



## Gilman Global Experience: Inside the Classroom Video Transcript – *Justine Knudson*

**Justine Knudson-** Hey everybody! Welcome back. My name is Justine and I am studying abroad in Seville, Spain. In today's blog you are going to hear a little bit about one of my favorite classes and then we are also going to talk with my professor who teaches the class. My class is called literature and cooking and it is really awesome because it combines the hard work of a literature class with the fun of learning how to cook. Basically, what we are doing in this class is reading a lot of literature and then looking at food and how it is represented in the works. Then, we are learning how to cook the food. With all of the hands on experience we are learning about the history and culture of Spain. It has just been a really fun and really awesome way to become more connected with Spain and to understand more about the culture and the food here.

### **Literature and Cooking – Literature and Cooking Professor**

My name is Luis Laplaza, I have been teaching and working with American students for over 25 years. The thing I like most is obviously working with students because you have a relationship with people and people that are growing. Two years ago, talking to the coordinators of the university here, they were looking for new classes and something appealing for the students. Someone mentioned why not a cooking class? I said OK that sounds fine. What they really wanted to do was a class of component of theory. I said well I think the best thing would be a history of food and cooking in Spain.

### **Connection between Food and Culture**

The culinary of life is related to obviously harvesting and planting. All of our celebrations are related to our relation with nature. Things are changed now because of globalization, but if you just look back let's say 30 or 40 years ago cooking reflects the culture of people because food was so important. The production of whatever product you were producing would determine whatever you would eat.

**Justine Knudson-** Overall, this class has just kind of shown me how food and culture are just innately connected because food is one of those things that everybody has to have. It is always really interesting to look at how people eat and how that reflects their way of life and how that might differ than my own way of life.