Do you have foreign policy experience?

Foreign policy has and continues to be an important issue in this year’s historic presidential election. We have candidates who each bring unique experiences to the table. John McCain, a former military man and a senior senator considers himself an expert on foreign policy. Barack Obama, an African-American who has lived abroad, considers himself a candidate who will change the way the US interacts with the rest of the world.

Considering the US is involved in two wars, nuclear weapons are possibly being developed by some of our foreign neighbors, and the nation is in the midst of an economic crises that poses a threat to the economies all over the world, American voters have to make a crucial and wise decision this November. Though there are many issues to vote on, it is unmistakable that foreign policy is crucial for this year’s candidates.

My question for you, students of the FLL department, is “Are you gaining foreign policy experience during your time at SPU?” Are you diving into your classes? Are you learning to approach the world through the lens of another culture? Are you taking advantage of the study abroad opportunities that SPU offers? Are you engaging the diversity that can be found right out side our doorstep here in Seattle? Remember one in five Seattle residents was born in a foreign country!

A true foreign policy expert is not someone who simply knows the facts, or the major players involved, or the historical context (though those are all vitally important). But it is someone who can move beyond data into empathy: Identification with and understanding of another's situation, feelings, and motives. To empathize is to move away from simply an us versus them mentality, into the more nuanced and complex social reality that encompasses our world today. It is to not simply label the actions of a foreign entity as good or bad, but it is to truly question and pursue the motivation behind the actions. Furthermore, it is to be open to a reciprocal relationality where both sides must be vulnerable.

May your time at SPU this year expand your foreign policy experience.

-Jordan Rickard, FLL Assistant

A message from the Chair

Welcome back to another academic year of learning and growth. I hope that your summer experiences have re-energized you for the year ahead. Seniors, if you have not done so already, please meet with your advisor to firm up your plans for your Symposium Presentation on February 25th, 2009. Also, please make sure you have room in your schedule for the appropriate capstone course for your major. May almighty God bless and preserve us, all who learn and all who teach, in the name of his Son, our great Teacher, Jesus Christ.

Thanks,

Owen Ewald, FLL Chair
Where to begin? It hardly seemed like a summer except for the thankfully few days of heat we had in early August.

I had three books roll off the presses with McGraw-Hill’s Tradebook Division. Each one deals with a special area of Spanish grammar that is particularly vexing for intermediate and even advanced students. They are all part of a series they envisioned in the late summer of 2006, called Practice Makes Perfect. One book deals with every aspect of the subjunctive in modern Spanish, another with the pronoun system and the third deals with all the past tenses. So if you have problems with any of these areas of Spanish, these are economical ways to focus on them and solve your problems. A fourth book is in progress—a phrase book for tourists (but it’s not for real students of Spanish!).

Besides that, I have been busy with some interesting consulting work with two internet ventures dealing with foreign language and translation. One project involves creating an online textbook of Spanish, for free, with exercises. I recommend the site to you, even though the items have not been organized yet (still in Beta phase). Once you surf to the homepage, go to Language & Technology, then to the Language & Culture Channel. Nothing to buy, just surf it.

For relaxation, in July, my daughter and I took the sleeper car on an Amtrak train and had a blast in San Francisco. In mid September, just after Faculty Retreat at Camp Casey, she and I went to Victoria for some last-minute R&R and some whale watching.

Other than that, I spent my Saturdays weeding a very stubborn yard, but I’m finally winning the war, 100 square feet at a time.

-Dr. Eric Vogt

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Dr. MacDonald writes for the Seattle Times

Check out two insightful articles that Dr. MacDonald wrote for the Seattle Times this summer on the changing landscape of Europe.

Europe’s Messy March to a More Perfect Union: Part 1.

Europe’s Messy March to a More Perfect Union: Part 2.
Europe and the Imagination: Spain,

This quarter will spotlight the harnessing of imagination across Western Europe in art, architecture, literature, philosophy, political science, economics, and religion. A special feature of this quarter will be the study of European women writers such as Santa Teresa de Jesus or Hildegard von Bingen, Simone de Beauvoir, etc.

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- GER 1100, 2100, 3100 (2)
- FRE 1100, 2100, 3100 (1)
- EUR 4920 (1-2)

*Required Courses

Dates: March 31st—June 7, 2009. The first 34 days will be in Spain and France. The second 34 days will be spent in Germany.

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED!!!!!!!

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