BRINGING STUDY ABROAD INTO THE POLITICAL SCIENCE CLASSROOM

Rachel L. Ellett, Pablo Toral and Daniel Zipse

Department of Political Science
Beloit College,
700 College St.,
Beloit, WI 53511
ellettr@beloit.edu
Individual Student Benefits

- Allows for personal and academic reflection on their experiences
- Integrating experiences into an intellectual framework better prepares them for ‘reentry’
- Allows them to ‘share’
- Gives them specific tasks or goals to accomplish relative to their Beloit curriculum
- Student ownership of topic
Classroom Benefits

- Goal is to integrate theory and real life. Students provide up to date real world examples with personal experiences
- Peer teaching: Pedagogically important to encourage student-to-student interaction and learning
- Fun – one more way to break up class time
Institutional Benefits

- Recruitment: Serves as a formidable advertisement for study abroad
- No start up costs, but seemingly high benefits
- Building imagined communities
- Bringing international to campus
- Placing Liberal Arts in Practice
Stages of Integration

1. Pre-departure advising
2. Study abroad/fieldwork
3. Return post-arrival
Blogging


http://elsurglobal.blogspot.com/

http://turtleview.wordpress.com/
Skyping from Argentina
Challenges

- Student participation in and outside classroom
- Scheduling
- Faculty time
- Advising: Thoroughly prepping students at home and in the field
- Faculty flexibility on classroom topics/assignment
- Faculty time
- Faculty control
- Technology is good but not perfect