

SIERRA LEONE



Sierra Leone: African Democracy and Socio-Economic Development

May 22 – June 7, 2010



*explore***more**

Coordinated by:
NIU Study Abroad Office
Williston Hall 417
(815) 753-0700
E-mail: niuabroad@niu.edu
Website: www.niu.edu/studyabroad

NIU Program Director:
Professor Abu Bah
Department of Sociology
(815) 753-6427
E-mail: abah@niu.edu

Sierra Leone: African Democracy and Socio-Economic Development

May 22—June 7, 2010



This program will:

- Give students a first hand experience of the economic, social and environmental challenges faced by people in Sierra Leone.
- Expose students to Africa and explore the historic link between Africa and America during the Slave Trade.
- Give students an alternative perspective on poverty and race that contrasts, and complements, the American experience.
- Expose students to the postwar reconstruction, nation building, and democratization processes in Sierra Leone.
- Broaden the awareness of students about issues of cultural diversity and global interconnectedness.

Credit Available - Undergraduate: SOCI 335, SOCI 490, SOCI 495

Graduate: SOCI 572, SOCI 590

Courses may also be taken for Honors credit.

For further information:

NIU Study Abroad Office
Williston Hall 417
DeKalb, IL 60115
Phone: (815) 753-0700
E-mail: niuabroad@niu.edu
Website: www.niu.edu/studyabroad

OR

Professor Abu Bah
Department of Sociology
Zulauf Hall 812
Phone: (815) 753-6427
E-mail: abah@niu.edu

Sierra Leone Study Abroad Program Information Sheet

Program title:	Sierra Leone: African Democracy and Socio-Economic Development
Organizers:	Northern Illinois University and University of Sierra Leone
Dates:	May 22—June 7, 2010 (May be adjusted a day or two to fit with airline schedules from Europe to Sierra Leone)
Cost per student:	\$4,175 per student Airfare from United States to Sierra Leone not included
Number of students:	14 (maximum)
Application deadline:	February 15, 2010
Admission:	First-come-first-serve basis
College credits:	Up to nine credits (undergrads) and six credits (grad students)
Courses:	Migration (SOC 355), Proseminar in Democracy and Development (SOC 495/SOC 572), and Independent Study (SOC 490/SOC 590)
Program activities:	Lectures, guest speakers, fieldtrips to organizations working on social, economic and political issues, visit to historical and cultural places, volunteer activities, and outdoor activities (beaches, forests, etc.).
Non-NIU students:	Receive credits from NIU as a visiting students (check with your advisors and international office in your home institution on how to transfer the credits. Also contact NIU study abroad office.)
Lodging:	Kimbima Hotel, Freetown
Sierra Leone information:	http://www.visitsierraleone.org/ http://www.welcometoserraleone.org http://embassyofsierraleone.net
Contacts:	NIU Study Abroad Office Williston Hall 417 DeKalb, IL 60115 Phone: (815) 753-0700 E-mail: niuabroad@niu.edu Website: www.niu.edu/studyabroad Professor Abu Bah Department of Sociology Phone: (815) 753-6427 or E-mail: abah@niu.edu

Sierra Leone: African Democracy and Socio-Economic Development

May 22 – June 7, 2010

This study abroad program is coordinated by the Northern Illinois University Study Abroad Office (SAO), in cooperation with the NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Department of Sociology.

PROGRAM DATES: The program will officially begin on May 22, 2010 in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and will end on June 7, 2010. The program dates may be modified slightly depending on the availability of flights to and from Africa. Students will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements in order to arrive in Freetown on May 21. Every effort will be made to recommend a flight plan so that students can travel together, especially from Europe to Sierra Leone.

The total program will be three weeks, with two weeks in country. There will also be one week of pre- and post-program classes combined, content and duration to be determined.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Dr. Abu Bah, Associate Professor of Sociology in the NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will serve as the program director. Dr. Bah is a citizen of the United States and Sierra Leone. He was born and raised in Sierra Leone. He did his undergraduate studies at the University of Sofia in Bulgaria and graduate studies at the New School for Social Research in New York. Dr. Bah joined NIU in 2003. His research areas include issues of democracy, nation building, ethnic conflicts, and social inequality.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW/OBJECTIVES: The primary purpose of this program is to provide participants with the opportunity to complement their education from NIU with knowledge about political, economic, and social issues in Africa.

PROGRAM SITE: The program will take place in Sierra Leone. The goal of the program is to broaden the international perspectives of NIU students by exposing them to one of the least developed countries in the world. The program will include regular classroom activities, guest lectures, and visits to local communities, civic organizations, the outdoors and historical sites.

The program will:

- Give students a first hand experience of the economic, social, and environmental challenges faced by people in Sierra Leone.

- Expose students to Africa and explore the historic link between Africa and America during the Slave Trade.
- Give students an alternative perspective on poverty and race that contrasts, and complements, the American experience.
- Expose students to the postwar reconstruction, nation building, and democratization processes in Sierra Leone.
- Broaden the awareness of students about issues of cultural diversity and global interconnectedness.

PROGRAM LOCATION: Sierra Leone is a small and poor country in West Africa. Its population is estimated to be around five million people. It is a very diverse country. There are sixteen ethnic groups. Islam, Christianity, and native religions are widely practiced by the people of Sierra Leone. Many families have members who practice both religions. It is common for a Christian to marry a Muslim and to hold the wedding ceremony in a Church and a Mosque.

Sierra Leone has a beautiful landscape. Freetown, the national capital, is a peninsula with numerous beautiful mountains, green vegetation, and beaches along the Atlantic Ocean.



<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/maps/africa/sierra%20leone>

Sierra Leone has a long cultural tie to the United States that dates back to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Many of the ex-slaves were repatriated to Sierra Leone. Their descendants are now the Creole people in Sierra Leone. There are also studies on the Gullah people that have traced the origins of some Gullah communities in North Carolina to Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone just came out of a civil war (1992-2002). The country has been peaceful for the past four years and democracy is vibrant. The government is democratic and the indications are that democracy will continue to grow. There is also a lot of rebuilding programs undertaken by citizens, international NGOs, the UN, and the government.

Sierra Leone has a long and rich academic culture. The main university, Fourah Bay College, was founded in 1827. It was the first university in West Africa. Many of the leaders of British West African colonies were trained at Fourah Bay College. The university has an established African Studies program, which has just been merged with the history department. For a long time, it hosted the Kalamazoo College (Michigan) study abroad program.

Sierra Leone's present condition and recent civil war can be a good learning opportunity. The present condition of the country can help sensitize NIU students to issues of development,

poverty, and multiculturalism. The civil war was mainly a struggle against dictatorship and bad governance. However, the war was also fueled by regional forces, diamond exploitation, and power struggles. All of this experience has contributed to a vibrant environment for the discourse on democracy, governance, and nation-building. All of these are issues that can give NIU students a unique perspective about the world.

As a poor country, Sierra Leone does not have an infrastructure that can be perfect for someone accustomed to the communication, transportation, electricity, and water supply of the United States. Anyone who visits Sierra Leone from the United States will have to adjust to some of these conditions. However, arrangements can be made for private transportation services and accommodation at hotels that are fairly inexpensive and provide comfortable accommodation. There are also luxury hotels.

HIGHLIGHTS: The program will be designed to include cultural field trips, museum visits, guest lectures, the outdoors (Atlantic Ocean and Mountains), visit to schools, etc.

PROGRAM AUDIENCE: Space is limited and qualified applicants will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. The program is open to NIU and non-NIU students of all majors.

INSTRUCTION METHOD: The sessions may include classroom activities and field visits. Sessions are normally held in mornings or late afternoon.

PROGRAM ACADEMIC CREDIT: For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive 3 semester hours of undergraduate or graduate credit in one of the following NIU courses.

UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT	
SOCI 335 Migration	3 credit hours
<p>Description: Examines the national and international dynamics of migration, the causes and effects of migration, migration policies, and the experiences of immigrant communities in the United States and beyond.</p> <p>Prerequisite: SOCI 170 or SOCI 250 or SOCI 260 or SOCI 270, or consent of department</p>	
OR	
SOCI 495 Proseminar in Democracy and Development	3 credit hours
<p>Description: The course will examine the scholarly and policy debates on democratic governance and economic development in Africa.</p> <p>Prerequisite: SOCI 280; SOCI 301 or SOCI 302; and SOCI 377A or SOCI 377B; or consent of department.</p>	

GRADUATE CREDIT**SOCI 672 Proseminar in Democracy and Development****3 credit hours**

Description: The course will examine the scholarly and policy debates on democratic governance and economic development in developing countries, with a special focus on Africa.

Prerequisite: Consent of department.

INDEPENDENT STUDY/RESEARCH PROJECT: Individuals desiring to earn *three additional hours* of undergraduate or graduate credit may do so by engaging in an independent study-research project under the direction of Professor Abu Bah, program director. The research report should be at least 15 pages for undergraduate credit and 25 for graduate credit.

Requirements for Independent Study/Research Project: In order to obtain approval from course or major department chair and Professor Abu Bah, program director, applicants must:

1. Relate the project to a topic or subject introduced during the program.
2. Complete and submit the project for final evaluation to Professor Bah, program director no later than October 1, 2010.

Participants who enroll for the independent research project will receive 3 semester hours of credit in one of the following NIU courses:

UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT:**SOCI 490 Independent Study in Sociology****3 credit hours**

Description: Students can undertake a research project on a topic that is related to political, economic, cultural, or social issues in Sierra Leone.

Prerequisite: Consent of department.

GRADUATE CREDIT**SOCI 690 Independent Study in Sociology****3 credit hours**

Description: Students can undertake a research project on a topic that is related to political, economic, cultural, or social issues in Africa.

Prerequisite: Written permission of department.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES: The program is open to NIU and non-NIU undergraduate and graduate level students who meet the NIU general admission requirements, and who are interested in Africa, democracy and economic development, culture, and social inequality. Currently enrolled students must meet College of Liberal Arts and Sciences course GPA requirements. Graduate level students must also meet NIU Graduate School admission, course and GPA requirements.

Students must be in good academic and disciplinary standing at the time of application. Students who are on academic or disciplinary probation are not eligible to participate in study abroad programs. **Applicants must participate in the *entire* program and satisfy NIU undergraduate or graduate admission and course requirements.**

Students cannot have any encumbrances against their NIU records. Any encumbrances placed on a student's records by NIU (i.e., the Graduate School, Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar's Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student is granted admission to a study abroad program.

For undergraduate students to be admitted to the program, an applicant's official transcript must be on file in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript; the Study Abroad Office will make this request on behalf of the applicant. Students who want to participate in the program and earn academic credit from NIU who have **not** previously enrolled at NIU, or who are not **currently** enrolled at NIU, should ask the Registrar at their institution to forward an official transcript as soon as possible to the Study Abroad Office. (Student-issued transcripts and photocopies are not acceptable.) Questions relating to the admission requirements or transcripts should be directed to the Study Abroad Office.

Students who desire to obtain graduate credit must either be admitted to a graduate program within the NIU Graduate School, or be admitted to the status of a "student-at-large" (SAL) within NIU's Graduate School. For students to be admitted to the program for graduate credit, the applicant's official transcript must be on file in the NIU SAO. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript. However, students who will participate in the program in order to earn academic credit as an SAL (students who have not currently enrolled, nor are previously enrolled at NIU) must provide a transcript from the baccalaureate institution and from any institution at which graduate credit has been earned. This document must be provided to the SAO before a student can be admitted as an SAL to the program. (Student issued transcripts and photocopies are not acceptable.)

APPLICATION FORMS AND DEPOSIT: Applicants must submit the following at the time of application:

- 1) Application for NIU Administered/Faculty Directed Study Abroad Programs
- 2) Student Application Agreement
- 3) Course Preference Form

- 4) \$200 deposit
- 5) TWO passport size photos
- 6) A clear and readable copy of the first page of passport (*If you already have a passport*)

\$200 DEPOSIT: Each application must be accompanied by a \$200 check or money order made payable to NIU. The \$200 will be applied to the program cost. **Applications that are not accompanied by the \$200 deposit will be returned to the sender.** (*This \$200 is also required of individuals who will be applying for financial aid.*)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 15, 2010. Applications not accompanied by the application deposit will not be accepted by the Study Abroad Office.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS: Participants will reside in small three star hotels. Rooms will be double occupancy. Three meals daily will be provided throughout the period of residency.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Individuals will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements between the U.S. and Freetown, S.L. and for purchasing their tickets from a travel agent or airline of their choice. (Travel insurance is highly recommended.) Participants should keep in mind that in order to arrive in Freetown, S.L. in time for the official beginning of the program, they should plan to depart the U.S. no later than May 20, 2010.



Dr. Bah and the Study Abroad Office will provide contact information for each person in the group so that everyone can stay in contact about flight plans so students can travel together, especially from Europe to Sierra Leone.

For information regarding airfares and airlines students may wish to check-out additional airfare sites on the Internet and consult travel agents that specialize on Africa.

Important - The Study Abroad Office advises all participants that flight reservations for this program should not be booked until:

- a. After the February 15 application deadline
AND
- b. The SAO has accepted the minimum number of participants needed to operate this program.

This advisory is given so that participants do not find themselves financially responsible for airline tickets should it be necessary to cancel the program. (See section entitled, **[CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM](#)**)

LAND TRANSPORTATION: For program-related travel the group will travel by cars and vans. This transportation is provided as part of the NIU program cost. (Refer to the *Tentative Daily Schedule* for specific details regarding other program-related transportation.)

PASSPORT: --IMPORTANT--All participants are required to **possess** a valid passport by March 1, 2010. *Note: U.S. passports must be valid SIX months beyond the intended stay overseas.* Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one immediately upon acceptance into the program. Applicants applying after February 15, 2010 may need to request expedited services or apply in person at the Chicago Passport Agency. If applicants are not within the Chicago area, they must apply at the nearest passport agency. Information on acquiring a U.S. passport is available at the U.S. State Department's website: http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html. Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel **and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.**



VISA: A valid passport is required by March 1, 2010 in order to obtain a visa to enter Sierra Leone. The Study Abroad Office will provide visa applications to students after they have been accepted into the study abroad program.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/VACCINATIONS: For additional information, NIU students can contact the Health Service Travel Clinic. Travel consultation and information is **FREE** for NIU students. Many recommended immunizations are available for a minimal charge. If it is determined that immunizations are required then you will be provided with a complete record of immunizations you receive to keep with your passport. The NIU Health Service Travel Clinic also provides extensive information regarding health risks and preventive measures, medical information and facilities for treatment, embassy addresses and safety issues. Referrals to outside immunization centers are available if necessary.

NIU MAJOR MEDICAL INSURANCE: NIU Student health insurance is required for participation in an NIU study abroad program. Participants not currently enrolled in the NIU insurance plan will be enrolled in the NIU major medical Insurance Plan (comprehensive) that has a \$250 deductible clause. Students requiring medical attention will be expected to pay any related costs and then file a claim with the NIU Student Insurance Office after returning to the States. Receipts showing payment for all medical expenses are required for reimbursement.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT I.D. CARD: The ISIC card is provided as part of the program cost. The I.D. card can provide discount on international airfare and other travel. Students will receive an application and instructions for obtaining this card when accepted into the program. The International Student Identity Card also includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. Students will have to pay bills at the time of treatment and will be reimbursed later.

NIU PROGRAM COST: The cost of the three-week program in Sierra Leone is payable in full to NIU by April 1, 2010. The program cost pays for the following cost related services:

- 1) Small hotels accommodations and three meals daily while the group is in Sierra Leone.
- 2) Program-related land transportation in Sierra Leone.
- 3) Admission fees to cultural and historical sites visited as part of the daily schedule
- 4) Fee for acquiring the visa.
- 5) International Student I.D. Card.
- 6) NIU tuition for undergraduate or graduate credit
- 7) NIU major medical insurance.

PROGRAM COST: \$4,175

Price subject to change pending currency exchange fluctuations.

All prices quoted are subject to change. The information contained in the program documents and forms is presented in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.

Non-NIU students should consult with their home institutions regarding additional costs that may apply to study abroad. Non-NIU students are responsible for any study abroad charges imposed by their home institution.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS:

- Airfare
- Cost of acquiring a passport (approximately \$125, including 2 passport pictures).
- Passport size photos.
- Additional costs associated with obtaining a visa for non-U.S. passport holders.
- Immunization fees (*if immunizations are required*)
- \$30 Undergraduate application fee for non-NIU undergraduate students.
- Independent travel and visa costs associated with independent travel.
- Expenses for free-time pursuits.
- Expenses and purchases of a personal nature.

FINANCIAL AID: As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, applicants may be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, or your privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization. Tuition waivers do not apply.

Please contact Pamela Rosenberg, International Programs Business Manager, Williston Hall 407, (815) 753-9530, prosenberg@niu.edu for more information.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM: Applicants withdrawing from the program after February 15, 2010 will not be refunded the \$200 program deposit.

Applicants withdrawing from the program after this date will also be held accountable for any funds obligated to overseas vendors and agents on the applicant's behalf. This provision is in effect even if the applicant has not submitted the \$200 deposit or additional payments, and if the applicant is applying for financial aid.

If the applicant must withdraw after February 15, 2010 for medical reasons, funds obligated on their behalf to overseas vendors can only be refunded if:

- 1) The request is submitted to the Study Abroad Office in writing and accompanied by a signed statement stating that travel is not advised from a physician on the physician's letterhead; **and**
- 2) NIU is able to obtain refunds from overseas vendors and agents.

CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM: The Study Abroad Office reserves the right to cancel this program if the minimum required enrollment is not attained. If, prior to the commencement of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Sierra Leone, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the program. In the event that the program is canceled by NIU's International Programs Division, students shall receive a full refund of all monies. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Sierra Leone, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

The information contained in the program documents and forms are presented in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER
OR CANCEL THIS PROGRAM AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY!**

Tentative Schedule for Study Abroad Program to Sierra Leone

- * Breakfast, lunch, and dinner (catering or local restaurant)
- * Information about cultural events and entertainment will be supplied later
- * Times may be modified as needed
- * If need be, places/organizations may be substituted with comparable places/organizations
- * Lectures will be delivered by Dr. Bah

Arrival

Day 1

- 9 – 11 Lecture
- 12 – 5 Tour of the city (including a visit to the US embassy)

Day 2

- 9 – 11 Lecture
- 1-4 Tour of the FBC campus (including a visit to the library)
- 6-8 Guest lecture

Day 3

- 9 – 11 Lecture
- 1-3 Visit to the museum
- 6-8 Guest lecture

Day 4

- 8:30 – 10 Guest lecture
- 11- 7 Tour the Freetown peninsular (including villages, nature, and historic places)

Day 5

- 9 – 11 Lecture
- 1-3 Visit to a school
- 6-8 Guest lecture

Day 6

- 9 – 11 Lecture
- 1-3 Visit to an NGO (Plan Sierra Leone)
- 6-8 Guest lecture

Day 7

- All day A trip to the provinces (Makeni) (visiting villages and the landscape)

Day 8

- 9 – 11 Lecture
- 1-3 Visit to the national Library
- 6-8 Guest lecture

Day 9

9 – 11 Lecture
1-3 Research visit to FBC library
6-8 Guest lecture

Day 10 Personal exploration day (e.g. NO 2 Beach)

Day 11

9 – 11 Lecture
1-3 Visit to a hospital (Davidson Nicol Medical Centre)
6-8 Guest lecture

Day 12

9 – 11 Lecture
1-3 Visit to camp for displaced/disable (Grafton Camp for the disabled)
6-8 Guest lecture

Day 13

9 – 11 Lecture
1-3 Visit to the courts (Sierra Leone Law Courts and/or Special Court for Sierra Leone)
6-8 Guest lecture

Day 14

9 – 11 Lecture
1-3 Visit to the city council or parliament
6-8 Guest lecture

Day 15

Departure

Group farewell meal

Application for Northern Illinois University Administered Study Abroad Programs: 2009 Sierra Leone: African Democracy and Socio-Economic Development

Directions: Complete the following and mail or drop off these forms and the deposit to the Study Abroad Office, Williston Hall 417, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115.

- ____ Application
- ____ Student Application Agreement
- ____ Course Preference Form

- ____ A clear and readable copy of the first page of the passport
- ____ A check or money order for \$200 deposit (made payable to NIU)
- ____ TWO recent passport-size (2x2) photos (vending machine photos are not acceptable)

1. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

_____ M () F ()

_____ Last Name _____ First _____ Middle

Local mailing address _____

_____ Street or Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Business # _____ Cell # _____

Birthdate _____ E-mail address _____

Permanent address _____

_____ Street or Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Business # _____ Cell # _____

ZID (NIU students only) _____ EMPLID (NIU students only) _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION: Name, address, and telephone number of person to be notified in case of emergency:

2. STATUS AND ACADEMIC CREDIT INFORMATION:

UNDERGRADUATES: Undergraduate major _____ Undergraduate minor _____

Date undergraduate degree expected or granted: Semester: _____ Year: _____

Name of institution granting degree _____

GRADUATES (Currently enrolled at NIU): Graduate major _____

Date graduate degree expected or granted: Semester: _____ Year: _____

CURRENT GPA: _____

STUDENT-AT-LARGE (Seeking graduate credit, but not currently enrolled at NIU): Graduate major _____

Date graduate degree expected or granted _____

Name of institution granting **baccalaureate or higher** degree _____

SEMESTER HOURS OF CREDIT TO BE EARNED IN THIS PROGRAM (please check one): (Students may not audit study abroad courses)

3 hours 6 hours Other (More than 6 hours option available on selected programs only) _____

3. TRANSCRIPT: - Important - Students who are applying at the undergraduate level and who have never attended NIU must request *official* transcripts from each postsecondary institution attended be forwarded to the NIU Study Abroad Office. If applying as a Student-at-Large, applicants are required to submit an *official* transcript showing that a baccalaureate degree was earned. (See above for the address for the Study Abroad Office.)

Please turn over and complete sections 4 through 8.

4. RELEASE OF PERSONAL EDUCATION RECORD INFORMATION: The NIU Study Abroad Office provides an *Orientation Handbook* for each study abroad program. In this handbook, information is provided regarding each participant, including name and academic credit. *This information provides valuable assistance to the program director in regard to course record keeping, especially while overseas when he/she does not have immediate access to your records.* The Study Abroad Office will also share your name, e-mail and phone number with other members of the program so you can communicate regarding travel plans, etc. With your consent, the SAO will list the academic credit for which you will be enrolled and will provide your contact information to other program participants.

Please check one of the boxes below to indicate whether you will authorize the SAO to list the course(s) in which you will be enrolled in the *Orientation Handbook*.

	I authorize the NIU Study Abroad Office to list in the <i>Orientation Handbook</i> the course or courses I will enroll for as part of this study abroad program and to share my contact information with other program participants.
	I do not authorize the NIU Study Abroad Office to list in the <i>Orientation Handbook</i> the course or courses I will enroll for as part of this study abroad program or to share my contact information with other program participants.
Signature:	Date:

5. PASSPORT: - Important - Your U.S. passport must be valid SIX months beyond your intended stay overseas.

I understand that I must possess a valid U.S. passport that is **valid six months beyond June 7, 2010.**

I currently possess a valid passport from another country. Please indicate country: _____

I do not currently possess a valid U.S. passport, but will apply for one immediately. (See http://travel.state.gov/passport_services.html for information provided by the U.S. State Department.)

6. COPY OF PASSPORT, PASSPORT NUMBER AND CITY OF ISSUANCE:

I have included a clear and readable copy of the first page of my passport.

Passport Number and City of Issuance _____

7. METHOD OF PAYMENT OF PROGRAM COST:

I will pay the NIU program cost from my own funds.

I wish to apply for a guaranteed student loan or financial aid and I will immediately contact the NIU Division of International Programs business manager in Williston Hall 407 regarding the application process and guidelines. (This \$200 is also required of individuals who will be applying for financial aid.)

I am an NIU student athlete: " Yes " No

If "Yes", a copy of your application will be sent to the Director of Compliance, Athletics.

8. SIGNATURE REQUIRED: In signing this form I certify the following:

- a. I understand the academic and student participation requirements of this program.
- b. I certify that I do not have any medical problem or disability that will keep me from functioning independently in the foreign country(ies) in which the activities of this program will take place.
- c. I understand that NIU will confirm with cooperating vendors the number of participants in the program on February 15, 2010, and I will be held accountable for any funds obligated on my behalf by NIU. This agreement will be in effect even if I have not made the \$200 deposit as of February 15, 2010.

Signature

Date



STUDY ABROAD OFFICE
WILLISTON HALL 417
DEKALB, ILLINOIS 60115-2854
(815) 753-0304
FAX (815) 753-0825
EMAIL: niuabroad@niu.edu
WEB: www.niu.edu/niuabroad

STUDENT APPLICATION AGREEMENT - Signature required on page 3

Please print

Student's Name: _____

Legal Guardian, for minors: _____

Program (City/Country): **Sierra Leone: African Democracy and Socio-Economic Development**

Academic Term: **Summer 2010**

I, the undersigned, do hereby present my request to participate in the above study abroad program through Northern Illinois University. The program has been generally explained to me, and I request that I be permitted to participate in the aforementioned program and the activities and programs connected therewith. The following personal consents; assumption of risk; inducements and undertakings are provided as a part of the consideration for the University to grant my request to participate in the study abroad program.

I hereby consent to receiving such medical and surgical procedures as may become necessary for my well-being, should the need arise, and I understand that any costs thereof will be borne by me if not covered by the Northern Illinois University student medical insurance plan. It is also understood that I am required to pay the Northern Illinois University fees at registration for NIU student medical insurance and thereby obtain that coverage to the limits now available to students on the campus of Northern Illinois University. While the University will assist in providing information on health care and insurance, it is solely my responsibility to ascertain that I have adequate health and accident insurance coverage that will be valid during my stay abroad

Recognizing that participation in the program is voluntary and that there are certain inherent risks that I must assume, I agree and understand that Northern Illinois University, its Board of Trustees, their agents, officers, employees and any other educational institution associated in this program assume no institutional or personal liability for damage or loss of property, personal illness or injury, or death while I am a participant in this program, or for any financial or other obligations incurred by me in either the United States or elsewhere. I fully understand there are many forms of risk associated with study abroad programs, both foreseeable as well the unforeseen, and I voluntarily assume all such risks. For example, I understand that building safety standards in some foreign countries are not the same as those in the United States and agree to accept attendant risks.

I understand that living in a foreign country may involve health and other personal risks. I agree to complete honestly, accurately, and fully all required pre-departure confidential health forms, and to exercise reasonable or recommended precautions while abroad with respect to food, drink, personal hygiene, personal conduct and exposure to known disease risk factors such as, but not limited to, mosquito bites (malaria where applicable) and sexual contact and behavior (HIV/AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases). I understand and agree that it is my responsibility to determine, in

consultation with competent medical authorities, whether or not I should participate in the study abroad program. I agree to conform to applicable Host Institution health regulations and/or Host Country medical examination requirements for visa application.

Northern Illinois University strongly discourages students owning or operating vehicles while participating in study abroad programs. Traffic congestion and different traffic laws and regulations, civil and criminal, can make driving motor vehicles in foreign countries extremely hazardous. Insurance requirements, or other financial responsibilities and laws/court systems vary from country to country. If, however, I am determined to operate a motor vehicle while abroad, I recognize that Northern Illinois University assumes no financial responsibility for legal aid, or for my care should I be involved in an accident while operating a motor vehicle.

As part of my consent and in consideration of my participation, I agree and understand that I will be subject to the supervision and authority of Northern Illinois University, its appropriate agents, officers, and employees, and they and each of them will have the prerogative and the decision respecting my continued participation in the program if my conduct or academic standing may warrant my withdrawal. I understand that students are expected to attend classes regularly unless otherwise indicated by illness or unavoidable circumstances. Likewise, as a guide for continued participation, I understand students are expected to display a sense of maturity and responsibility as student representatives of the University and the United States. I acknowledge and agree that if I am required to withdraw from the program for failure to maintain appropriate standards of study or behavior, I will no longer have access to any of the facilities arranged for participants in the study abroad program.

I understand that the international implications of this Agreement are such that my conduct during the course of the study abroad program is of utmost importance. I agree to conform to standards of conduct consistent with the maintenance of the reputation of the Host Institution and Northern Illinois University. Misconduct abroad refers to my actions, which in the judgment of the Study Center Director and/or other officials of the Study Abroad Office, jeopardize my own welfare and safety or that of fellow students and/or Program. Such actions include, but are not limited to, the following: the use of physical or verbal violence, violations of the laws of the country of Host Institution, openly abusing the customs and mores of the community, and unauthorized absences from classes and/or from the Study Center. I understand that failure to conform to said standards of conduct may result in the termination of my participation in the program.

I agree that in the event the Director of the Study Abroad Program, in his or her exclusive discretion, shall determine that my conduct or academic standards are detrimental to the best interests of the program, the Director may terminate my participation in the program. In the event of a termination pursuant to this agreement, Northern Illinois University shall not be required to refund to me any payment or portion thereof made by me to the University. Northern Illinois University may make such refunds as it, in its sole discretion, deems to be appropriate under the circumstances and consistent with NIU policy.

I understand that withdrawal or termination from the program, pursuant to this Agreement, whether or not authorized by Northern Illinois University or voluntary on my part, shall not diminish, or otherwise affect my obligation to make any and all payments due to Northern Illinois University.

I agree to complete and return by the specified deadlines all documents and forms provided by the Study Abroad Office prior to my departure and understand that failure to do so may result in the University refusal to allow my registration for classes. I understand that students who are not registered for classes may not participate in the study abroad program.

Further, **I agree to release, discharge, save, hold harmless, indemnify and defend** the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, and their officers, employees

and agents, from any and all past, present or future claims, demands, and/or causes of action, which may now, or in the future be asserted against any of the aforesaid by me, or by any third party or parties by reason of any accidents, injuries or actions by me while in transit to or returning from or while participating in the study abroad program unless due to their exclusive negligence.

It is understood and agreed if this consent and release is signed by a parent or guardian, he or she is signing on behalf of the participating student and he or she agrees to the terms hereof on the participating student's behalf.

Terms Accepted by:

Signature of Participating Student

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian
(if student is not of legal age)

Date

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

*PARENTS **AND** APPLICANTS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD SHOULD SIGN THIS FORM.
APPLICANTS 18 YEARS OR OVER SHOULD SIGN THE FORM THEMSELVES.*

<p>Are you a U.S. citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO This information is vital in determining special visa requirements for non-U.S. citizens participating in programs where visas are required for entry into the country of destination.</p>

<p>TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION, FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES REQUIRE UNIVERSITIES TO DESCRIBE THEIR RACIAL/ETHNIC POPULATIONS. YOUR RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING WILL ASSIST OUR EFFORTS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE. PLEASE CHECK THE CATEGORY THAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND (OPTIONAL).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White, Non-Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Black, Non-Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____</p>

COURSE PREFERENCE FORM



REFERENCE: Sierra Leone: African Democracy and Socio-Economic Development
May 22 – June 7, 2010

SUBJECT: Status, Academic Credit and Departmental Approval

DIRECTIONS: Place a check mark (✓) in the appropriate blanks and return this form with your *Application for Participation in an NIU Administered Study Abroad Program*, along with a check or money order for \$200 (made payable to NIU) to the Study Abroad Office, Williston Hall 417, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115.

1) **STATUS:**

_____ I am currently enrolled at NIU as an:

___ undergraduate

___ graduate

___ student-at-large

_____ I am currently pursuing a degree at a college/university other than NIU, and will be enrolled at NIU as a:

___ visiting undergraduate student

___ student-at-large student

_____ I am **not** currently pursuing a degree, and will be enrolled at NIU as a visiting undergraduate.

_____ I possess a bachelor's or master's degree and will be enrolled at NIU as a student-at-large.

(Please continue to page 2)

- 2) **ACADEMIC CREDIT: (to be completed by applicant):** I have read the program description and, with approval from the chair of the NIU School of Art, wish to be enrolled for one of the following NIU courses. You also have the option to enroll in independent research credit for an additional three hours of credit.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Course Choice	Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
Choose one of the following courses:			
	SOCI 335	Migration	3 semester hours
	SOCI 495	Proseminar in Democracy and Development	3 semester hours
Optional Independent Research Credit Check if you wish to enroll in this course in addition to one of the above courses.			
	SOCI 490	Independent Study in Sociology	3 semester hours

GRADUATE COURSES

Course Choice	Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
	SOCI 672	Proseminar in Democracy and Development	3 semester hours
Optional Independent Research Credit Check if you wish to enroll in this course in addition to SOCI 672.			
	SOCI 690	Independent Study in Sociology	3 semester hours

(Students - Please continue to page 5)

(Chair of Department of Sociology - Please continue to page 3 and 4)

- 3) **DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL FOR NIU STUDENTS (to be completed by department chair):** NIU students must obtain approval from the Chair of the Department of Sociology in order to enroll in this course.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES	
SOCI 335 Migration	
	I certify that this UNDERGRADUATE student has met the following prerequisites for SOCI 335: SOCI 170 or SOCI 250 or SOCI 260 or SOCI 270, or consent of school.
	This UNDERGRADUATE student has <i>not</i> met all of the prerequisites for SOCI 335, however, I waive these prerequisites.
	I do not recommend that this UNDERGRADUATE student be enrolled in SOCI 335.
William Minor Chair, Dept. of Sociology	Date:

SOCI 495 Proseminar in Democracy and Development	
	I certify that this UNDERGRADUATE student has met the following prerequisites for SOCI 495: SOCI 280; SOCI 301 or SOCI 302; and SOCI 377A or SOCI 377B; or consent of school.
	This UNDERGRADUATE student has <i>not</i> met all of the prerequisites for SOCI 495, however, I waive these prerequisites.
	I do not recommend that this UNDERGRADUATE student be enrolled in SOCI 495.
William Minor Chair, Dept. of Sociology	Date:

SOCI 490 Independent Study in Sociology	
	I certify that this UNDERGRADUATE student has met the following prerequisites for SOCI 490: Consent of school.
	This UNDERGRADUATE student has <i>not</i> met all of the prerequisites for SOCI 490 however, I waive these prerequisites.
	I do not recommend that this UNDERGRADUATE student be enrolled in SOCI 490.
William Minor Chair, Dept. of Sociology	Date:

GRADUATE COURSE					
SOCI 672 Proseminar in Democracy and Development					
	I certify that this GRADUATE student has met the following prerequisites for SOCI 672: Consent of school and instructor.				
	This GRADUATE student has <i>not</i> met all of the prerequisites for SOCI 672 however, I waive these prerequisites.				
	I do not recommend that this GRADUATE student be enrolled in SOCI 672.				
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">William Minor</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Date:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chair, Dept. of Sociology</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		William Minor	Date:	Chair, Dept. of Sociology	
William Minor	Date:				
Chair, Dept. of Sociology					

SOCI 690 Independent Study in Sociology					
	I certify that this GRADUATE student has met the following prerequisites for SOCI 690: Written permission of department.				
	This GRADUATE student has <i>not</i> met all of the prerequisites for SOCI 690 however, I waive these prerequisites.				
	I do not recommend that this GRADUATE student be enrolled in SOCI 690.				
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">William Minor</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Date:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chair, Dept. of Sociology</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		William Minor	Date:	Chair, Dept. of Sociology	
William Minor	Date:				
Chair, Dept. of Sociology					

- 4) In filling out the following section and providing your signature, you (the applicant) verify that the information provided on this Course Preference Form is correct. Information provided in this section will be used to assist the Study Abroad Office’s efforts to ensure compliance with NIU academic policies and procedures and for confidential statistical purposes.

It is the responsibility of students to know and observe all regulations and procedures relating to the program they are pursuing. Students admitted to NIU study abroad programs are held accountable to NIU course, registration and record regulations and procedures. Questions regarding satisfying elective and major course requirements should be addressed to the advising office of the college in which the student’s major department is located.

Print Name	
Signature	
Address (street address, city, state & zip code)	
Local Phone Number	
Email Address (if applicable):	
ZID (NIU students only)	
EMPLID (NIU students only)	
Date	
Anticipated academic standing when program begins: <input type="checkbox"/> sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> junior <input type="checkbox"/> senior <input type="checkbox"/> graduate <input type="checkbox"/> student-at-large	
Are you a citizen of the U.S.? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, what country? _____	

How did you become interested in NIU's study abroad program?			
<input type="checkbox"/> "Around 60115"	<input type="checkbox"/> Greek Telephone Directory	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Star Article	<input type="checkbox"/> Residence Hall Presentation
<input type="checkbox"/> Academic Adviser	<input type="checkbox"/> Handbill	<input type="checkbox"/> Professor	<input type="checkbox"/> Study Abroad Fair
<input type="checkbox"/> Bus Sign (external)	<input type="checkbox"/> Information Table	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Description	<input type="checkbox"/> Study Abroad Reference Book
<input type="checkbox"/> Classroom Visit	<input type="checkbox"/> NIU Catalog	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Study Abroad Staff Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> NIU Channel 20	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Ad	<input type="checkbox"/> Table Tent
<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> NIU College of Business TV	<input type="checkbox"/> Relative	
<input type="checkbox"/> Flyer	<input type="checkbox"/> NIU Study Abroad Website		
<input type="checkbox"/> Former Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> NIU Study Abroad Peer Advisor	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Star Ad	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Study Abroad Website _____	