

Greece: Service-Learning in Support of a Humanitarian Crisis

May 26 – June 9, 2018

The Course: SOC-115 Social Problems (3 credits)

Since the Balkan route from Greece to northern Europe was shut down in March after the arrival of a million migrants and refugees, around 57,000 people have been stranded in Greece. In response to this humanitarian crisis, Cross-Cultural Solutions is operating a refugee volunteer program starting in 2017 to support vulnerable children, women, and residents of camps in Greece. Volunteers will be working on one of the projects of most need at the camp which at this moment is the CCS Distribution Center. The social problems course will help students recognize local and international social problems contributing to and arising from the Syrian refugee crisis in Greece and, more broadly, the EU, including origins of the crisis, factors exacerbating the crisis for the refugees, themselves, as well as how the displacement is impacting Greece as the host country.

The Destination: Chalkida Greece and Syrian Refugee Camp

Your home base in Greece is just a 15-minute drive from the refugee camps where you'll be working. In the town of Chalkida, the capital of Evia, you'll find a welcoming town filled with small shops, museums, and historical sites. The town enjoys a promenade, delicious authentic Greek restaurants, and a nearby beach within driving distance. In Chalkida, you'll find plenty of opportunities to immerse yourself in Greek life as you straddle two cultures between the town of Chalkida and the nearby refugee camps.

“The distribution center is a vital part of Ritsona. We supply all of the basic living essentials for the camp residents. Therefore, it is important that we have staff there every day of the week, and that we continuously check in on and update our inventory. But more than just providing supplies, volunteers in the distribution center also form close bonds with members of the Ritsona community, and maintaining these friendships and interacting with residents on a daily basis are perhaps just as important as providing milk, water, and other basic supplies.”

-Megan Heise, CCS Greece volunteer

The Experience Highlights:

- Service-learning experience with Syrian refugees working alongside non-governmental organizations (NGO)s on the ground, many who have been with the camps since their inception.
- Gain a deeper understanding of the lives and experiences of the world and Iowa's refugee population
- During your free-time explore the beauty and culture of Greece



Estimated Program Fee: \$3,950
\$1,000 Global Advantage Scholarship available!

Includes:

Airfare
Housing
Most Meals
Health Insurance
Most In-Country Transit

Does not include:

Tuition: 3 summer credits
Passport Fee
Personal Expenses

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Tentative Program Itinerary:

- **Saturday, May 26 (Day 1):**
Arrive in Greece, Meet rest team over dinner
- **Sunday, May 27 (Day 2):**
CCS staff conduct our training for working in the refugee camp
- **Monday, May 28 – Friday, June 1 (Day 3-7):**
Volunteer in camp from approximately 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and team dinner and meeting each night
- **Saturday, June 2 – Sunday, June 3 (Day 8-9):** Optional Cultural Excursion or free time in Chalkida
- **Monday, June 4 – Friday, June 8 (Day 10-14):**
Volunteer in camp from approximately 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and team dinner and meeting each night
- **Saturday, June 9 (Day 15):** Depart to USA



Faculty Contact:

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