Comparing Cultures and Societies

COURSE IN BRIEF
This is a directed study post-baccalaureate resident credit course. During this course, the teacher/leader 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. Read the travel program materials sent to you.

2. Conduct the pre-travel meetings/orientation sessions as outlined by your travel program.

3. Prior to departing, select a Special Study Interest based on your academic/professional needs. Using your Special Study Interest
   a. Conduct research based upon readings, personal inquiry and observations to help prepare you for the culture you will be experiencing during travel by completing the following:
      i. 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.

4. Write a two to three-page paper (political and geographical) on each of the two topics below:
   a. Describe the body politic of the country you will be visiting by creating a flow chart which clearly shows the lines of authority through at least mid-bureaucratic levels. Explain your chart in a short narrative.
   b. Demonstrate an understanding of the geographic locations of the travel country by describing:
      i. its political boundaries;
      ii. the location and the significance of the major cities in that country;
iii. the relationship between the physical geography and political philosophy existing there. [Since boundaries change, a look at what caused those changes, i.e., neighboring countries, economic conditions, etc. will be necessary.]

5. Write a 5 to 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.

Submit your work online. (See the General Information section below for online submission information.)

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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 personal interviews and observations. This information should be supported by slides, photographs, videotapes, and/or tape recordings. Gather any material you believe will assist you for your Special Study Interest.

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POST-TRAVEL PHASE

After returning:

1. Retype your academic journal in its entirety. Please submit your file as an attachment online.

2. Summarize your findings in a six to eight 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?

Submit the above post-travel assignments online. (See the General Information section below for online submission information.)

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**COURSE REQUIREMENTS (5 Credits)**

In addition to the assignments listed in the three credit Pre-Travel/Travel/Post-Travel area, FIVE credits requires the satisfactory completion of one the following options:

**POST-TRAVEL**

Option A

Develop an instructional unit/learning packet [lesson plans] based upon your own classroom needs. The instructional unit must include a title, goal(s), objectives, learner outcome, instructional implications and student evaluation methods. Incorporate audio/visual materials/information gathered during travel.

Note: Your instructional unit may consist of a PowerPoint presentation, but in that case, you will need to submit a copy of the presentation as well as a written script for the verbal portion of the presentation.

OR

Option B

Write a ten to fifteen 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 educator.

Submit the above post-travel assignments online. (See the General Information section below for online submission information.)

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Click here for general information on this and all Field Studies 499 courses or go to: http://outreach.ewu.edu/2080
QUESTIONS
For questions regarding coursework, contact the Field Studies office through one of the following methods:

- ifsprogram@ewu.edu
- 1-800-541-2125, 8am-5pm, PT, Mon-Fri

Postal Mail Submission Address:

Field Studies
300 Senior Hall
Cheney, WA 99004-2442

If you would like your work returned to you, please include a five dollar check made out to EWU. All assignments (including media) should be photocopied or duplicated prior to submission.

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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</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2 books or 3 journals)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Travel</td>
<td>Political/Geographical paper</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Travel</td>
<td>Compare/Contrast Pre-Travel Paper</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Travel</td>
<td>Instructional Unit/ Learning Packet OR Cross-Cultural Summary Paper</td>
<td>✓</td>
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