

Course Syllabus INS 150

Spring 2020

Course Description

This course is designed to help you maximize your study abroad experience by increasing your understanding of your host culture and exploring how you engage with people from different cultures. In this course, we'll focus on both the objective and subjective elements of culture and their areas of overlap.

Focus on the Objective

Here you enhance your factual and contextual knowledge of your host culture (the "object"). This includes topics such as history, the arts, politics, demographics, etc.

Focus on the Subjective

Here the focus is on . . . *You!* (the "subject")

You will explore how you approach and process difference, handle new environments, make judgments, and engage with others. You will look at your goals for study abroad and your skillset for thriving in another culture.

Goals of INS 150

1. Learn basic facts of the host country and basic cross-cultural principles (acculturation).
2. Enhance awareness of cultural self-identity (enculturation).
3. Enhance awareness of the value of intercultural competence.
4. Gain knowledge of the cultural adjustment/transition process.
5. Prepare to interact and engage with individuals from the host country.

Required Texts will either be provided as pdfs, or can be accessed via ZSR e-books

Course Policies:

- Attendance & Participation is required. As this is an online course, physical attendance is not necessary. However, regular online participation is required. There are assignments that will require you to participate in. An example of this, is the online class forum. You will be required to post in the forum, and respond to your classmates' posts. Also, you will need to attend cultural events on campus, and you will need to be engaged in those programs and events.
- To pass, you must earn a comprehensive total of **77 points (C-)**. All assignments are required, but the assignments will vary in point value. The **Country Research Project** is worth significantly more points, and not completing it, will result in a major impact of your overall grade.

Submitting Assignments:

- Submit assignments in the Google classroom site. ***Please include your name and the title of the assignment in the document name - not just the assignment number***

(e.g., Chiles _Home and Away.doc)

- ******You will be asked to edit or redo assignments that have deficits in content and/or quality —so do them well the first time!******
- Late Assignments will be accepted, but will receive a **5 point deduction for every week it is late**. If an assignment is late, and the total points deducted are more than what the assignment was worth, the instructor will deduct points from another assignment, as they see fit.

Accommodations:

- If you have a disability that may require an accommodation for taking this course, please contact the Learning Assistance Center (336-758-5929), 117 Reynolda

Course at a Glance:

It is essential that you follow the course syllabus carefully and plan ahead to complete the **required seven modules**. Successful completion of the course relies on your preparedness and participation in class – both in person and online.

Overview of Modules

- Module 0: Introductions, tutorials, course goals, and survey
- Module 1: Identity & Study Abroad
- Module 2: Culture and Stereotypes
- Module 3: Cultural Values and Engagement
- Module 4: Intercultural Competence & Communication
- Module 5: U.S. Global Influence & Impact
- Module 6: Cultural Transitions
- Module 7: Preparing to Launch

Country Research Project

Create a group presentation about your host country that covers at least three of the topics listed below. The presentation should be a multi-media presentation, and should highlight more than just touristy information. The goal of the presentation is to explore your host country beyond that of a tourist. For example, if you are going to highlight the architecture of the city, what are some unknown details about the buildings, not just the date and time period they were built. Each presentation should have either a voice over for each slide. **You will create a group VoiceThread Presentation. The VoiceThread needs to be at least 12 Minutes in total length, and needs to incorporate photos. You will need to do a voice over for your slides.**

Module

Brief Overview

Due Date

Module 1: Exploring your Identity, and your Host Country

Introduce yourself to your classmates, share your future study abroad destinations, and hopes for the course and your questions and concerns about embarking on your upcoming journey. You will begin to explore your host country via local news. The goal is to unpack your identity, introduce yourself to your classmates, and explore your host country.

Due @ NOON

Module 2: Culture & Stereotypes

What is Culture? Who creates it? Does it evolve? How do we understand our individual and collective 'culture(s)'. Your personal, family, and communal values directly, and indirectly, impact how we understand and view the world. What role does your gender, sex, economic status, religious affiliation, race, and education have on your world view?

Due @ NOON

Module 3: Cultural Values Domestic and Away

Explore your own cultural values and begin researching the cultural values of your host country or region.

Due @ NOON

Module 4: Intercultural Competence & Cultural Observations

Inventory your own intercultural competence and identify the intercultural skills that will assist with a successful transition into your host country's culture. Visit the Anthropology Museum, and practice cultural observance.

Due @ NOON

Module 5: Discussions with others Across Difference

Examine verbal and non-verbal communication patterns of your host country. Evaluate your own comfort with being in uncomfortable situations and develop strategies for successful engagement in your host country. Meet an International, or Domestic, if you're an international student, that you don't know.

Due @ NOON

Module 6: Cultural Transitions, Culture Shock, and Stress

Identify the stages of transition and reasons many student experience "culture shock" while traveling abroad.

Due @ NOON

Module 7: Preparing to Launch

Develop a plan for your study abroad experience, including strategies for overcoming potential transition stress, and specific engagement activities to enhance your intercultural competency development while abroad.

Due @ NOON

Final Presentation

Country Research Project

Due @ NOON