FALL SEMESTER 2007
Education in the Context of Change:
Who Gets?  Who Provides?
Ghana, West Africa
January 7-13

Accra, Ghana’s capital city is one of West Africa’s most prominent cultural, economic, and intellectual centers. Like many of the world’s commercial centers, Accra is experiencing a significant transformation. Health and economic crises, including HIV/AIDS and rural and urban poverty, the presence of foreign investors, and the availability of the internet are some of the factors having profound effects on Ghana’s youth and families.

These forces of change raise critical questions: How have emerging crises influenced discourses about who should be educated, the content of education, and the contexts in which education should occur? How are the Ghanaian government and non-governmental organizations responding to health and educational needs of Ghana’s children and youth? How are the forces of globalization shaping contemporary educational praxis?

Professor Suzanne Carothers, Department of Teaching and Learning, whose expertise is in early childhood and childhood education, and Professor Jacqueline Mattis, Department of Applied Psychology, whose expertise is in positive social and psychological development, will lead the Colloquium in an exploration of these questions.

Through visits to, and conversations with stakeholders in local HIV and health centers, schools, orphanages, and non-governmental organizations (NGO’s), and through the use of ethnographic methods, including ethnographic interviewing, field notes, and participant observation, students will craft culturally situated answers to these questions.

SPRING SEMESTER 2008
Humans and Nature
Athens, Greece
March 16-22

Climate change, habitat loss, declining biodiversity and pollution are global environmental concerns affecting the well being of human communities and the natural world. *Humans and Nature* is the theme for our ecological trip to Greece to explore connections between culture, tradition, and the environment. Under the leadership of Professor Mary Leou, who is also the Director of the NYU Wallerstein Collaborative for Urban Environmental Education, students will learn about environmental issues both here and abroad and consider the role that education plays in moving individuals and communities towards sustainable solutions. Greece provides a rich historical landscape to study the challenge of balancing economic development with sustainable practices.

Students will observe first hand how people connect and relate to nature in their own communities. We will learn about local ecology, wildlife, and efforts underway to conserve natural resources. We will also examine sustainable practices that impact on the environment in both urban and rural areas in order to create a portrait of humans and nature. Ideally we will also identify and participate in a community service project, thus actively engaging in environmental stewardship. Students will return with a heightened awareness of the impact of human activity on the environment, a better understanding of their own ecological footprint, and a sense of global citizenship.

SPRING SEMESTER 2008
Character and Culture in Film
Florence, Italy
March 16-22

“…and why should she not be transfigured (by Italy)? – It happened to the gods.
- Room With a View

Italian film and music will serve as a portal into the breadth of Italian culture, culminating in a week spent in the foothills of Florence. Home to Michelangelo’s *David*, Florence is a medieval city in the heart of sun-drenched Tuscany, interlacing history and culture through its art, architecture, religious and familial traditions.

Italian culture has been long enmeshed in America, shared for generations through its food, art, ancestral roots and the “Little Italy” of numerous American cities. However, the myriad qualities present in the works of Italian filmmakers and composers allow us a window into subtle and essential cultural unveilings: Maria Callas’ impassioned rendering of Puccini’s *O Mio Bambino Caro*; Nino Rota’s expansive ethnic treatment for *The Godfather*; the fervor of Ennio Morricone’s themes for *Cinema Paradiso*. We witness a universe of delicate beauty, religious solitude, torrid romance and vendetta. A living history is woven in the filmic tapestries of Rosellini’s *Open City*, Antonioni’s *La Notte*, and Bertolucci’s *The Conformist*.

Professor Ronald Sadoff, Department of Music and the Performing Arts Professions, whose expertise is in film scoring, leads Colloquium participants through film as the gateway for their research into Florence’s history and culture. Florence will provide its embodiment.