COURSE IN BRIEF
In today’s diverse business world the ability to positively interact interculturally is a prerequisite to many successful business transactions. This self-directed post-baccalaureate course has been specifically designed to assist the professional person, through international contacts, gain a better understanding of world cultures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

PRE-TRAVEL PHASE
Prior to departing, you will select a Special Study Interest topic based on your academic/professional needs. Using your Special Study Interest:

1. 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:
   a. 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 report on each book/journal reviewed.
   AND
   b. Write a two to three-page paper (political and geographical) on each of the two topics below:
      i. 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.
      ii. Demonstrate an understanding of the geographic locations of the travel country by describing:
         1. its political boundaries
         2. the location and the significance of the major cities in that country
         3. 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.]
2. 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.

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

**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. interviews
   c. notes from conferences, workshops, briefings, etc.
   d. names and locations of agencies, institutions, schools, museums, groups, individuals that can support your observations.

2. Produce audio/visual materials/information necessary to reinforce/validate topics and to support and enhance positions/observations.
**POST-TRAVEL PHASE**

After returning home, complete the following assignments:

1. Using the data collected during the travel period, construct/produce either:
   a. An *instructional unit* comprised of 1) a slide presentation, complete with written script, OR 2) a video production complete with audio and a written script, OR 3) a combination of 1 and 2 above. Include a title, goal(s), objectives, learner outcomes, instructional implications, and student evaluation methods.
   OR
   b. 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 ten [10] 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 *academic journal* in its entirety. Please submit your file as an attachment online.

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

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Click here for general information on this and all Field Studies 499 courses or go to: [http://outreach.ewu.edu/2080](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.

COURSE REQUIREMENT OVERVIEW

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<tr>
<td>Pre-Travel</td>
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