

Decision-Making in a Global Context (IS XXX)  
Phil Beccue  
Westmont Global Semester

GENERAL EDUCATION: COMPASSIONATE ACTION. Serving Society

This course fulfills the GE requirement, Serving Society. Students will be exposed to decision-makers from many different cultural backgrounds and in small groups will have the opportunity to have deep conversations about the connection between their business needs, values, and worldviews. They will apply decision-making tools and processes to real-world decisions of small business owners and community leaders, both learning from them and offering insights into how the local leaders' values are consistent with creative strategies and new opportunities. There will be 3-4 projects in the semester, and student groups will interact with local leaders 2-4 times within a 7-day period, so that we anticipate roughly 20 hours of service engagement time in this course. These experiences are well beyond the cultural experiences of tourists that can be isolated from the opportunities, aspirations, challenges, and frustrations of the local culture. Students will not have lectures by local guides, but rather enter into a dialogue with local business owners and political leaders about current issues they face. They will wrestle with economic challenges, environmental concerns, class discrimination, and political equity. Reflection essays will demonstrate the students grasp of other cultures and the contrast with and awareness of their own culture in the context of daily life and long-term planning.