuss events as a group, and draw connections between the day's work and relevant global issues.

#### Day 7: Mangrove tour or hike

- Explore a mangrove forest by boat with your expert local tour guide or take a guided hike on the beautiful north coast.

#### Day 8: Depart for home



### LOCAL INSIGHT AND SUPPORT

Your bilingual Field Director deepens your connection to the land, people and culture. With local perspective on community challenges and skilled training in service leadership, they'll provide insight and global context, as they:

- Lead skill-building workshops and meaningful group reflections
- Connect you with local non-profits and nearby villages
- Facilitate group orientation and safety training
- Handle all on-tour details, from meals to transportation

## For additional information contact

**Dr. Skaggs**

**[slskaggs@utdallas.edu](mailto:slskaggs@utdallas.edu)**



**Travel Includes:** 7 night stays in hotels; Round-trip flights on major carriers; Daily breakfast, lunch and dinner; Local ground transportation; Full-time Field Director; Sustainable service projects; Service hours that count towards academic credit; Sightseeing tours led by expert guides.