MLC 110: Self-Directed Language Learning I

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Office Hours: 11:00 – 12:00 TR; 3:30 – 5:00 WF and by appointment

Class Meetings: There are no class meetings for this course. However, students are expected to attend two 50-minute practice sessions with their SDLAP Language Partner each week. Those sessions will begin in the second week of class. Dr. Scinicariello will also schedule periodic meetings with each student to give feedback on their portfolios and assess the student's progress.

Course Materials: Students identify the learning materials they need based on their own learning goals and plans. The Global Studio does have a collection of resources for student use. A list of these resources will be available through the SDLAP Ning/SDLAP Wiki. *Students who identify resources to be acquired by the Global Studio or the Library should e-mail sscinica@richmond.edu.*

Important Dates: There will be a mid-term assessment of your learning **in March**. A final assessment will take place during the final exam period. **All coursework is due 5 p.m. Friday, April 23.**

Course Goals: The primary goal of this course is to develop your skills in reading, writing, and speaking a language in an appropriate cultural context. To do this, you will practice the skills of a self-directed language learner that you are learning in MLC 105. You will also investigate the history of the language and the culture of the areas in which your language is used. Because technology provides a wealth of resources for both language learning and cultural exploration, you are also expected to learn how to use some of these resources effectively.

Course Organization: You are expected to spend 10 – 14 hours each week working on the tasks for this course. How you spend your time depends on your specific learning goals, but here is a suggested plan:

2 hours: required practice sessions with Language Partner
7 - 9 hours: language learning activities, including preparation for practice sessions
1- 3 hours: reflection on learning and progress; evaluation of available learning resources, exploration of the history and culture of the language

Weekly Assignments: Each week students must report on their language-learning activities and on their meetings with their language partners using the forms on the SDLAP Wiki (accessible through the SDLAP Ning). They reflect upon their learning as part of their learning journals for MLC 105. In addition, students are expected to create an 'artifact' or complete a

cultural blog posting each week. A suggested calendar will be posted by January 18; students will then incorporate these activities into their learning plans.

Culture Project: Students must complete a research-based project on one cultural topic. For novice language learners, there is no expectation that the research will be conducted in the target language. However, students are expected to incorporate 10 – 20 words and expressions from the target language that are relevant to the topic. Students beyond the novice level will work with Dr. Scinicariello to determine appropriate language-learning goals for their projects.

Students will identify their topic by the mid-point of the semester and incorporate progress toward the completion of the project in their weekly learning plans.

Students will share their cultural projects through brief presentations to the students of MLC 105 during the last week of classes.

Course Grades: Students will be evaluated through (A) their electronic portfolio, which will include (1) the learning plans developed in MLC 105, (2) the record of their meetings with their learning partner, (3) at least 8 blog postings on the culture of an area where the language is used, and (4) at least four task-based 'artifacts' which document their progress toward achieving their goals, (5) a research-based cultural project, and (B) an evaluation of their progress in the language by an outside evaluator.