



# Middlebury

## **Middlebury Schools Abroad Evaluation for the 2008-2009 Academic Year/Spring Semester**

Evaluating your period of study abroad is one of the most valuable services you can render Middlebury College and future students planning to study abroad, and it is one of the most important ways you can help us maintain the highest possible standards. For this reason, until this form is submitted to International Programs and Off Campus Study a hold will be placed on official Middlebury transcript requests for Middlebury College students who studied at Middlebury Schools Abroad. Please note: If you studied abroad for two semesters on two different programs, you must submit two separate evaluations.

The staff of International Programs and Off Campus Study welcomes the opportunity to hear about your experiences abroad; please feel free to stop by or call and talk with us!

This document contains respondents between 1 and 2 inclusive.

**Home Institution**

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

**With which program did you study?**

- Middlebury School in China
- Middlebury School in France
- Middlebury School in Germany
- Middlebury School in Italy
- Middlebury School in Latin America
- Middlebury School in Middle East
- Middlebury School in Russia
- Middlebury School in Spain

**At which site did you study?**

- Alexandria
- Beijing (not J-term)
- Belo Horizonte
- Berlin
- Bordeaux
- Buenos Aires
- Concepcion
- Cordoba
- Ferrara
- Florence
- Florianopolis
- Getafe
- Guadalajara
- Hangzhou
- Irkutsk
- Kunming
- La Serena
- Logrono
- Madrid
- Mainz
- Montevideo
- Moscow
- Niteroi
- Pairs
- Poitiers
- Santiago
- Temuco
- Tucuman
- Valdivia
- Valparaiso
- Xalapa

Yaroslavl

**What was the period of your study abroad?**

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

**Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.**

Getting used to the Spanish system was difficult, and I'm not sure I was very successful in that pursuit. I learned how it works, which I did not know before, but I had a hard time getting used to it.

**AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?**

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please Comment:**

I have no idea what question 10 ("AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?") means. Please disregard my answer.

**How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?**

In the stereotypical ways: I feel like I understand the culture of Spain and Europe to some degree, and I understand more how Americans are viewed from Europe.

**In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?**

I found myself in situations that required me to be uncomfortable to succeed, so now I feel more confident even back at home sometimes.

**How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?**

I don't think it influenced any of my goals. Perhaps I'd like to use Spanish and not lose my speaking skills, but that remains to be seen.

**What was your housing situation during your study abroad?**

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

**Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?**

					Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please comment on your response to the question above.**

I wish I had stayed with a host family, because often my apartment-mates were not as outgoing as I had hoped, and it was too easy to avoid talking to them.

**Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?**

- Yes
- No

**If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?**

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

**Comments**

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

If Middlebury had helped us out in finding or at least offering ideas for internships, it would have been nice.

What was the language of the host country?

- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?**

My progress was a little less than I had expected. I did learn to understand well, as the accent in Cordoba was hard to understand, and thus I had to learn to be able to understand people.

Living with students was okay. I was a guy among 3 girls, and they were not terribly outgoing, so I did not talk with them as much as I wished. I think a host family would have been nicer.

**Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?**

Yes

No

Please explain:

.....

**Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?**

Yes

No

Please explain:

Spanish students often don't take classes seriously. Perhaps upper level classes are better; it's hard to say from only a sample size of 3.

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

Zoogeography

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad de Cordoba

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

1 paper (20%), 1 presentation (20%), 1 final (60%)

Please describe the course content:

Basic theories and examples of biogeography, with specific references to fauna (over flora)

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture with powerpoint/overheads

Other comments about this course:

Somewhat similar to Middlebury's biology courses, which was nice

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Ethical and Political Thought

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad de Cordoba

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

7 response papers (between 3 and 6 pages each), 1 presentation, discussion grade

Describe course content

Overview of 7 philosophers and their philosophies

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture with powerpoint and dedicated discussion classes

Other comments about this course:

Upper level course which I enjoyed. Only 7 students and interesting topic.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Literary Texts from the Golden Age

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad de Cordoba

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

2 papers and a final exam

Describe course content

Topics in and from famous entremeses from Spain's Golden Age

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Pure lecture

Other comments about this course:

Professor just sat the front of the room and talked for an hour. He was hard to understand, and thus I'm not sure how much I learned.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Middlebury Spanish Language Class

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad de Cordoba Idiomas (Universidad de Cordoba Language School)

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

3 short papers, final exam

Describe course content

Advanced Spanish grammar

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Seminar style - lecture with participation by students.

Other comments about this course:

There were only 3 Middlebury students in the class, so I did like the small class.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?**

Poor

Good

Excellent

**Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?**

Poor

Good

Excellent

**Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?**

Yes

No

**If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.**

As a country, Spain seems pretty discriminating against all minorities. I'm white, though, so I did not experience a lot of discrimination towards myself. On the surface, they are open, but since the country was so recently liberated from Franco, I think more open-mindedness is on the way but not there yet.

**Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?**

Yes

No

**Please explain:**

Cordoba is relatively isolated, the university is not great, and one feels bored/isolated there. Madrid would be better, or perhaps a program in Sevilla.

**What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?**

Be outgoing.

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?**

Yes

No

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?**

Yes

No

N/A - Did not attend meetings

**ALL STUDENTS:** What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

Starting earlier. I felt like I did not know anything until a month or two before I left.

**ALL STUDENTS:** Would you like to make an appointment (in person or phone) with International Programs and Off-Campus Study to discuss your study abroad experience?

Yes

No

**MIDDLEBURY STUDENTS ONLY:** Would you be interested in volunteering your time to help with pre-departure orientations and/or other study abroad meetings or promotional activities?

Yes

No

**ALL STUDENTS:** May we use your comments in future publications?

Yes

No

**Home Institution**

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

**With which program did you study?**

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- Logrono
- Madrid
- Mainz
- Montevideo
- Moscow
- Niteroi
- Pairs
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- Valdivia
- Valparaiso
- Xalapa

Yaroslavl

**What was the period of your study abroad?**

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
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**Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.**

I say that the Spanish higher educational system is vastly inferior to Middlebury. In such a culture, I really needed to motivate myself in order to maintain focus. In the beginning, there were lots of doubts as to whether this was going to be a waste of time or not. And in many ways, I feel like it is. The program in Córdoba emphasizes the learning you do outside the classroom--the part where you learn to be independent, to teach yourself and to share with others more readily. I think personally I have grown alot but as far as academic advancement, it felt like a lost year. The thing is, these two things do not have to be exclusive and the program should strive to achieve such a mix for its students.

**AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?**

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**Please Comment:**

Maybe it's because of the election year but I consider my year abroad as kind of a political awakening moment. I met a lot of people who have misinterpreted impressions of America and find myself in position where I feel compelled to defend and explain events and ideas. Also being someone who is not ethnically normal for America (they somehow could not grasp the idea that a Chinese can be American too!), I find myself in position where I feel like I really needed to defend my identity. All in all, this experience sharpens and polishes what I have always felt about my country and myself. Perhaps its through these "conflicts" that you really see the different mentality and what I would call the "traditionalism" that's really prevalent throughout Andalucia. Andalucia, as a region, gives Spain many of its cultural stereotypes such as flamenco and bullfighting. However, for that very reason, It is an unique experience and if you really get to know someone who lives there, you'll realize immediately that the land is so much more.

**How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?**

I know how it feels like to be that fish that learned what water is by jumping onto the boardwalk. I was really comfortable in America and such a level was, unfortunately, never quite achieved in Spain. As a result, I became an ardent defender of America and her values. Two of my housemates were law students and three others are european erasmus students so we were constantly talking about the difference in political values, systems and laws. Maybe it was for the sake of a good argument but I found myself trumpeting moderate republican values that seemed to betray my northeastern liberal roots. I think there was a certain pride at stake in these confrontations. I feel like I delved into the host culture as much as I can--whether it's through travels or cultural visits. There are things I have seen and stories I can tell that are pretty distinct--if they are your barometers for understanding your host culture. At one point, people were commenting on how it seems like I've been living in Córdoba for a long time. However, there was also a very european dimension to the whole experience. I knew a lot of people who were either from other european countries or have been abroad. Therefore, the so-called host culture was also a "european culture" as well.

**In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?**

Probably the most important aspect of my experience is learning to handle adversity. The first month was not easy, neither was the second, third, fourth, fifth or sixth. It took a really long time. I think from the onset, there were some very unrealistic expectations. The program itself is true to it's solitary fame and independent streak. You're really alone, by yourself out there and it was really difficult to make friends, especially Spanish friends. My housing situation was also particularly unfriendly. There really was not anyone to speak with. But I did not give up. I was going to let it beat me. I figure if I was not having fun, I might as well just focus on the academic, which is what I did. I looked for stuffs to do--whether its traveling or joining that choir group and later, I found an internship. By the time the second semester came around, I was really comfortable with the two Spaniards I live with and the three new housemates who came in were all really amazing. I actually ended up dating one of them and we visited many many interesting places together.

**How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?**

If anything, my experience taught me that there is more than just going to school. It's about life. I think when I first arrived, there was a tendency to search for the "party" and obviously, drinking. I don't know if it's the Middlebury culture or me, but slowly but surely, these activities just did not seem very important after the first month. Post first month, it was more about trying to find yourself a place where you're happy. And really, I feel like that is what's more important. I think I would very much like to return to the continent to work in the future but in a different city (Barcelona, Paris or Brussels). The people there just seems to get it--they know how to live. Where as in the Sates, I am not sure what I'm working toward.

**What was your housing situation during your study abroad?**

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

I lived in a house (Calle Alfonso XII, n. 36) with 5 other housemates and the landlord (el "Fabio")

**Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?**

	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Please comment on your response to the question above.

I absolutely loved my housemates but hated the landlord who resided in the same house with us. I think he was a terrible landlord and an even worse housemate. He was a terrible landlord because he tried very hard to control how and when we, the tenants, can use the house, from the smallest details like keeping the light on while you leave your room for the kitchen to other even more mundane stuffs such as when we can use the washing machine or how the vases in the house should be placed. (Actually, once, I moved the flower flask to our patio outside so the rose petals inside can dry and the guy has the balls to tell me not to touch the flask because it might break; which is, of course, insulting, considering the utter ridiculousness of his preoccupation and the fact that the last time I was 5, it was 16 years ago.) These great ideas of his were conceived without consulting the rest of us; thus leading to one big problem: his lack of respect for others and their properties.

He was an even worse housemate because he made no effort to get to know the rest of us. The relationship between us was almost that prisoners and guard. I think he was merely there to make sure that the house is exactly as it was when he rented it out. This, of course, was extremely unfair to those of us who intended to live normal lives. I can only speak for myself but I feel like none of us wanted to be in the same room with him. There is a certain awkwardness to his presence and violence to his movements (he is NOT a violent person). I would cook with my other housemates and chat and eat with them, but when the landlord entered, it became uncomfortable and we would wait till he had left. His presence dampened the atmosphere for us and in response, we joked about his uptightness behind his back. In particular, I would like to highlight three episodes that I think are noteworthy.

1. At the end of September, I decided that I was not comfortable living in the house so I found a second housing option and was ready to forgo my fianza/down payment so that I can move. The night I informed him of my decision, he was upset--which is fine and understandable. I was breaking a contract but at the same time, I was willing to pay the penalty stated in the contract. Well, he said that I had to pay for next month's rent as well--which I thought was completely unreasonable and in fact downright greedy. And what I really did not appreciate was how he threatened me with the police and also how he tried to coerce me into giving up my passport. Obviously, I did not let him. At the same time, I feel like the program really let me down--not only was I alone in this, but I was helpless.
2. The second matter took place during Christmas break. While we (the housemates) were all away for vacation, the landlord used the second keys to access our rooms, entered our rooms to see if "the heat was still turned on". Now, this is obviously a gross violation of your privacy rights and the rights of the tenants. In fact, it was downright scary and suspicious because if he wanted to shut the heat, all he had to do was flick one switch downstairs (which we found out one cold night in the spring) or he could just call everyone of us to ask if we had turn off the heat before leaving. Of course, such consideration was not in his vocabulary. I think what it came down to was that he wanted to check the rooms because he did not trust any of us. Trust was the issue here. How can people who do not trust each other co-exist? And what's even more disturbing was that he did not think it was wrong. The only reason we found out is because he complained about the gas bill (which, by the way, we paid for) being too high. I, personally, considered it nothing less than burglary and demanded an apology in our big house fight, which he did.
3. There is a peculiar rule in his house that if someone was to visit us and stay the night in our room, after three nights, you need to pay 10 euros per night. This rule, of course, applied to friends and families of the tenants but not to the girlfriend of the landlord who frequently stayed the night. Now, if you ask any other student about their housing arrangements for visiting friends and families and the rights to their room which they had already paid for, they would tell you that this rule is outrageous. This is not the case in any student housing options in Córdoba. Of course, there is the kicker: you need to ask if so and so can visit and stay. I think that added to the hostile atmosphere that already existed in the house. In addition, it felt like an extra incentive to reinforce that he is the landlord and that this house is not home for us. And one last thing, at the end of the spring semester, the landlord was exceptionally and surprisingly incompetent when it came to returning the overcalculated expenses in the fall that was due to us. Not only were there errors in the mathematic, he was not as eager to return the money as he was in collecting them. I gave him a date on which I will leave Córdoba permanently and somehow, we still had to calculate the costs at the last minute. He also insisted that I come back to Córdoba to get the money since he could not just go an ATM near the house and withdraw the money despite the deadline I gave him. All told together, I think it was a very unfortunate experience. I feel like he basically tried to milk every penny out of us. Overall, I advice against living with the landlord for any incoming students.

## Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

Yes

No

**If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?**

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

**Comments**

More than half of the students in my classes were international Erasmus students. The nationals of the host country, while friendly and very helpful at times, were generally not interested.

**Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?**

- Yes
- No

**If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?**

			Somewhat helpful		
	Not helpful				Very helpful
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.**

I had an independent study project/internship with Ecologistas en acción de Baena and participated in the newly formed faculty-student choir group. I have written an evaluation of the internship for Teresa Cordova, the person in charge of the Córdoba program. So, if you're interested, you can email her. I think for students with an interest in environmental causes and sostenibility projects, there is definitely potential for more work with the organization. It was a very good academic experience for me. However, the scope and the themes are somewhat limited. There is almost no level of student activism in Spain (at least I feel so). As for the choir group, we had our grand premier and sang at the graduation ceremony. It was a way for me to get to know the wider university community and the participants (mostly professors from other facultades) were very generous and supportive. I have nothing but good things to say about them.

What was the language of the host country?

- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
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What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?**

I am very worried--the fact is I do not know if I have made progress or not. Most people tell me I did. I'm also worried about losing it during the summer. In Córdoba, they speak with a very ugly accent. So, if you survived there, you'll be fine in any part of the Spanish-speaking world. And that's really the best part about this program--you'll speak well and fast at the end of your stay. As for the reading and writing, I cannot really say much other than to expect the minimal. In the end, it all depends on the amount of work you put into them. One of my housemates would set time aside everything to comb the newspaper to improve her reading and writing.

**Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?**

Yes

No

Please explain:

Arts, history, spanish literature and spanish linguistic/phonology

**Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?**

Yes

No

Please explain:

Overall, the level of instruction and the level of student vigor are subpar but there are certain professores and specific classes that I would really recommend.

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

Textos literarios hispanoamericanos

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Facultad de filosofía y letra, UCO

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

1 final exam

Please describe the course content:

Critical analysis of important authors and genres in Hispanoamerican Literature: "Los Naufragios," Juan del Valle y Caviedes, el género Gaucho y el modernismo.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lectures and professor-dictated critical reading of text in class

Other comments about this course:

The professor (Rafael Bonilla Cerezo) is very animated and enthusiastic. I would recommend taking any of his classes (he might not be teaching this one next year though), especially if the class has many international students (he slows down for us).

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Ciñe Español

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Facultad de filosofía y letra, UCO

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

4 essays, optional final exam

Describe course content

Survey/critical analysis of spanish cinema, from genesis to Almodóvar

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lectures, movie screenings at the Andalucia Filmoteca, clips viewing in class and analysis from professor

Other comments about this course:

Very straightforward and not very exciting class.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

La mezquita-catedral de Córdoba

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Facultad de filosofía y letra, UCO

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Attendance, 30 minutes oral presentation of your assigned chapel in the building, 2 short answer questionnaires, a paper (15-20 pages) on your chapel and an optional final exam

Describe course content

the entire history of the building!!!

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lectures, powerpoint presentations by students and the professor, many visits to the building (which is right next door btw)

Other comments about this course:

I thoroughly enjoyed this class despite the workload. It also a fun way to learn the history of southern Spain. During my final month, I was giving anyone willing (basically, all my housemates and their families) free tour of the building.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Fonética y fonología españoles

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Facultad de filosofía y letra, UCO

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

1 final examen, some homework/exercises

Describe course content

Spanish phonetics and phonology, transcription of texts

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lectures and transcription exercises/assignment in class and at home

Other comments about this course:

This class was very difficult at first because of the technical terms they were using. I would recommend it only for linguistic/multi-language students. I think it also helped with my pronunciation.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #5

Temas y formas de la literatura hispanica: teatro

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Facultad de filosofia y letra, UCO

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

4 essays, 1 presentation and 1 big paper (35-50 pages).

Describe course content

We read 4 works from la generaci3n realista: "La camisa" de Laura Olmo, "Las arrecogias del beaterio de santa maría egipciaca" de José Martín Recuerda, "Anillos para una dama" de Antonio Gala y "La saturna" de Domingo Miras

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lectures and analysis of texts in class; student presentations of particular themes they like

Other comments about this course:

The level of work is similar to a course at Middlebury which means almost no Spanish students take this professor. The work is actually alot and she uses the same format for her prose class in which the texts you read are 500 pages long each or at least they feel like it. It's definitely a challenge but if you do all the work, you'll also receive a very good grade. The professor (Ana Padilla Mangas) is very knowledgeable in her field and helpful with whatever questions you may have in or out of class. If you're interested in women's studies, she's definitely someone you want to take a class with.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #6

Textos literarios del siglo 19 y 20

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Facultad de filosofía y letra, UCO

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

4 quizzes and 1 presentation of a particular section (~250 pages) of the class reading (4000 pages plus)

Describe course content

Notable spanish poetas (romanticism), Espronceda ("El estudiante de Salamanca," "El mundo diablo" and "Sancho Saldaña"), Clarín's "La Regenta," and Galdos' "Fortunata y Jacinta"

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Gibberish by the professor to pass time, student presentations that no one prepares for nor pay attention to.

Other comments about this course:

I seriously think the professor was just trying to sell his books. The class was a complete waste of everyone's time.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?**

Poor

Good

Excellent

**Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?**

Poor

Good

Excellent

**Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?**

Yes

No

**If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.**

I get second looks in the streets and I think in general, people are less interested in me because I'm chinese. There are also a set of very ugly stereotypes that you need to fight against. Sometimes, I feel like I was outright not welcomed. But please, do not let that stop you. I made some great friends, met outstanding people and if I can do it again, I would.

**Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?**

Yes

No

Please explain:

It really depends on the type of student. Córdoba is perfect for someone who is very independent.

**What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?**

I think the most important thing when considering study abroad options is to know that there are options. Just because you're a Middlebury student does not mean you have to pick a Middlebury program. Some programs present a very straightforward generic experience while others can be more challenging and independent. What you need to do is to think about what you want and then consider the worst case scenario and then decide if it's still worthwhile. Córdoba is good for two types of student: 1. the solitary slacker/partying student aka Erasmus or 2. the very very independent and disciplined type who does not mind being alone and tranquil (not much things happen in Córdoba).

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?**

Yes

No

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?**

Yes

No

N/A - Did not attend meetings

**ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?**

Frankly, when I arrived I was very disappointed because the time of your life spiel built unreasonably high expectation. Honestly, I do not really remember much, if anything at all.

**ALL STUDENTS: Please use this space if you would like to provide additional feedback on your pre-departure information, orientation, or program support.**

None

**ALL STUDENTS: Would you like to make an appointment (in person or phone) with International Programs and Off-Campus Study to discuss your study abroad experience?**

Yes

No

**MIDDLEBURY STUDENTS ONLY: Would you be interested in volunteering your time to help with pre-departure orientations and/or other study abroad meetings or promotional activities?**

Yes

No

**ALL STUDENTS: May we use your comments in future publications?**

Yes

No