



# CGS 150

## Fall 2025

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The Center for Global Programs and  
Studies: Reynolda Hall 116

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Office Hours: flexible, by  
appointment; in person, via phone  
or via Zoom

Classes will be held online & are asynchronous

### SYLLABUS

Photo by Juan Zayed, Fall 2019, Jordan

## Preparing for Cross-Cultural Engagement

CGS 150 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. It will also get you thinking about the practical aspects of study abroad and give you the opportunity to further research the different cultural elements that make up your host country, all to better prepare you for your journey abroad.

### Goals of CGS 150

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

By the end of the course, students who have fully engaged and put effort into their assignments will be better prepared for their time abroad.

### Honor Code

All students are expected to abide by the honor code and other guiding principles of the Wake Forest community. This means not cheating, plagiarizing (using someone else's work as your own), or other academic misconduct. For this or any other class, if you have any questions about what cheating or plagiarism means, please ask me. I want you to know, so that you can avoid problems and have success with your own, honest, work.

### Course Basics

This course is asynchronous which allows you to complete the readings and assignments for each module at your convenience. Each module spans a week, with all submissions due by the following Monday at 11:59pm. There is no textbook. Readings and activities will be assigned in the class and accessible via the Canvas site.

Academic Integrity: the policies and procedures of the [Wake Forest University Honor Code](#) will be strictly followed. Also, it is **not acceptable to use AI** in any way for this course as the assignments are focused on you using your own brain power to prepare for time away.

**Course Requirements & Expectations:**

This course is graded on a P/F basis. To pass, you must:

- Receive a 75% or above on your interview assignment, final project, and final reflection paper
- Complete all weekly course work\*

*\*While you are encouraged to complete all weekly assignments, you can miss up to three (3) assignments and still pass the class.*

**Attend class and complete quality assignments.**

Log into Canvas each week, do the readings, watch the videos, and complete the assignments. Assignments and posts on discussion boards should be thoughtful and complete.

You will have to edit or redo assignments that have deficits in content and/or quality – please take the time to do them well on your first attempt.

**Missing more than one module will result in an automatic fail for the course.**

**Modules**

Each module consists of a VoiceThread lesson, various readings, videos and/or exercises to further your understanding of your host culture and consider the different perspectives to take with you on your time abroad.

Module Assignments

Each module will conclude with an assignment, which is meant to help you reflect and connect to the content covered in that module. Details for each assignment can be found in Canvas.

Study Abroad Prep Assignments

Study Abroad Prep assignments will ask you to do research or complete a task that will better prepare you for your journey abroad. These assignments are intended to help you navigate your new home once you arrive.

Country Findings Assignments

Each module will have a Country Findings assignment in which you will research a particular topic related to the country in which you will be studying abroad. This exercise is intended for you to dig deeper into the cultural pieces that make your country unique, so use this exercise to further explore your personal interests within the subjects.

Short Writing Assignments

Some weeks you will have short assignments/handouts related to the topics of the class. The Interview assignment is required and will be graded.

**The Center for Learning, Access, and Student Success (CLASS)**

CLASS is located in 118 Reynolda Hall or at (336) 758-5929 (see lac.wfu.edu). CLASS staff can help with study skills, time management, and organizational strategies. They can also help with accommodations for a learning disability. On that topic, WFU provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities.

If you are in need of an accommodation, you are encouraged to talk with your professors and the CLASS as early in the term as possible.

Retroactive accommodations cannot be provided.



Photo by Karen Brosko, fall 2018

**Final Assignments: 75% or above to pass**Final Project – Explore Your City

You will prepare an itinerary for your first weekend in your host city and share it via a VoiceThread presentation. We want you to get excited about exploring your new home. Where will you go? How will you get there? What will you eat? Now that you are a local, what non-touristy things will you do? More details will be provided in Canvas.

Final Reflection Paper

You will submit a reflection paper of 1-2 pages about what you have learned in this course and your goals for going abroad. Prompts and submission details will be provided in Canvas.

## Schedule and Topics at a Glance

<b>Course Introduction</b>  <b>Review/submit by Fri. 10/17/25 before proceeding with Module 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch: Course Introduction VoiceThread</li> <li>• Submit a VoiceThread Introduction; listen to classmates' introductions</li> <li>• Review the course syllabus and final project details</li> </ul>
<b>Module 1: Culture and Stereotypes</b>  Assignments due by <b>Mon. 10/20/25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch: Culture and Stereotype VoiceThread</li> <li>• Watch: <i>Danger of a Single Story</i> and <i>American Stereotypes</i> videos</li> <li>• Assignment: Cultural Think Sheet</li> <li>• Assignment: Culture and Stereotypes Reflection</li> <li>• Country Findings: Local Newspapers</li> <li>• Study Abroad Prep: Visas</li> </ul>
<b>Module 2: Cultural Values at Home &amp; Away</b>  Assignments due by <b>Mon. 10/27/25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch: Cultural Values at Home and Away VoiceThread</li> <li>• Read: <i>Nine Cultural Value Differences</i></li> <li>• Read: <i>Cultural Training Resources</i></li> <li>• Assignment: Cultural Values Comparison</li> <li>• Country Findings: The Arts</li> <li>• Study Abroad Prep: Flights</li> </ul>
<b>Friday, October 13, 2025</b>	Last Day to drop course
<b>Module 3: Exploring your Host Country</b>  Assignments due by <b>Mon. 11/3/25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch: Exploring your Host Country VoiceThread</li> <li>• Watch: The Palau Pledge</li> <li>• Read: <i>Six Ways to Get Involved</i></li> <li>• Assignment: Responsible Tourism &amp; Social Media Reflection</li> <li>• Country Findings: Tourism in your host country</li> <li>• Study Abroad Prep: Cooking</li> <li>• Schedule interview with Global Ambassador or International Student</li> </ul>
<b>Module 4: Identity and Engaging with Others Across Difference</b>  Assignments due by <b>Mon. 11/10/25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch: Identity &amp; Engaging with Others Across Difference VoiceThread</li> <li>• Watch: <i>Brene Brown on Empathy</i> video</li> <li>• Read: Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity</li> <li>• <b>Midterm (Graded): Global Ambassador/ Int'l Student Interview</b></li> <li>• Assignment: Reflecting on Identity</li> <li>• Country Findings: Diverse identities</li> <li>• Study Abroad Prep: Public Transportation</li> </ul>
<b>Monday, 11/10/25</b>	<b>Any previous missing assignments are due by this date</b>
<b>Module 5: Intercultural Engagement &amp; Skills</b>  Assignments due by <b>Mon. 11/17/25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch: Intercultural Engagement &amp; Skills VoiceThread</li> <li>• Read: <i>Views from the Veranda</i> (select pages)</li> <li>• Read: <i>Was My Study Abroad Experience Authentic Enough?</i></li> <li>• Assignment: Reflection on two readings</li> <li>• Country Findings: Engagement activity/Local group</li> <li>• Study Abroad Prep: Budget</li> </ul>
<b>Module 6: Culture Shock and Stress</b>  Assignments due by <b>Mon. 11/24/25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch: Cultural Adjustment VoiceThread</li> <li>• Watch: <i>Culture Shock</i> and <i>Cultural Adaptation Cycles</i> video</li> <li>• Watch: <i>Studying Abroad Cultural Shock</i></li> <li>• Assignment: Cultural Transitions Stress Reflection</li> <li>• Country Findings: Academic major/minor connections abroad</li> <li>• Study Abroad Prep: Packing</li> </ul>
<b>Module 7: Preparing for Takeoff</b>  <b>All assignments due by Wed. 12/10/25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch: Preparing for Takeoff VoiceThread</li> <li>• <b>Final Project: Explore Your City Presentation</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Reflection Paper</b></li> <li>• Course Evaluation</li> </ul>