Alternative Winter Break Information Sheet and Application
Trip Dates: January 6-16, 2016
Application Deadline: March 23rd at 5 p.m.

Thank you for your interest in this year’s Alternative Winter Break (AWB). Suffolk University’s AWB program is designed to offer students the opportunity to engage in an interactive and meaningful service trip during winter break 2016 (January 6-16, 2016).

The Service Learning Trip to El Salvador is a 4-credit travel course that provides a unique opportunity to learn about El Salvador through travel, study, and service. During the Fall 2015 semester students learn about El Salvador in GVT 387A: Reconciliation and Conflict in Central America, a course that reviews crucial political and economic events in the region, processes of reconstruction of the rule of law, plus democracy and sustainable development.

In January, the delegation spends 10 days learning about political, social, and economic issues in the Central American nation while participating in community service projects. The delegation retraces the path of the late Congressman Joe Moakley, a Suffolk Law School alumnus, who was internationally recognized for his advocacy of El Salvador during its 12-year civil war and post-war rebuilding. This experience, offered annually since 2007, is sponsored by the Center for Community Engagement, the Moakley Archive and Institute, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Requirements:
1. All participants must register for the GVT387A/687 course. We will also work with graduate students to tailor GVT 687 for graduate-level work.
2. Minimum of 2.5 GPA
3. Students must participate in out-class learning experiences as directed by the program.

Costs:
The total cost of the trip will be $2300 which includes transportation, meals, and accommodations. The trip payment will consist of a $500 deposit and an $1800 payment billed through Suffolk University’s Student Accounts.

Payment Deadlines:
• $500 deposit due by April 27th
• $1800 trip balance will be billed with all other tuition and fees for Fall semester 2015 following standard University billing procedures.

Scholarships and Financial Aid:
Consult the Financial Aid Office to see if your financial aid package covers any of the costs related to the trip. A limited number of partial scholarships, ranging from $200- $500 per student, will be awarded based on available funding and student needs. Please fill out the AWB Scholarship application (see page 4).

Course Information:
This course will review the processes of reconstruction of the rule of law, democracy and sustainable development in Central America. After reviewing the evolution of the main political and economic events in the region in the 20th Century, the second part of the course will center on the process of political reconciliation since the early 1990s. The final section of lectures will focus on the case of El Salvador and the contradictory role of countries in the immediate neighborhood, the United States and the legacy of John Joseph Moakley.

Deadline:
Applications are due by March 23rd at 5 p.m. They will be accepted via e-mail at communityengagement@suffolk.edu or can be dropped off at the Center for Community Engagement, Donahue 209, 617-305-6306.

A familiarity with Spanish is preferred, but is NOT required. Participants must be willing to contribute 10 days out of their life to focus on a community that needs their help. Most of all, however, we want students who aren’t afraid of getting their hands dirty, who want to make a positive difference, and who will be responsible and hard-working ambassadors for Suffolk University. If you feel you are right for the job, continue on to fill out the attached application.
Alternative Winter Break 2016 Application - Deadline: March 23rd at 5 p.m.

1. Full Legal Name

LAST (FAMILY) | FIRST | MIDDLE INITIAL | BIRTHNAME (MAIDEN) | NICKNAME

2. Permanent Address

STREET | CITY | STATE | ZIP CODE | COUNTRY

3. Current Mailing Address (if different from above)  Valid until when? ________________

STREET | CITY | STATE | ZIP CODE | COUNTRY

4. Email (Suffolk Address) ____________________________________________

(Personal Address) _______________________________________________

5. Phone (Day) ___________________________ (Evening) __________________________

6. GPA ___________________________ 7. Graduation Year __________________________

8. Date of Birth ___________________________ 9. Sex (Circle one) Male  Female

10. City/Town of Birth ___________________________ 11. Country of Birth __________________________

12. Citizenship ___________________________ 13. Permanent Resident of (Country) __________________________

14. Passport? Yes  No

15. Do you speak Spanish? (Circle one)  A little  I can communicate  Fluent

16. Statement of purpose. Please answer the following questions in a 1-2 page essay.

1) Why have you chosen to apply for the AWB trip to El Salvador?
2) Have you ever been to Latin America or other countries outside of the United States before? If so, when, where and in what capacity?
3) Do you have any experience working or living in impoverished communities? If so, please explain
4) What do you think the role of the United States should be in world politics? If you were Secretary of State during the 80s and 90s, what would you have done differently in El Salvador? What would have been your foreign policy strategy? This question may require you to do some research into the topic.
Read the following information, initial each statement and sign below if you accept these conditions.

In order to attend Alternative Winter Break on January 6 – 16, 2016,

I ________________________________ hereby agree to the following terms and conditions of participation:

___ I understand that my participation in the AWB program is contingent upon my being enrolled as a student at Suffolk University and in good academic standing at the time of my departure.

___ I understand that students enrolled in this course CANNOT graduate in December.

___ I understand that this is a Fall Semester course and will therefore receive an incomplete until my grade is submitted during the Spring Semester.

___ I understand that travel dates for this course will be January 6-16, 2016.

___ I understand that the total trip fee of $2300 includes airfare, accommodations, and most meals.

___ I understand that the $500 deposit is NON-Refundable, unless Suffolk University cancels the course.

___ I understand that the remaining $1800 trip fee balance will be billed by Student Accounts together with other tuition and fees for the Fall 2015 semester and will follow standard University billing procedures. The trip will not be refunded after October 15th.

___ I understand that tuition for this 4-credit course is in addition to the trip fee.

___ I understand that Suffolk University reserves the right to make cancellations, changes or substitutions to the agenda, course, faculty, flight arrangements (if applicable), and other services, in the case of emergencies or changed conditions as deemed desirable based on the interest of the group and academic quality of the course.

___ I understand that I am responsible for having proper USCIS paperwork including a valid passport to return to the US and a valid visa to enter El Salvador. (Visa requirement only applicable to some nationalities)

___ I understand that I am responsible for having proper health insurance coverage while abroad and ensuring that my health care coverage is extended to the country of travel

___ I agree to participate in all pre-departure meetings and post-trip meetings. If I have conflicts with the meeting times I will contact the trip facilitators prior to the meeting.

___ I understand that while a participant of this course, I am fully subject to University rules, regulations, and policies. Behavior that can result in my immediate dismissal includes, but is not limited to, the use or possession of alcohol or illegal drugs, behavior disruptive to the program or offensive to the host site, and/or violations of local, state, or national laws, or regulations of Suffolk University.

___ I understand that a decision to dismiss me from the program will be final and no refund will be made. I will be responsible for my own airfare home.

___ I understand that if I am dismissed from the program based on a violation of the stated behavior policy, a University judicial case will be opened by the Dean of Students to investigate the incident.

___ I understand that it is my responsibility to adhere to the departure schedule stated prior to trip commencement. Suffolk University is not responsible for travelers who fail to comply with this regulation and I will be liable for the cost of travel to the site.

Signature ___________________________________________________________ Date: __________________________
Alternative Winter Break Scholarship Application (Optional)

1. Full Legal Name

LAST (FAMILY)       FIRST       MIDDLE INITIAL       BIRTHNAME (MAIDEN)       NICKNAME

2. Permanent Address

STREET       CITY       STATE       ZIP CODE       COUNTRY

3. Current Mailing Address (if different from above)  Valid until when? ________________

STREET       CITY       STATE       ZIP CODE       COUNTRY

4. Email (Suffolk Address) ____________________________

(Personal Address) ____________________________

5. Phone (Day) ____________________________ (Evening) ____________________________

6. Have you participated in another Alternative Winter Break trip? ____ no ____ yes

(Students that have participated in previous AWB trips are not eligible for this scholarship fund.)

7. Do you currently receive financial aid through Suffolk University? ____ no ____ yes

Students are considered for scholarships based on financial need, but not everyone can be accommodated. Please note that the federal government considers the Alternative Break Scholarship to be financial aid, thus all students who apply must have a complete financial aid application on file in the Financial Aid Office. To protect students from violating the terms of their aid package, Suffolk’s Financial Aid Office carefully reviews each applicant to determine if a scholarship will cause problems or is within the rules, and if so what that funding limit is. This information is then used by the Scholarship Committee.

I hereby authorize the Alternative Break Scholarship Committee to review my financial aid and academic records.

Signature: ________________________________  Date: ________________