

INS 151

Cross-Cultural Engagement Abroad

Fall 2016



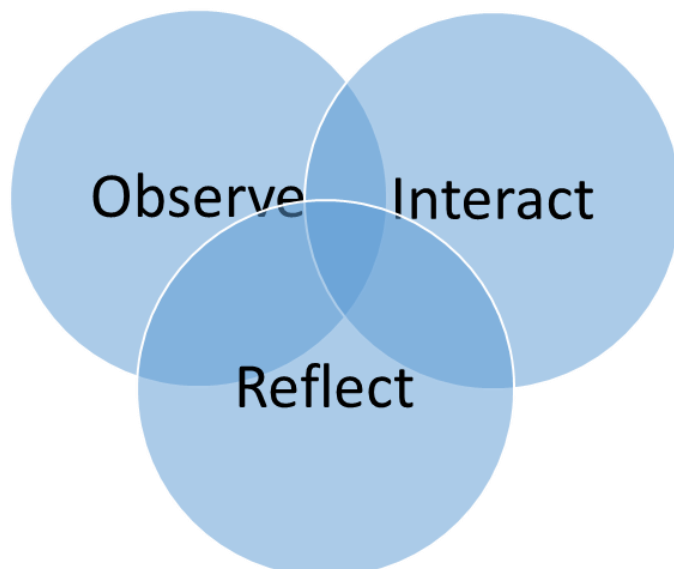
WAKE FOREST
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This course combines three methods to help you gain a deeper study abroad/intercultural experience: **observation, interaction, and reflection.**

Goals of INS 151

1. Deepen your engagement and exploration in your host culture.
2. Foster the development of intercultural competency.
3. Clarify and enhance your learning outcomes from your semester abroad.



Your Instructor

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Congratulations on taking INS 151. By doing the activities/assignments (below), you can learn more about your host culture; in doing so, you will hopefully learn more about yourself as well.

The course is divided into “**Modules**”, each of which contains assignments. Each Module has a time frame (a period of weeks) for submitting assignments; please submit within the time frame given. If your circumstances abroad make it difficult to meet a deadline, please inform me in advance to consider alternate deadlines.

<u>Modules</u>	<u>Assignments</u>	<u>When Due</u>
Module 1	Assignments 1, 2 Observe and Reflect	Two weeks into program
Module 2	3, 4 Interact, Observe, Reflect	Four weeks into program
Module 3	5,6 Interact, Observe, Reflect	Seven weeks into program
Module 4	7,8 Interact, Reflect	Ten weeks into program
Module 5	9 Interact, Reflect	Twelve weeks into program
Module 6	10, 11 Reflect	Final week of program

INS 151 “Cross-Cultural Engagement While Abroad” (1 credit hour, Pass/Fail)

Wake Forest University, Fall Semester 2016

Instructors: **Andrew Smith**, E-mail: smithac@wfu.edu ; **Dr. Michelle Klosterman**,
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INS 151 is intended to help you to engage with the host culture while you are abroad; in so doing, you will hopefully learn more about yourself as well.

Because this course is online, there is a lot of text on the syllabus, and please read the instructions carefully. Enjoy these assignments. They have been designed to facilitate your appreciation and experience of your host country and its culture.

Assignments are submitted in Site Drop Box and VoiceThread. Please include the title of the assignment (for example, “Eyes Wide Open”) in your document name.

Make the most of your experience!

✦ See list of additional suggested activities attached to the end of this syllabus! ✦

Module 1: Introductions, Transitions, and Observations

**Assignments # 0, #1, and #2,
due two weeks into program.**

Assignment #0 –Introduce yourself via VoiceThread

Using the VoiceThread tool in Sakai, post a photo or video clip of yourself, state which abroad program you are on, and one thing you are curious to learn about your host culture.

To activate your VoiceThread access, you must first simply click on the VoiceThread tool on the left side of the screen in the Sakai course site.

VoiceThread of this assignment in Sakai:

“Assignment 0, an introduction from your instructor”

To view a quick VoiceThread tutorial click:

<https://voicethread.com/howto/category/creating-web-application/>

Assignment #1: Eyes Wide Open

If you did not take INS 150, first **READ** Weaver, G., *Understanding and Coping with Cross-Cultural Adjustment Stress* pp. 177-181 in Sakai Resources.

Optional (helpful) reading, all INS 151 students: “Keeping a Journal” p. 119-123 in Sakai Resources

Describe your initial response to your new environment. You will need to be very descriptive and precise with your language in order to help the reader understand what you are experiencing. Put the reader in your shoes. Elements in **bold** are required, and address several of the following:

- **What initially struck you most about your new environment?**
- Describe an interaction you have had with a host country national and how the experience was for you and how it made you feel.
- How does it feel to hear a new language or new dialect of English being spoken around you all of the time?
- Have you experienced a language mixup?
- **What are you curious about and what will you do to learn more about it?**
- **What are your goals for your study abroad experience?**
- What is exciting?
- What has been the biggest adjustment so far? The biggest challenge?

Write 1-2 pages, and add any photos you wish at the end of your writing. Upload in Site Drop Box in Sakai.

Be sure to keep a copy of your write-up, as you will use it for a later assignment!!

Assignment #2: Observing Public Spaces. Complete either A or B.

First, READ: “*Intentional Observation*” (2 pages) in Sakai.

There are many new variables in your new environment, so careful observation can both help you make sense of it and also stimulate your curiosity to learn more. And remember that in observing, your first aim is to give an objective description; your evaluation of an environment (for example, “*The market was totally chaotic*”) is something you can add, but be sure to distinguish your objective description from your evaluation (note that the evaluation is interesting because it can reveal assumptions you hold).

Option A: Read “*Intentional Observation*” in Sakai first. Then choose one of the following three locations, and bring a small notebook or device in which you take notes:

- * local restaurant/café/bar in a **non-tourist** area
- * Grocery store
- * public transportation – bus, metro, or train

Write a detailed description about the location and the people in it.

How did being in this setting make you feel?

What questions come to mind through doing this observation?

In what ways does it differ from similar locations in your home country? Focus in on details both large and small. Also jot down your observations about the people you see. How do they greet one another? What do you observe about their pace? Are they rushed, relaxed, intense? What is the talking/communication like? Describe in specific detail your sensory impressions; note also how it compares to life in the US.

Option B. Read “*Intentional Observation*” in Sakai first.

Then find 1) a local shopping center, market or area where many people come to meet and/or shop, and 2) a public space like a central square.

- a. Describe the set-up of the area, and nature of the shopping (is there bargaining or haggling? Do people talk to strangers? Is it fast-paced, relaxed, or other? How is it organized?) Are there activities in the shopping area which interest you?
- b. How did being in this environment make you feel? Why?
- c. What conclusions about daily life can you infer from the environment? What inferences can you draw from the culture based on what you have seen?
- d. Next, find what appears to be a high traffic public space area in your host city. Jot down your observations. Describe the people you see. How do they greet one another? What do observe about their pace? Are they rushed, relaxed, intense?

Write 2-3 pages about what you observed and upload it in Site Drop Box in Sakai.

Module 2: Interviews and Engagement

Assignments #3 and #4, due four weeks into program

Reading: “Language Learning Styles and Strategies: Speaking to Communicate” in Maximizing Study Abroad, 2nd edition, pp. 203-224. Access the pages in Sakai.

Document: “Interview questions while abroad” in Sakai

Assignment #3: Interviewing a host national. First, access the interview questions guide sheet in Sakai. Follow directions below, and write a 2-page paper and upload in Site Drop Box in Sakai.

Interview a local. Note: the list of interview questions helps ensure that you get a significant amount of content from your interviewee. While you are free to ask some questions not included on the guide, the most interesting student reports of interviews have come from those who asked many of the questions on the guide.

Using the list of interview questions 1-10 as a guide, ask people in your host country what they think about themselves and about Americans/the USA. Next, continue with the interview, asking as many questions as possible from questions 11-30 on the guide sheet.

*Describe your interview. Note your own internal reactions to the opinions/discussion you hear. How did you feel during the discussion? Also pay special attention to the *manner* in which opinions are expressed –what did you notice about the rhetorical style of the discussion? Were they very direct in expressing their opinions or more indirect? Last, note what your thoughts are about the content of the answers from the interviewee.*

Assignment #4: VoiceThread response: Engagement with Locals

Follow these steps for this assignment:

- a) Watch this video clip in Sakai VoiceThread, of a student describing his experience in France: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdU9uWpLRAc>
- b) Now give your VoiceThread comments regarding this video (audio and/or text) and try to include the following:
 - How does, or doesn't, your experience abroad relate to/compare with his?
 - What can you learn from his comments and experience?

- Do you have examples of your own that illustrate your interaction with locals, and what the positive and negatives have been?
- If you have had any discussions with students from other countries, either in class or outside of class, describe what those discussions have been like, providing specific examples.

NOTE: For help on how to add comments using VoiceThread, follow this link:

<https://wp.voicethread.com/howto/how-to-comment/>

Module 3: Interaction and Cultural Integration

Assignments #5 and #6, due seven weeks into program.

Assignment #5: Choose A, B, or C; submit either as VoiceThread narration or as a 1-2 page written doc – your choice. See note below regarding VoiceThread narration.

A: In Sakai, access the Pdf “Circle of Relations, Culture Matters” – you complete the circle of culture for yourself and then ask as a host national to complete it (directions are on the Pdf). Compare the two and explain what you can infer from this exercise and any questions or issues it may have raised.

B: Watch TV with a local and ask them to explain some of the culture and language to you. Don’t flip through multiple channels –stick to one or two programs and examine them. Take notes while you do this; try to observe carefully and make note of details and of what your host tells you. For example, how do TV ads differ in your host country compared to home? How does the news or other programming differ? In your write-up or narration, describe your viewing experience and anything you learned from it.

C: Visit a well-known local landmark and take a photo of it. Then write down what the landmark means to you and what you know about it. Next, find one or more locals and ask them what it means to them. How does your understanding/interpretation of the landmark compare with the locals’? What new things about the landmark and the local culture did you learn from this?

{NOTE: You’ll want your VoiceThread narration to have the same amount of content or depth as a written document— and note that you can put multiple slides in a single VoiceThread you create. So for example you can have one slide that is a photo or video, another slide that has Powerpoint slides you made or links, and another that is you narrating. Or you can simply narrate using text and/or voice right over the photo, all in the same slide. See “The Mostar Old Bridge” Voicethread in Sakai for an example, and this link:

<https://voicethread.com/howto/category/creating-web-application/> }

Assignment #6: Mid-semester Integration. Write a 2-3 page paper or submit a photo-journal.

Note: photo journals **must have accompanying text/captions which address the questions below.** Note also that this is more than a tourist scrapbook (don't just put photos of famous sights/landmarks).

****See “[sample+photo+journal.Pdf](#)” under Resources in Sakai for an example of a photo-journal that meets the requirements, because the text + photos get at answers to these questions below.**

How are you adjusting to your new environment? How do you feel? Why do you feel this way? What degree of interaction have you had with locals and how often are you outside of your US cultural group? Describe some encounters with locals you have had so far. What have been the most interesting topics of discussion you've had while abroad, either with locals or with fellow study abroad students? What are some cultural norms that you have tried to adapt to? How successful have you been with those adaptations? Explain with examples. What do you enjoy most about being abroad?

Do you think you have experienced culture shock? Why or why not? If yes, what strategies have you taken to overcome it? Write a 2-3 page reflective journal, or do a photo project (Word document with photos and captions) to express your transition to this point. (Be sure to ask permission before you take photos of strangers unless you are unnoticeable/at a distance.)

Module 4: Interaction and Cultural Analysis

Assignments #7 and #8, due ten weeks into program.

Reading: “Strategies for Intercultural Communication” in Maximizing Study Abroad, 2nd edition, pp. 125-142. Access the pages in Sakai.

Assignment #7: Social Activity with Locals –complete “a” and “b”

- a.** Read over the “Interactive Activities While Abroad” list at the end of this syllabus, and simply write down three new activities you would like to do before the end of your time abroad. If the list is not sufficient, you may propose your own interactive activities.

b. NOTE: You may in addition attach one or more photos from your social activity.

Join other students from your host culture for a social activity. (For example, going to a local bar only with other American students to watch a sports game does not count.) Note what kinds of topics the group talks about. Are there cultural references (jokes/pop culture/traditions) which make you feel like an outsider? Note how the group budgets its time –do you detect any difference between your host culture and how a group of students in the US might use their time? Do you feel impatient, rushed, or neither? With communication, do people interrupt/jump in or do they usually wait for the speaker to finish? Were any efforts made to bridge your culture and theirs? If there are other aspects about your interaction with students from the host culture that you noticed were different from your normal expectations, describe these.

Submit as VoiceThread narration, photojournal, or 1-2 page written document.

(If using VoiceThread, see **NOTE** from Assignment #5)

Assignment #8: Cultural Analysis, 2 pages

First, if you did not take INS 150, READ: Peterson, *Cultural Intelligence* pages 19-22 in Sakai (Pdf)

All INS 151 students, READ: “Strategies for Making Cultural Inferences to Enhance Your Culture Learning” in *Maximizing Study Abroad*, 2nd edition, pp. 113-117 Access the pages in Sakai.

Next:

Open the “Cultural Analysis Paper” instructions in Sakai. Write a 2-page paper analyzing an event or incident you have experienced so far that caused a clarification or shift in your understanding of culture (your own and/or the host culture) or that challenged your understanding. Upload your paper in Sakai.

Module 5: More Interaction with Locals

Assignment #9, due twelve weeks into program.

Assignment #9: Choose either A or B:

A. Go over a newspaper with a local. Get a newspaper from your host country, preferably one that contains local, national, and international news. Meet with a local and ask him/her to explain any aspects you would like to understand better, and ask them their opinion about certain stories/topics as well. Also ask them to explain where the newspaper falls along the political spectrum (conservative, moderate, liberal). Note what you notice about the way the news is presented, and, if applicable, anything new you learned about the local or national culture as a result of this activity. Take photos of any headlines, ads, or articles you find interesting and include the name and date of the paper, and write 1-2 pages describing your experience and what you learned. Insert photos as an appendix to your write-up. Submit in Sakai.

B. Conduct a second interview, but this time try to interview a person from a different demographic/background (so for example, if you interviewed a young person, now interview an old person; rich/poor, man/woman, student/teacher, etc) Follow the same procedure as Assignment # 3. How do the answers compare, and how was your experience different? Write a 2-page report of your interview. Submit in Sakai.

Module 6: Final Reflection and Preparing for Re-Entry,

Assignments #10 and #11, due one week before the end of your program

Assignment #10: Then and Now: Go back and read the first assignment you wrote the first few days after you arrived in your host country. What do you feel when reading this? Now, having been through several weeks of your experience, is there anything you would tell yourself then?

Write a letter to your then-self, explaining what you know now and what you think your then-self should know, understand, and be aware of. **You must address each of the following:**

1. Summarize the most important things you have learned, and would like to understand better, about your host culture. Were there cultural norms that you needed to, or tried to, adapt to? How successful were you with those adaptations? Explain with examples.
2. Did you meet your goals? Were your expectations realistic?
3. Include any advice about attitudes or behaviors that would be helpful for your then-self.

(In other words, your letter basically consists of two main elements –reflections upon your personal attitudes, emotions, coping strategies, or inner changes, (i.e., reflections about yourself) and reflections about your understanding/objective knowledge of the host culture.

Upload your letter in Sakai.

Assignment #11: Preparing for Reentry to the US

READ: “Preparing to Return Home” in Maximizing Study Abroad, 2nd edition, pp. 143-146. Access the pages in Sakai. If you have time, answer the questions on pages 145-146.

Think about how you have changed, then write a list of ways you have changed in your worldview, behavior, feelings, etc. Looking over the list, how do you think this might affect you upon re-entry? How will family and friends respond to these changes? What might be challenging upon re-entry? What will you need to get used to when you are back in the US? How do you feel about returning? Why? Write a 1-2 page reflection paper, then upload it in Sakai.

Assignment #12: Course Evaluation

After you have completed assignment #11, you will receive an email with a link to an online course evaluation. Your responses will be anonymous. Please be open and accurate in your statements, as evaluation helps contribute to improving course design for future study abroad students.

**Use this list below for additional ways to experience the culture of your host country
(list continues on next page)**

Interactive Activities While Abroad

1. Volunteer with children at an after-school daycare or study program.
2. Join a sports club or group that meets regularly; play pick-up games
3. Watch TV with a local and ask them to explain some aspects.
4. Get a map of the host country and/or city, take it out and ask a local to tell you about some of their favorite places and places they would like to visit. Large paper maps are better than phone apps. You might get lots of good travel tips from doing this!
5. Learn a fairy tale or nursery rhyme from a child.

6. Teach a local an American pop song or folk song
7. With a local, compare some US currency (paper and coin) with the local currency –what images are on the currency, and what is their cultural relevance?
8. Interview people of different ages and backgrounds (see interview questions posted on Sakai)
9. Find volunteer projects in the city or countryside, such as environmental clean-ups, soup kitchens, tutoring/literacy programs, etc.
10. Find local musicians to play with
11. Attend a local church service and inquire about other activities the church is involved in
12. Find a language partner and set up a language exchange
13. Help your host family with a house or apartment project
14. Frequent a neighborhood bar or restaurant and get to know the workers and owner
15. Get a newspaper and go over it with a local.
16. Have a local teach you the national anthem (music and lyrics)
17. Ask the baker/butcher/shopkeepers to explain more about the products they are selling
18. Go to a local barber shop/beauty salon.
19. Go on a weekend outing with students from your host country.
20. Watch a sporting event with students from your host country.
21. Prepare a meal for your host family and/or friends.
22. Ask for directions even if you don't need them –see if perhaps some other conversation results.
23. Go attend a political debate or town/city meeting of some sort.
24. Visit a farm or winery
25. Visit a local elementary/middle/ high school and arrange to do a presentation in their English class
26. Find a place or center where elderly people congregate and see if you can talk with them.
27. Go sing Karaoke with fellow students
28. Rent a bike, take the bike on the bus or train to a lesser-known small town, bike around the town and stop in a bar or restaurant or shop and talk to locals about their town.
29. Find an animal shelter and see if you can volunteer
30. Talk to the concierge or security or maintenance workers in the building you live in, or at the university.
31. Take the same bus route for several days, and if there is usually the same driver, eventually introduce yourself and ask if one day you can interview him or her at the end of the driving shift.
32. Go to a museum and sign up for a guided tour.

33. Form a study group with students from your host country
34. Host an American Movie Night where you give a presentation about how the film relates to US culture/history
35. Find an immigrant or immigrant family and ask about their life in their new country
36. Locate an expatriate American living in your host country and ask about their experience of the culture and if they can introduce you to activities with locals.
37. Go to a bike shop or a car dealership and compare prices with the US (talk to the dealers and tell them you are doing some research –that way you get to interact with somebody)
38. Sign up for lessons for some hobby or activity you enjoy, such as dance, tennis, photography, etc.