Comparing Cultures and Societies

**COURSE IN BRIEF**
This is a directed study course for upper division college students. During this course, the student will conduct comparative historical studies of his/her native society and culture with those societies/cultures encountered during travel.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS** (3 Credits)
THREE credits requires the satisfactory completion of the following:

**PRE-TRAVEL PHASE**

1. Prior to departing, select a *Special Study Interest* topic that falls under the general heading of Cultures and Societies, i.e.: architecture, media, technology, environment, agriculture, education, etc. Using your *Special Study Interest*:

   a. Conduct research based upon readings, personal inquiry and observations to help prepare you for the culture you will experience during travel by completing the following:

      - From readings which coincide with your travel region and your *special study interest*, select at least two books or three business/professional journals of your choice to review relative to cross-cultural/travel region subjects. Write a one- to two-page *book/journal report* on each book/journal reviewed.
      - Submit your reports online. See *General Information* for submission instructions.

   Note: If you are taking the travel course SOST 399P, Cultural Diversity: A Professional Practicum, you must pick a different Special Study Interest topic for this course. In other words, do NOT pick a communication related topic for your special study interest for HIST 399C if you are registered in both courses. Please contact our office if you have any questions regarding these instructions.

2. Develop a **major events timeline** of your host country’s history as detailed below. The timeline should include significant political, social and economic events. If there is a point or points at which the country underwent a major shift, then compare/contrast the way the country was prior to the change and subsequent to the change. For example the civil war would be this type of major shift or divide for the United States.

   a. Create a physical timeline which encapsulates the dates and corresponding events.

   b. Write a two to three (2-3) page summary in which you detail the dividing event(s), the significance of the event(s) and how it altered the country.

   c. Submit your timeline online. See *General Information* for submission instructions.
3. Select two films to review. For your film reviews, both movies must be set in your host country, and at least one of them must be a foreign made film shot and set in your host country, preferably by a film maker native to that country. It is recommended that you use the resources at your local library in order to find a film. Specifically, an inter-library loan should be useful if the local selection of films is limited.

   a. Write a two (2) page review of each film. Each review should include the following:
      - Film title
      - Director/writer
      - Studio/production company
      - Release date
      - Movie synopsis
      - Your interpretation of the movie subject/plot
      - Your reaction to not just the film itself, but also to the society and culture depicted in the film.

   b. Submit reviews online. See General Information for submission instructions.

4. Write a five to six (5-6) page compare/contrast pre-travel paper comparing the culture within the United States (i.e. a depiction of the country along racial, social, political, economic, religious, gender lines, etc.) with predictions of what, based on your research, you believe your host country is like in the same areas. Your paper should highlight the general similarities and differences between the two countries. However, you should also narrow the focus of the paper to specifically address the comparison/contrast between the countries as it relates to your Special Study Interest. If you are going to multiple countries your Special Study Interest may cover a region rather than a specific country, however you will then also need to indicate how the countries in that region compare/contrast with each other.

TRAVEL PHASE

While traveling:

1. Maintain a comprehensive academic-travel journal in which you record all historically significant social and cultural locations and events observed during your travels.

2. Collect information through any internship experiences, personal interviews, and observations. This information should be supported by slides, photographs, videotapes, and/or tape recordings.
POST-TRAVEL PHASE

After returning:

1. Retype your travel journal.

2. Summarize your findings in a six page compare/contrast summary paper. The paper will compare and contrast the country visited with the individual's native country. Articulate the role that your Special Study Interest plays in the culture and society of the travel country. Include an evaluation of the predictions you made in your pre-travel compare/contrast paper. In what areas were you incorrect? How did you discover your prediction was wrong?

3. Submit your journal and paper online. See General Information for submission instructions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (5 Credits)

FIVE [5] credits requires satisfactory completion of:

**PRE-TRAVEL PHASE**

Same as for three [3] credits

**TRAVEL PHASE**

Same as for three [3] credits
POST-TRAVEL PHASE
Same as for the three [3] credits. PLUS select one of the following options:

OPTION 1

Write a ten (10) page internship summary paper based on your internship. This paper should highlight the growth you have made in your professional field during your internship experience. Also discuss how you have evolved as both a student and as a person during this time. Detail the impact this experience will have on you both personally and professionally in the future.

Discuss the following in your internship summary paper:

- Your specific role as an intern.
- How you performed.
- What you knew about the profession before your internship and how that has changed.
- What you are taking away from the internship.
- Your exposure to the culture in your internship country.
- Your interest in pursuing this career path. (Is it stronger, about the same, or less strong?)
- Your thoughts about the difference in completing an internship in a country other than your native country.

Submit your paper online. See General Information for submission instructions. Note: If you are taking both HIST399C and SOST399P you may only choose the internship option in one of these courses.

OR

OPTION 2:

Write a ten (10) page cross-cultural summary paper based on your Special Study Interest which highlights the professional reflections you have made as a result of your travel. Focus on how the exposure to a culture other than your own has altered the way in which you view the world. Discuss what impacted you the most. Discuss any changes you have noticed in yourself and any changes you would wish to see in your own culture. Discuss how you will take what you have learned from this trip to help you evolve as a professional.

Submit your paper online. See General Information for submission instructions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Click here for general information on this and all Field Studies courses or go to:

http://outreach.ewu.edu/1500
## COURSE REQUIREMENT OVERVIEW

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work on during:</th>
<th>Required Assignments</th>
<th>3 Credits</th>
<th>5 Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Travel</td>
<td>Book/Journal Report (2 books or 3 journals)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Travel</td>
<td>Major Events Timeline</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Travel</td>
<td>Film Reviews</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Travel</td>
<td>Compare/Contrast Pre-Travel Paper</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel/Post-Travel</td>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Travel</td>
<td>Compare/Contrast Summary Paper</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Travel</td>
<td>Submit retyped copy of travel journal (Do not scan)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Travel</td>
<td>Internship Summary Paper (Option1)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Travel</td>
<td>Cross-Cultural Summary Paper (Option 2)</td>
<td>✓</td>
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NOTE: Credit will not be granted unless the student successfully completes both the academic and travel phases of the program. Exceptions to the stated course requirements will be granted by EWU only under extenuating circumstances. Refunds will be granted according to official university policy. EWU will make the final determination on matters in question.

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