

# INS 150

## Preparing for Cross-Cultural Engagement Abroad

Fall 2015



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.

### 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 host country and basic cross-cultural principles.
2. Practice experiential learning
3. Enhance awareness of cultural self-identity
4. Enhance awareness of the value of intercultural competence.
5. Gain knowledge of the cultural adjustment/transition process
6. Prepare to interact and engage with individuals from the host country

### Your Instructor

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Office hours: \_\_\_\_\_

# Course Requirements

Required Text: Steve Duke, *Preparing to Study Abroad: Learning to Cross Cultures* (2014), in the campus bookstore.

Additional readings 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 2 classes will result in an automatic F for the course.*

### ***To Pass:***

*Complete 7 out of the 9 numbered assignments submitted to Sakai. Of the 7 assignments, at least one must be experiential assignment # 5 (bus ride) or # 8 (religious service) or # x, Winston-Salem Police ride-along. (see below)*

*Complete 4 news summaries (see below). The first news summary also counts as one of the 7 numbered assignments.*

***Please write the title of the assignment in the document name*** (e.g., Historical Development.doc)

**Submit assignments in Site Drop Box in Sakai**

*You will be asked to edit or redo assignments that have deficits in content and/or quality—so do them well the first time*

*Completion of the IDI and ICC survey assessments (assignment #2) is also required to achieve a passing grade.*

## **NEWS SUMMARIES:**

Find and read a news article in a newspaper or publication from your host country concerning an aspect of life in your host country, and consider news that is of some relevance to you. *Write a **single-spaced half-page** summary of the news story and post to Sakai* (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 well!) Summaries **must include full citation** of your news sources. You can usually just copy and paste the web address (url) of your articles to provide citation. If your source is a magazine or newspaper, give the date, page, author, etc.

## **Assignment # x—Winston-Salem Police ride along:**

This is # x because it can be completed at any point during the course. You have the opportunity to ride with a Winston-Salem police officer on patrol and do a write-up of your learning. Assignment instructions are in Sakai under Resources, and see me to schedule.

**Accommodation** —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 Hall.

# Course at a glance

Date	Topic(s)	What's Due
October 13	Why are you studying abroad? Goals and Challenges	
October 15	News and the danger of a single story	Assignment #1 (news)
October 20	Culture as an iceberg and shifting frames	Read and take notes Assignment #2 (ICC and IDI) <b>by Friday Oct. 23</b>
October 22	Food in your host culture	Assignment #3, food News summary #2
October 27	DAE method and responding to others	
October 29	Language and Communication, part I	 Assignment # 4, Language /interview
November 3	Exploring the arts	Assignment #5 News summary #3
November 5	Transportation and Expanding your comfort zone	 Assignment # 6 Ride the city bus
November 10	Language and Communication, part II	Read and take notes
November 12	Your intercultural skillset for thriving abroad	
November 17	Engaging with the Other	
November 19	Identity and the cultural self Religion in host culture	 Assignment #7 News summary #4
November 24	Historical development and contextual knowledge	Assignment #8, History research Bring laptop to class
December 1	Managing culture change and transitions	Read and take notes
December 3	Goals revisited	Assignment #9 Basic facts and fun facts

 = Experience + reflect

## Schedule and Topics

**Dates to note:** These assignments take more time than others, so you might want to get a head start on them:  
**October 29, November 5, 19**

**Tuesday, Oct. 13: Expectations for study abroad; Why study abroad?  
Articulating Goals and Anticipating Challenges  
The Benefits of Intercultural Competence and Crossing Cultures**

**Thursday, Oct. 15: What's Up Abroad? Sourcing Information and Important Issues.  
Moving beyond stereotypes**

Watch: TED.com video: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, "The Danger of a Single Story" (2009)  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda\\_adichie\\_the\\_danger\\_of\\_a\\_single\\_story](http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story)

Submit Assignment #1, News Summary: Write a **single-spaced** half-page summary of a current issue that is prominent in the news of your host (destination) country, and upload into Sakai, citing 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.

**Tuesday, Oct. 20: Going beneath the surface: the iceberg analogy of culture;  
Shifting your frame of reference**

Read: Peterson, *Cultural Intelligence* pages 19-22 and 67-70 in Sakai (Pdf);  
Duke, *Preparing to Study Abroad* Introduction and Chapter 1, pages 1-13

Come to class prepared to discuss the concepts and examples included in the reading.

Assignment #2: Complete the ICC and IDI assessments online (instructions will be sent via email) Complete surveys by **Friday, Oct. 23**

## **Thursday, Oct. 22: Food and Cuisine and News #2**

Bring to class and upload in Sakai News Summary #2

**And**

Read: Duke, *Preparing to Study Abroad* pages 31-37 and pages 53-56

Assignment #3 FOOD!:

Access the document “FOOD and Your Host Culture” in Sakai and research the cuisine and practices of your host country or region. Summarize your results in a one-page write-up, and submit in Sakai; be sure to cite your sources of information. Be prepared to share what you learned.

## **Tuesday, Oct. 27: Responding to others; DAE method**

No Assignment

## **Thursday, Oct. 29:**

### **Communication and Language, part I**

Assignment #4: 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. Then, write a one page reflection paper in which you reflect on the conversation. Please indicate who the speaker was, where you met, when you met, and for how long. 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.

**Note: If English is the language of your host country:** locate an international student **on campus** (not an old friend from high school or your home town) and interview them, following the questions from the sheet “Interview Questions for Internationals” in Sakai; submit a 1-2 page write up of your interview.

## **Tuesday, Nov. 3: Art, music, and artistic expression; News Summary #3**

Upload and bring News Summary #3

Assignment #5: Choose “a” or “b”:

- a. Investigate a specific form during a limited time period (so for example, **don’t** choose The Renaissance, because it’s too vast. A better choice might be something like 1960s art in Berlin) of art or artistic expression in your host country or region. The more specific and detailed the better. Genres can include photography, painting, architecture, dance, sculpture, and more. Pick artists or a tradition you are currently unfamiliar with. Write 1-2 pages describing what you have learned. Submit your response in Sakai, and be prepared to share visuals in class.
- b. Investigate musical expression in your host country or region. Find out what the traditional forms (folk and classical) of music are. Be specific and detailed. Then, find out what the contemporary forms are. Who are/were the major practitioners of each form (name the artists)? How prominent is US popular music in your host country? Write 1-2 pages describing what you have learned. Submit your response in Sakai, and be prepared to share in class.

## **Thursday, Nov. 5: Transportation and Infrastructure; Expanding your comfort zone**

Read: Duke, *Preparing to Study Abroad* pages 45-51

Assignment #6: Bus Ride

Do the following activity *by yourself, not with another student*:

Ride the Winston-Salem city bus for at least 20 minutes. Before riding, think about what elements you might want to observe. Observe the people on the bus and take a few notes. 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.

## **Tuesday, Nov. 10: Communication and Language, part II**

Read: Peterson, *Cultural Intelligence*, pp. 38-39 and 142-150 in Sakai

Take notes on the reading and be prepared to discuss in class.

**Thursday, Nov. 12: So, Why did we take that IDI thing anyway?  
An Influential Idea about Intercultural Development (and why it can be useful for you)  
Plus: Looking at your skillset for being abroad**

**Tuesday, Nov. 17: -- Engaging with The Other**

No Assignment – Come to class prepared to participate in an interactive activity.

**Thursday, Nov. 19: The Cultural Self and Identity; News Summary #4**

Upload and bring News Summary # 4

Assignment #7: Go to a religious service that is different from your own faith tradition, radically different. (So for example, if you are a Protestant, try not to go to another Protestant church. Instead, try a non-Christian faith, or at least something with more contrast, like a Catholic mass. If you are Episcopal, don't go to a Catholic service, or vice versa. (they are too similar)) Observe what is going on, paying particular attention to ways in which the service is conducted. Also observe your own reactions. Include the name and location of the service, and write a one-page reflection paper on: 1) your observations, 2) your reactions/feelings, and 3) any differences between what you expected and what you experienced.

**Tuesday, Nov. 24 Bring Laptop to class  
Researching historical development and more**

Assignment #8: Complete A) and B):

A) 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. (One helpful way of thinking about this assignment is “This is something anybody from my study abroad country would/ought to know”; try to identify these.)

B) From the document “Historical Questions” in Sakai, choose **any three** of the questions (that were not addressed in A) and answer them.

Write a 1-2 page summary of what you have learned from A) and B). Submit your response in Sakai and cite your sources. Be prepared to orally summarize what you learned.

**Thursday, Nov. 26 –THANKSGIVING BREAK, no class**

## **Tuesday, Dec. 1 Managing Culture Change and Transitions; Understanding and Preparing for Culture Shock**

What challenges are you likely to face while abroad, and what strategies can you use to address them?

Read: Duke, *Preparing to Study Abroad* Chapter 8, pages 99-115

Read: “Consumer Reports” in *Yin Yang, American Perspectives on Living in China*, Renouf and Ryan-Maher, eds., pp. 105-108 in Sakai

Read: Weaver, G., *Understanding and Coping with Cross-Cultural Adjustment Stress* pp. 177-181 in Sakai.

Take notes on the main points from the Weaver reading plus note four helpful tips you found in the chapter by Duke. Bring notes to class.

Last, consider why the reading in *Yin Yang, American Perspectives on Living in China* is included for this class session.

## **Thursday, Dec. 3 Fun Facts and Basics About Host Culture; Learning Outcomes; Advice from Wake Forest students abroad**

Assignment #9: Access the “Basic things you should know before you go” document in Sakai:

A) research the items on that document and write down the information

B) In addition, include a separate list of ten interesting or fun facts about your country. You might want to use the “Country Quiz!” from the session earlier in the course and answer a few of those items. Beware of dubious-sounding fun facts you read on the Web –always try to confirm accuracy.

Write 1-2 pages including all information from A and B and cite your sources; be prepared to give a two-minute presentation in class. See sample on Sakai as a model, and submit your response in Sakai.