

International House Living/Learning Community

LEARNING CONTRACT 2014-2015

International House is a living/learning community that engages domestic and international students in a variety of leadership and learning opportunities. These activities will help individuals appreciate world cultures (including their own), and as a community students will be expected to support intercultural and international events on campus in a variety of ways. Students will serve as key players in TCNJ's efforts to prepare students to become global citizens in the 21st century.

LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Through your active participation in the 2014-2015 International House living and learning community, you will achieve the following:

GOALS

Academic content goals:

- Be able to define culture and intercultural communication and know how to identify the concepts in a given society.
- Be familiar with intercultural communication and identity theories and understand how they apply in different cultures
- Lead at least one I-House meeting introducing cultural aspects from their own culture and experiences
- Improve organizational skills to realize goals
- Explore how to reach out to the TCNJ community and create an event related to culture and global awareness

Organizational development goals:

- Develop skills in team building which allow you to effectively work with others
- Improve your knowledge of and experience in intercultural communication
- Develop your knowledge of analyzing and understanding culture
- Develop your knowledge of social change and how it can be affected

Community development goals:

- Participate in community service event
- Engage in conversations regarding day-to-day living in various cultures
- Develop skills for holding self and others accountable when involved in non-hierarchical relationships

OBJECTIVES

Fall Semester

- Learn about the concepts of team building, culture, identity and intercultural communication
- Host a movie night or article discussion pertaining to a particular culture or current events.
- Groups of students host an I-House meeting in the format given (will be laid out in curriculum)

Spring Semester

- Continue to develop team-building, international communication, and cultural knowledge as students work in groups and in conjunction with various local (campus, community, etc.) constituencies

EVALUATION & ASSESSMENT

- Attendance will be taken
- Reflection papers
- Active participation in formal I-House meetings and workshops
- Active collaboration in the creation of activities for I-House residents to take part in
- Pre and Post surveys (Qualtrics) to assess intercultural knowledge and to ensure that the I-House is achieving its goals

EXPECTATIONS

In order to achieve these objectives, the following are *minimal* expectations for students living in this living/learning community:

- Active participation in **bi-weekly** I-House gatherings. These gatherings will be scheduled for a two-hour time slot at which everyone can participate.
 - Working in a small group to plan and lead at least one I-House meeting to explore cultural values and/or other interests
- Committing the time needed to bond with others in the community and achieve the academic goals identified earlier in this document.
- Participating in **at least one** international event on campus per semester.
- Pass IDS 110 course (see below), uphold the student conduct code, and *A Guide to Residence Living*. Your status of I-House residency will be evaluated after each semester according to the grade you earn in the course and your student conduct record. You may be removed from I-House if you receive a “U” grade or have pending termination of housing in your student conduct record.

GRADING

IDS 110 is a Pass/Fail course. While you will not receive a letter grade at the end of the semester, determination of your final Pass/Fail assignment is based on your attendance at all mandatory events and workshops listed above (Orientation, all ICC Workshops, and Culture Nights, Community Service event, and the Reflection Dinner) as well as the successful completion of all the above required assignments. Failure to attend all sessions and complete all assignments may result in a “U” grade on the student’s transcript, as stated on the attached “Learning Contract” which all registered students have agreed to and signed upon registration in the course. Please refer to the IDS 110 syllabus for requirement to complete the course.

CALENDAR

August orientation: Participate in new international student orientation as defined by the College, Signup for programming responsibilities

September: Community Service, ICC workshop and Cultural nights

October: Programming schedule finalized with all residents

November to end of semester:

- Ensure selected programmatic goals are complete and documented
- Actively participate in activities during International Education Week
- Formal opportunity for feedback on the International House and a review of responsibilities with house advisors
- Begin scheduling spring semester programming initiatives with the house advisors

SIGNATURE

By signing this contract, I agree to work toward realizing the expectations outlined in this learning contract and participate actively in International House events in the 2014-2015 academic year. Please note that the continuance of the International House is contingent on demand and space available.

Printed Name

Signature

Date