EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Social Studies 399P - 3 or 5 Resident Quarter Credits
Cultural Diversity for Pre-Professionals

COURSE IN BRIEF
This directed study course is offered to the upper division college student who is traveling abroad. The purpose of the program is to explore specific professional fields practiced and taught in the countries visited. The international setting of the internship, meetings, informal discussion, site visitations, etc. provide the student with the chance to gain understanding in his/her field as well as the opportunity to apply previously studied theory in the appropriate cultural context.

TEXTBOOK

NOTE: You will need to purchase this book.
This textbook is required for this course.

ISBN: 0-205-35864-0

You can order this book online through sites like Amazon.com.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (3 Credits)
THREE [3] credits requires satisfactory completion of:

PRE-TRAVEL PHASE
Prior to departing:

1. Conduct research based upon readings, your planned internship, personal inquiry and/or observations to help prepare you for the culture you will experience during travel.

2. Read chapters 1, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Principles of Intercultural Communication. (See ordering information above.)

3. Select a Special Study Interest topic based on your academic/professional needs. Note: If you are also taking the travel course HIST 399C, Comparing Cultures and Societies, you must pick a different Special Study Interest topic for this course. In other words, pick a communication related topic for your special study interest for SOST399P and select a different Special Study Interest for HIST399C if you are registered in both courses.

4. Write a 2-3 page Textbook Summary Report in which you summarize the textbook chapters that you have read. You should also discuss the impact the reading has on choosing a Special Study Interest. Submit paper online. See General Information for submission instructions.
5. Using your local library, research the political climate and geographical features of your travel country and then write a 2-3 page paper as described below:

a. 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.]

6. After completing the above tasks, look at the topics listed below. Hypothesize on what cultural communicative patterns might exist for each topic in your host country. Also, speculate on the possibilities of why they exist. Example: If you find that your host country is very tolerant with respect to the dimension of time (it’s OK to be late for meetings, etc.), you might look at the role transportation plays in their lives. Limit your responses to no more than one [1] page on each topic. This is your communicative patterns hypothesis assignment about your host country.

   - Space/territorial dimensions;
   - Dimension of time;
   - Culture talk/etiquette;
   - Non-verbal behavior;
   - Emotions: a cross-cultural view;
   - Food and drink habits;
   - Clothes, costume and culture;
   - Visiting and hospitality;
   - Friendship customs;
   - Respect for age;
   - Religious practices;
   - Values and attitudes;
   - Gender roles/restrictions; and
   - Business practices.

7. Submit papers online. See General Information for submission instructions.
**TRAVEL PHASE**

During this phase, your main effort should be directed toward collecting data and validating hypotheses made during the pre-travel phase. Remember, you are to validate not only what patterns exist but also give examples of why they might exist. [See cultural communicative patterns and examples in pre-travel phase].

1. Keep and maintain an academic travel journal. Journal entries should include:
   a. observations [should include communicative patterns/responses]
   b. notes from internships, workshops, briefings, etc.
   c. interviews
   d. names and locations of agencies, institutions, schools, museums, groups, individuals that can support your observations.

2. Produce or collect audio/visual materials/information/internship duties necessary to reinforce/validate topics and to support and enhance positions/observations.

---

**POST-TRAVEL PHASE**

After returning home, complete the following assignment:

1. Using the data collected during the travel period, write a typed paper analyzing each of the communicative patterns given in the Pre-Travel phase. This Cultural Communication Patterns Paper must be double-spaced and at least 5-6 pages in length. It should include your:
   - Pre-travel hypotheses on each communicative pattern written in the communicative patterns hypothesis assignment;
   - Objective observations [no value judgments] Include examples of why cultural communicative patterns probably exist;
   - Evaluation process [what the observations may mean; recording the possibilities];
   - Validation process [eliminating incorrect assumptions];
   - How you made adjustments in your behavior to fit your conclusions;
   - Identify cultural obstacles that you had to overcome while collecting project data;
   - Describe how you overcame those obstacles. Be specific.
   - The affect this experience will have on your future professional inter-cultural contacts.

2. Retype your travel journal.
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 three [3] credits.

PLUS

After returning home, the student will select one of the following options:

OPTION 1:

Write a typed paper, ten (10) pages, which summarizes your internship experience. 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.

Note: If you are taking both HIST 399C, Comparing Cultures and Societies, and SOST399P, you may only choose the internship option in one of the courses.

Submit paper online. See General Information for submission instructions.

OR

OPTION 2:

Write a ten (10) page Reflective Paper discussing your Special Study Interest. Additionally, this paper should discuss how well you were prepared for the culture of your travel country. Reflect on how your research prior to traveling did or did not prepare you for your experiences.

Submit paper online. See General Information for submission instructions.
**GENERAL INFORMATION**

[Click here for general information](http://outreach.ewu.edu/1500) on this and all Field Studies courses or go to:

http://outreach.ewu.edu/1500

**COURSE REQUIREMENT OVERVIEW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work on during:</th>
<th>Required Assignments</th>
<th>3 Credits</th>
<th>5 Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Travel</td>
<td>Textbook Summary Report</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Travel</td>
<td>Political and Geographic Paper</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Travel</td>
<td>Communicative Patterns Hypothesis Assignment</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel/Post-Travel</td>
<td>Academic Journal</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Travel</td>
<td>Cultural Communication Patterns Paper</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Travel</td>
<td>Internship Summary Paper (Option1)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>(If selecting Option 1 only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reflective Paper (Option 2)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>(If selecting Option 2 only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

_Eastern Washington University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran._