



## Visiting Dominican Republic, Virtually

EDUO 9964, 2 – 3 Semester Credits/Units

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### Course Syllabus

#### Course Overview

Experience the Dominican Republic without the costs or time of in-person travel. Study history, geography, economics, and culture through web-based articles. There are no required texts or locations. The entire course is online and self-paced. Explore interesting facets of the most diverse country in the Caribbean. Study the country from economic, geographic, and historic perspectives in order to understand its touristic importance. Develop an ad campaign highlighting the Dominican Republic's culture, history and geography. There is a required text only for the 3-Credit/Unit option, *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez.

#### Course Objectives:

Students will present:

1. Evidence of having studied the country through historic, geographic, and economic articles.
2. Information and knowledge learned from the articles and videos.
3. Three classroom lessons that were planned using the knowledge learned from this course.
4. The common core standards achieved in objective # 3 above.

#### Course Relation to CCS or other Professional Standards:

By submitting three lesson plans based on the knowledge obtained from this course, professionals are relating their learning to:

- NBPTS Proposition 2: Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.
- The standards that they choose for each lesson will be individually determined based on the specific lesson, student need, and the state in which the lesson is taught.

#### Assignments 1-8 (2 units) Assignment 9 (1 additional unit)

1. Pre-trip Summary (1, a)
  - a. Write a single page letter to the editor of a travel magazine asking them to publish the Dominican Republic. Explain in your letter what you already know, what you think you know, and what you would like to learn about the DR.
2. A summary of Dominican Republic History (2, c-d)
  - a. Read Article One A - [Dominican Republic's Country Profile](#)
  - b. Read Article One B - [Dominican Republic's Historical Timeline](#).
  - c. Use your personal interests to conduct individualized research into Dominican history. List the resources you found on the required summary in part d below.

- d. To your surprise, the travel magazine has tasked you with writing the articles you asked about. Using the information above, write a single page summary of what you learned. Base your article around the following question: In your opinion, which aspects of the Dominican Republic's history most contribute to its current political situation?

3. Tour Map (3, d-e)

- a. Read Article Two - [Dominican Republic - Geography](#)
- b. Read Article Three - [Hispaniola - A People Divided](#)
- c. Read Article Four - [Top Dominican Republic Attractions](#)
- d. Write a one-page article for the travel magazine aimed at an audience who has never traveled to the Dominican Republic. The magazine has asked you to write a piece titled 'Two Weeks in the DR' and to offer two different, but detailed, itineraries for travelers
- e. Design a map to accompany your travel article. Draw/create the outline of the country and label at least twenty (20) landmarks including cities, geographic features, landmarks, etc. Don't forget to highlight the suggested itineraries from your article. The map may be created manually or using any online tool, such as Google Earth.

4. Economic Summary (4, c-d)

- a. Read Article Five - [Heritage Foundation - Dominican Republic](#)
- b. Read Article Six - [Dominican Republic - Economy](#)
- c. Use your own interests to conduct personalized research into the DR's economy. List the resources you found in the summary below.
- d. The travel magazine has, once again, asked you to write an article about the Dominican Republic. This one is about the economy. Write a 500-word article based on the following questions: *What are the main sectors of the DR's economy? Which are the most stable? Which are the least stable? Could the DR survive without tourism dollars? Explain and justify your responses.*

5. Cultural Postcard (5, f)

- a. Read Article Seven - [Dominican Republic - Gastronomy](#)
- b. Read Article Eight - [Dominican Republic - Cuisine](#)
- c. Read Article Nine - [Dominican Republic - Cultural Etiquette](#)
- d. Read Article Ten - [Dominican Republic - Carnival](#)
- e. Read Article Eleven - [Dominican Republic - Baseball](#)
- f. The magazine is asking for an article about Dominican culture. Choose your preferred theme - food and cuisine, Carnival, etiquette, *pelota*, or a combination – and write a two-page article using your new cultural knowledge and competence. Pretending that you have spent time in Dominican, add a descriptive personal anecdote such as: Did you ever make a cultural faux pas? Was there an aspect of the cuisine you did, or didn't like? What surprised you about Dominican culture? What did you find that was similar to or at odds with your own culture?

6. Tourism Advertisement (6, a-b)
  - a. Browse: [Dominican Republic's Tourism Website](#) There is so much to explore!
  - b. That travel magazine is calling again. This time they want you to design a spread that encourages tourism. Design an article or advertisement highlighting and describing key aspects of the DR's economy, geography, history, culture, etc. You must include:
    - i. a catchy title or slogan
    - ii. demonstration of specific knowledge learned in activities 2-5
      1. How does Dominican history contribute to its popularity with tourists?
      2. What about its geography makes the Dominican Republic such a desirable destination?
      3. How does Dominican culture support the country as a tourist destination?
    - iii. a minimum of eight (8) visuals
    - iv. a convincing closing. *Why should a tourist travel to the Dominican Republic?*
7. Post-trip Summary (7, a)
  - a. Think about what you have learned during this virtual trip and reflect on what you have not learned. Considering the following questions, write and submit a one-page reflection: *What is lacking by taking this trip virtually rather than in person? Which aspects of a country can you only experience in-person?*
8. Lesson Plans (8, a-b)
  - a. Submit three dynamic lesson plans demonstrating incorporation of knowledge from this course into your classroom.
  - b. List and describe how your lessons incorporate National Standards in your state.
9. **Additional One Credit** (9, a-c)
  - a. Research the Dominican Republic's Trujillo Era in sufficient detail to compare/contrast fact with fiction.
  - b. Read [In the Time of the Butterflies](#) by Julia Alvarez available [here on Amazon](#) or borrowed from your local library. It is also an excellent movie!
  - c. Using the following questions as a guide, write a three-page single-spaced reflection comparing and contrasting how the novel, [In the Time of the Butterflies](#), mirrors the real story of *las mariposas* during Trujillo's regime.
    - i. Conflict: What is the conflict between the Mirabal sisters and Trujillo and his government?
    - ii. Context: What underlying forces paved the way for the *mariposas* to partake in the subterfuge that eventually got them killed?
    - iii. Cause: What was the immediate cause of the conflict? Were there other, more subtle causes?
    - iv. Characters: Who were the main players of the conflict and what roles did they play? Did you feel sympathetic towards Trujillo or his government?
    - v. Course: What events led to the resolution or end of this conflict? Was it resolved?
    - vi. Conclusion: What was the ultimate conclusion? Is there anything about this conclusion that can help us to understand later historical events in the Dominican Republic?
    - vii. Consequences: What happened as a result of the conclusion of this event?

## Course Assessment Rubric

EXCELLENT	ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE
Meets or Exceeds Course Objectives: <b>A to A-</b>	Majority of Work Meets Course Objectives; <b>B+ to B-</b>	Needs Considerable Improvement: Resubmit Work Suggested: <b>C or below</b>
All work submitted reflects in-depth understanding of course objectives.	Most work submitted reflects in-depth understanding of course objectives.	Work shows little or no in-depth understanding of course objectives.
Assignment responses shows evidence of new knowledge evidenced by	Most responses show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by	Responses show little to no evidence of new knowledge evidenced by
Work submitted was organized and clearly articulated.	Most work submitted was organized and clearly articulated.	Work submitted was not organized or not clearly articulated.
Assignment content and required projects were original.	Assignment content and required projects were original.	Evidence that not all assignment content and required projects were original.
Work is free of spelling and/or grammatical errors.	Work has few spelling and/or grammatical errors.	Work has numerous spelling and/or grammatical errors.

## Resources:

- a. Read Article One A - Dominican Republic Country Profile.
  - i. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-19246340>
- b. Read Article One B. - Dominican's Historical Timeline
  - i. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-19343656>
- c. Read Article Two - Dominican Republic Geography
  - i. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Dominican-Republic#ref54427>
- d. Browse each link on the website - Dominican's UNESCO World Heritage Sites
  - i. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/do>
- e. Read Article Three - Hispaniola - A People Divided
  - i. <https://www.wordsinthebucket.com/hispaniola-a-people-divided>
- f. Read Article Four - Top Dominican Republic Attractions
  - i. <https://www.planetware.com/tourist-attractions/dominican-republic-dom.htm>
- g. Read Article Five - Heritage Foundation Dominican Republic
  - i. <https://www.heritage.org/index/country/dominicanrepublic>
- h. Read Article Six - Dominican Republic's Economy
  - i. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Dominican-Republic/Demographic-trends#ref54435>
- i. Read Article Seven - Dominican Republic - Gastronomy
  - i. <https://www.godominicanrepublic.com/about-dr/gastronomy/>
- j. Read Article Eight - Dominican Republic - Cuisine
  - i. <https://www.dominicancooking.com/start>
- k. Read Article Nine - Dominican Republic - Cultural Etiquette
  - i. <https://www.commisceo-global.com/resources/country-guides/dominican-republic-guide>
- l. Read Article Ten - Dominican Republic - Carnival

- i. <https://www.barcelo.com/guia-turismo/en/dominican-republic/republica-dominicana/things-to-do/carnaval-dominicano/>
- m. Read Article Eleven - Dominican Republic - Baseball
  - i. <https://www.godominicanrepublic.com/about-dr/baseball/>
- n. Browse: [Dominican Republic's Tourism Website](#)

### **Support Resources:**

- You have 9 months to complete the course. Course questions? Contact your instructor by email.
- For questions involving your registration please contact [support@dominicanCAonline.com](mailto:support@dominicanCAonline.com) or call (800) 626-5080. To change your address, link to your Dominican Store account at [https://www.dominicanaonlinestore.com/store/index.php?main\\_page=login](https://www.dominicanaonlinestore.com/store/index.php?main_page=login)
- For Dominican Self-Guided course information, link to <http://dominicancaonline.com/Dominican-CA-Online-FAQ>