DESCRIPTION: The Global Education Office, the African American Studies Department, the Sociology Department, and the School of World Studies are pleased to offer a unique opportunity for students to explore the challenges facing rural communities in democratic South Africa. The program begins in the town of Pietermaritzburg, the capital of KwaZulu-Natal province, and concludes in tropical Maputaland, where students engage in community-based learning. In Maputaland, students will participate in an organized service activity by working on a project assisting Zulu schoolchildren, many of them orphaned by the AIDS pandemic. Through family homestays, students will also learn about Zulu traditional customs, religious ceremonies, and ritual performances. This study-abroad program not only meets locally-identified needs, but also takes participating students on an experiential journey into an exciting field of global responsibility and emerging democracy in South Africa.

DATES: June 20 - July 4, 2016
COST: $1,600 + airfare + VCU tuition
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 1, 2016

For more information:
global.vcu.edu/abroad
(804) 827.7882
abroad@vcu.edu

VCU Education Abroad
912 W. Grace St., 4th Floor
Richmond, VA 23284-3043

3 or 6 credits in SOCY, AFAM, INTL or ANTH
Course descriptions:
AFAM 391/INTL 398/ANTH 391: Contemporary Social Challenges (3 undergraduate credits)
This is an elective 3 credit hours service-learning course in AFAM, INTL, WRLD and SOCY that examines the historic, cultural, political, and economic context of the South African province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) with particular emphasis on the challenges faced by rural communities in democratic South Africa.

SOCY 445: Medical Sociology (3 undergraduate credits)
An important element of the contemporary social challenges and assets in rural communities in South Africa can be found via an analysis of the Sociology of Medicine in Health Care in the nation state. This is a service learning course designed to introduce you to the field of medical sociology and global health. The goal of the course is to foster an understanding of health, illness, medicine, and health care as a characteristic of both individuals and societies in South Africa and globally.

SOCY 391: Comparative Rural Global Health (3 undergraduate credits)
SOCY 645: Sociology of Health and Illness (3 graduate credits)
For graduate and advanced undergraduates, these courses examine health from a South African perspective (with comparisons made to the U.S.) The unit will appeal to students wanting to engage with social perspectives on health and illness from a globalised and localised perspective.

The Education Abroad office will enroll students in the course upon receipt of the registration.

Program cost: $1,600 + airfare + applicable VCU tuition
The program fee is $1,600 and includes the following:
- Accommodations
- Most meals
- Guest lecturers
- Study visits and tours
- On-site Program Director support
- Pre-departure orientation
- International Student Identity Card
- VCU administrative fees
- Application deposit

The following are not included in the program fee. Students are responsible for:
- VCU tuition and fees
- Airfare
- Some meals
- Passport application or renewal fee, if applicable
- Personal expenses during the program estimated at $300

Airfare: Airfare is not included. Participants are responsible for making their own round-trip travel arrangements from the US to their destination city. Program directors will meet with accepted students to go over specific travel logistics and may help students in identifying low-cost travel options. For best fares, students are encouraged to purchase their tickets prior to April 15.

Eligibility: Participants will stay in dorms at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Meals are included. Each student will have a private room and will share a bathroom while at the university.

Program directors
Professor Ewell Mthethwa (edmthethwa@vcu.edu), instructor of the isiZulu language at VCU, is a native of South Africa. He holds a Masters degree in history from the University of KwaZulu-Natal Professor Mthethwa has extensive experience in Zululand and has led college and university students on cultural and heritage tours to KwaZulu-Natal.

Professor Susan Bodnar-Deren (smbodnar@vcu.edu) is a medical sociologist whose research focuses the ways that macro social factors affect individual-level health and well-being. Dr. Bodnar-Deren has a PhD in Sociology from Rutgers University. She has experience doing research in the area of HIV/AIDS, Reproductive Health, and Aging; and is in the initial stages of examining postpartum depression in South Africa.