Facilitator:
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Description:
This course is designed to help you develop skills and perspectives to enable you to get the most out of your international experience. In addition, it will provide you with information about the study abroad process and the practical aspects of studying abroad. It will not teach you how to live in a specific host country, but it will provide you with the resources necessary to maximize your learning experience both during your time abroad and when you return home. You will do research to tailor this class experience to fit your individual needs in relation to a chosen host culture. General intercultural communication techniques, vital in preparing you for the different views, values, and customs you may encounter will be integrated into class discussion. The class is organized around cross cultural exercises, class discussion, and guest speakers.

Readings (provided in class as needed):


Study Abroad Workbook (to be completed during the course)

Suggested Readings and Resources:


Armitage, S. (1996) Teaching American Values at Home and Abroad

http://www.studyabroad.com
http://iiepassport.org
http://travel.state.gov/
Course Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation (7 weeks x 2 pts/wk)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Paper - Expectations</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Movie Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Developed Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Student Interview</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>International News Story</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workbook Completion</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Reflection Paper - Evaluation</td>
<td>15</td>
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100 Total Possible Points

**Class Participation** – Participation in class discussion is an important and vital part of this course. Discussing and processing the weekly topics, understanding and contributing various points of view mark the beginning of your study abroad experience.

**Initial Paper** – This paper should answer/address the following questions in light of the introduction to the course and a thorough reading of the syllabus: What are your expectations of this class? What are your personal goals for your time abroad? Given what you have read in the syllabus, how do you hope the course will assist you in achieving those goals? In what areas do you feel confident about your international experience? What apprehensions do you have? (minimum of 1 full page, 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced, 1” margins)

**Group Movie Presentation** – The class will be divided into three or four groups. Each group will be randomly assigned a film to watch and present a 15 minute informal presentation to the class on how the film demonstrates some element of encountering another culture and relates to the discussion topics of the class. Several of these films are familiar movies so the presentation is not a report on the movie’s story but a critical look at how the film depicts topics discussed in class. It is expected that at least one clip from the film will be shown as an example during the presentation.

**Peer Developed Project** – As a class, one learning goal will be identified as important to a majority of the members of the class. This learning goal will then be translated by the class members into an assignment aimed at producing the learning outcome desired. This may be individual work, team work, or a combination of activities aimed at the desired goal. As this assignment is formulated by the class, it will be different each semester as best fits the personalities of the class and the learning goal. The facilitator will guide the process and sign off on the final class proposal.

**International Student Interview** – Additional instructions to be given in class. For this assignment you will need to seek out an international student from the country you have identified as your host for your time abroad. If you have not yet identified a student from your host country, find a student from a nearby country or similar culture. The Study Abroad/ NSE Office can help you locate a student if necessary. Be sure to inform the student about your assignment and the nature of the questions you will ask before you ask him or her to commit to the interview. You will also need a cultural artifact to share with the class representing your interviewee’s host country.
International News Story – Each Tuesday a student (or students depending on class size) will be assigned to come to class with an interesting news story from outside the United States. This may be from your chosen host country or another. On your assigned Tuesday, you will provide the class with a summary of the event or story, the source of your item, why you thought it was worth sharing, and at least one question for the class to discuss related to your news item.

Workbook – The workbook is your guide to safe and practical living abroad. The purpose of this assignment is to help you prepare for making responsible decisions in your new environment in regard to finances, health, personal security, etc. Note the due dates of each section in the course schedule. Include your name and the workbook section on each assignment. You will be graded on how useful the information you gather will be to you. Thus, your answers in each section should be complete and comprehensive with an eye to how each section will personally impact your study abroad experience.

Reflection Paper – This paper should answer/address the following questions in light of each of the exercises/assignments you have completed for your coursework. What were the most important ideas and concepts you encountered in this course? How will you apply them during your time abroad? What changes in your perspective on yourself, your host country, and the United States have taken place? How and why has this occurred? What do you feel you still have left to learn before you go abroad? How will you go about learning more in that area(s)? What do you anticipate that you will only be able to learn by being in your host culture? What will you do to prepare yourself for feelings of discomfort so that you can work through them and continue your growth? (minimum of 2 full pages, 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced, 1” margins)

Course Schedule:

Week 1
1) October 15  Syllabus Review and Introductions?
                Peer Developed Project discussion and decision
                Facilitator example of the International News Story assignment
                Group Movie Assignments

2) October 17  Administrative Issues – the mechanics of study abroad

Week 2
3) October 22  International News Story 1
                Cultural learning - How we perceive ourselves and others. How our personal and cultural “filters” affect how we view the world.
                Due: Initial Paper (5 points)

4) October 24  Returned study abroad student panel
                Due: 3x5 note card with at least 3 questions for the panel
                Read for next class: “Body Ritual among the Nacirema”
**Week 3**

5) October 29  
International News Story 2  
Defining Cultural Encounters  
Explore how other cultures might view the U.S.  
Class Discussion: “Body Ritual among the Nacirema”  
**Due: Workbook I: Health Issues (15 points)**

6) October 31  
Values and How They Are Formed  
*Read for next class: “Why Do Americans Act Like That?”*

**Week 4**

7) November 5  
International News Story 3  
American Values/Our Values  
**Group 1 Movie Presentation**  
Class Discussion: “Why Do Americans Act Like That?”  
**Option 1 Due: Workbook II & III: Safety & Legal Issues and Immigration Regulations (10 points)**

8) November 7  
Non-verbal Communication – body language  
**Group 2 Movie Presentation**  
We will discuss the different ways to communicate without speaking and explore the effect non-verbal communication might have on our relationships.  
**Option 2 Due: Workbook II & III: Safety & Legal Issues and Immigration Regulations (10 points)**

**Week 5**

9) November 12  
International News Story 4  
Citizen Diplomacy: Answering Tough Questions as an American Abroad.  
**Due: Response to assigned Citizen Diplomacy Question**

10) November 14  
Viewing US Culture from an International Perspective  
International student panel  
**Due: 3x5 note card with at least 3 questions for the panel**  
**Due: Workbook IV & V: Knowledge of Your Host-country and Political Issues (10 pts)**

**Week 6**

11) November 19  
International News Story 5  
Cross Cultural Communication – time and space  
**Group 3 Movie Presentation**  
**Due: Peer Developed Project**

12) November 21  
International Student Interview Roundtable Discussion  
**Due: Interview Write Up (15 points)**
Week 7
13) November 26
   International News Story 6
   Cultural Adjustment to your Host Culture & Upon Re-entry
   **Group 4 Movie Presentation**
   Become aware of the adjustment cycle for both entering your host country and later your home country

14) November 28
   **Thanksgiving Break – No Class**

Week 8
15) December 3
   International News Story 7
   Setting the Stage
   Develop personal goals for your time abroad
   Course evaluation
   **Due: Workbook VI, VII, & VIII: Financial, Housing, & Misc. Issues (5 pts)**

16) December 5
   No class meeting.
   **Due: Final Reflection Paper (15 points)**
   Turn in to Study Abroad/NSE Office or e-mail to jeff.simpson10@okstate.edu by 5:00 p.m.

**Notes:**

The facilitator reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus during the course of the semester as needed to meet the learning goals of this class. Any changes will be discussed during class periods and will be made with advanced notice if deadlines or other critical components are affected.

Reminder: This course falls under the same academic standards as any class taught on the OSU campus. Here is a link to the syllabus attachment for your review:

[http://academicaffairs.okstate.edu/images/amanda/fall%202013%20syllabus%20final.pdf](http://academicaffairs.okstate.edu/images/amanda/fall%202013%20syllabus%20final.pdf)