

Global Studies 298: Burkina Faso Study Abroad 2014
Professor Richard Akresh

ICES Student Evaluation responses to “What are the major strengths of the instructor/course?”

Student 1:

Richard Akresh is very knowledgeable in the field of development economics and developing countries, and since he is so familiar with West Africa, he was able to explain important ideas to us very clearly. He knows many of the NGO's we visited on a personal level, so our interactions with the NGO's were more personal. He was able to explain very well, the points brought up by the NGO's. He also knew the village we did our homestay in very well, so the experience was more intimate as the community welcomed us through Richard. He was able to relate with us a lot about the difficulties we faced living in Burkina Faso since he has gone through it himself during the many years he spent living there, therefore he was able to give us very good advice on what to do and how to react while in Burkina Faso. Richard Akresh was able to give us a lot of advice on continuing in the field of development economics by sharing his personal background. This course was a very humbling experience for me, from seeing how life is in an undeveloped West African country. This course also has taught me a lot about the problems preventing development in Africa, and what is being done now to spur this development. This course has taught me why it is so important for a super powers, like our country, to continue aid and campaigns in undeveloped countries.

Student 2:

Extremely knowledgeable about the course. Always willing to answer questions

Student 3:

Very passionate about the subject and knowledgeable, creates a comfortable environment to share opinions during discussions

Student 4:

Very knowledgeable

Student 5:

The fact that we saw everything we learned about and got to experience all facets of the subject matter as well.

Student 6:

The instructor is passionate and well-informed about the area of visit, which is very important for the way we were perceived and accepted by the people of Burkina Faso.

Student 7:

Clearly very well-informed about Burkina and the class is very different from any other I've taken. Push outside your comfort zone.