



The Arts and Activism: Trinidad and Tobago Mosaic Spring 2015

Students from all majors are invited to apply to the full semester Trinidad and Tobago Festival Arts Mosaic. The Mosaic integrates a three-week research trip (January 29th - February 21st) to the twin island nation of Trinidad and Tobago. During this mosaic, students will be introduced to the history of the Caribbean region, its politics, culture and economies. Focusing intensively on one ethnographic site, the mosaic examines visual, musical, and expressive arts and their role in the postcolonial politics as experienced and performed by citizens, returning migrants, and visitors to this independent Caribbean state. Students will be challenged to consider the role of the arts in the politics of the nation and its diaspora. The mosaic offers a comparative view of Caribbean cultural life, spending time in the heavily industrialized, ethnically plural island of Trinidad as well as the more pastoral, tourist-oriented, ethnically homogenous island of Tobago. Through readings, lectures, site visits, participant observation, interviews, and hands-on artistic production (via internships), students will develop their knowledge of the region and explore the nature of the relationship between the arts, socio-cultural development and sustainability, identity politics, and economics. In addition, we will investigate the influence of local activities on migrant populations who return to the Caribbean to partake in festivals and significant cultural moments, as well as the transnational movement of these artistic practices. There will be a program fee. For more information contact Prof. Jerry Philogene (American Studies) at philogej@dickinson.edu and/or Prof. Patricia van Leeuwen Moonsammy (Africana Studies) at moonsamp@dickinson.edu