INS 150, Section A -- “Preparing for Study Abroad” (1 credit hour)
Wake Forest University, Fall Semester 2012

Location: 310 Green Hall, MW, 11:00 – 11:50 am (second half of the semester)
Instructor: Andrew Smith  Email: smithac@wfu.edu   Phone: 758-6230

Goals of INS 150
1) Learn basic facts and principles of host country and culture
2) Develop awareness of the value of culture learning and development of intercultural competence;
3) Learn how to learn experientially
4) Explore self-awareness and cultural identity
5) Understand culture on different levels
6) Gain knowledge of the cultural adjustment/transition processes
7) Prepare to interact and engage with individuals in the host country

Additional readings will be posted on Sakai.

Class Attendance and Participation/Pass-Fail assessment:
Attendance is required. Attendance means being present, being prepared, and contributing to class discussion. Missing more than 3 classes will result in an automatic F for the course. This course is pass/fail only, so active participation is expected.

To pass you must complete 9 out of the 11 assignments submitted to Sakai.
Completion of the IDI and ICC assessments is also required to achieve a passing grade.

Each week:
Find and read a news article in a newspaper or publication from your host country concerning an aspect of life in your host country. Write a half-page summary of the news story and post to Sakai each week (note: summarizing in a clear and succinct manner is a useful cognitive and writing skill that will serve you well in jobs and in communicating in general. So do this!) Complete 5 out of 7 weeks to achieve a passing grade.

Schedule and Topics

Monday, October 22: Introduction and syllabus overview

Expectations for study abroad; Why study abroad?
Articulating Goals and Anticipating Challenges
Read: Peterson, *Cultural Intelligence*, pp. 2-6 (in Sakai)  
Submit Assignment #1: Write a half-page summary of a current issue that is prominent in the news of your host (destination) country, and upload into Sakai, noting your sources of information –include news/media sources from your host country. The issue may or may not relate to US policy or culture. Be prepared to report on the issue in class.  
Assignment #2:

Monday, October 29: My culture /American values; contrasting perceptions of the US  
Assignment #3: What was your reaction to the quotes on pages 71-73 in *Maximizing Study Abroad*? How would you like to respond --or what would you like to ask –to the individuals who stated those quotes? What questions or ideas do the quotes raise in your mind? Write your thoughts on this, 1-2 pages, bring a copy to class and also submit in Sakai.

(Note: Tuesday Oct. 30 –international careers, info session/panel discussion)

Wednesday, Oct. 31 (Boo) : Transportation and Infrastructure  
Assignment #4: Do the following activity by yourself, not with another student:

Ride the Winston-Salem city bus for at least 20 minutes. Observe the people on the bus. What are they doing? How do you feel during the bus ride? Why do you feel this way?

Write a one-page reflection paper describing your observations and feelings. Submit your response in Sakai and be prepared to share in class.

Assignment # 5: Complete the ICC and IDI surveys online (instructions will be sent via email)

Monday, November 5: Food and Clothing  
Assignment #5:  
Research the cuisine of your host country or region. Find out how long a typical meal lasts and what is generally served at each meal. Also learn about restaurant culture – tipping, role of serving staff, how or if to ask for the bill. Then describe the foods and food practices you think you will enjoy, and describe foods or aspects of cuisine you have concerns about.

Submit your response in Sakai, one page.

Wednesday, Nov. 7: Art, music, and artistic expression  
Assignment #6: Choose “a” or b”:

a. Investigate one or two forms of art or artistic expression in your host country or region. How are those forms of art commonly displayed or practiced? Who are the artists and what is their background and level of training? Do those forms of art differ from what you find in the USA? In what ways? Write 1-2 pages describing what you have learned. Submit your response in Sakai.
b. Investigate one or two forms of music or musical expression in your host country or region. How are those forms of music commonly practiced or performed? What role do background and level of training? Do they differ from what you find in the USA? In what ways? Write 1-2 pages describing what you have learned. Submit your response in Sakai.

Monday, Nov. 12: Language, direct and indirect communication, nonverbal communication
Read: Peterson, Cultural Intelligence, pp. 38-39 and 142-150 in Sakai

Assignment #7: Contact a native speaker of the language of the country where you will study abroad. Arrange to meet with them in person or speak on the phone with them in their native language. If you cannot find a person, sign up for http://www.mylanguageexchange.com/ or http://www.languageforexchange.com/, online services which match you with another speaker. Note: If English is the language of your host country, find a native speaker of some foreign language you have studied. Then, write a one page reflection paper in which you reflect on the conversation. How did you feel? Why? Did the person use words or idioms that were unfamiliar to you? What did you learn from this experience? What strategies will you use for speaking a foreign language when you are abroad? Submit your response in Sakai and be prepared to share in class.

Wednesday, Nov. 14: Going beneath the surface: the iceberg analogy of culture
Read: Peterson 19-22 and 67-70 in Sakai; Paige, Maximizing Study Abroad pp. 46-48;

Why do people of a particular culture behave the way they do?
Come to class prepared to analyze the scenario from page 47 in Maximizing Study Abroad using the iceberg analogy of culture.

Monday, Nov. 19: Religion

Assignment #8: Go to a religious service that is different from your own faith tradition, radically different. Observe what is going on, paying particular attention to ways in which the service is conducted. Also observe your own reactions. Write a one-page reflection paper on your observations and any differences between what you expected and what you experienced. Submit your response in Sakai and be prepared to share in class.

Wednesday, Nov. 20: --NO CLASS –Thanksgiving Break
Monday, Nov. 26: Managing Culture Change and Transitions

No Assignment – Come to class prepared to participate in a hands-on activity

Wednesday, Nov. 28 Research historical development

Submit: Assignment #9: Research the historical development of your host country and/or host city. Identify three major events or time periods in the country that have shaped its development and affected its people. Write a 1-2 page summary of what you have learned. Submit your response in Sakai. Be prepared to orally summarize what you learned. Assignment #10: Complete the Intercultural development Inventory (IDI) and ICC assessments online. Instructions will be sent via email. Due by Friday at 5:00 pm.

Monday, Dec. 3 Values in Contrast

Read: Weaver, G., Understanding and Coping with Cross-Cultural Adjustment Stress pp. 177-181 in Sakai.
Read and Complete: pp.63-67 in Maximizing Study Abroad

Come to class prepared to discuss the culture mapping activity you completed from pp.63-67 in Maximizing Study Abroad and how it relates to the ideas in the reading by Weaver.

Wednesday, Dec. 5 Students report to class on host culture basics and cultural fun facts; Goals for Study Abroad

Assignment #11: Access the “Basic things you should know before you go” document in Sakai and research the items on that document, including ten interesting fun facts about your host country. Write 1-2 pages summarizing what you learned, and be prepared to give a two-minute presentation in class. Submit your response in Sakai and be prepared to share in class.