

Instructor: Susan McCready
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Office Hours: Tuesday 10:45-12:15
Wednesday 9:00-10:00
Thursday 10:45-11:45 or by appointment

LG 480: Senior Seminar Fall 2005

Course Description

This course is designed to broaden and enhance the study-abroad experience through the discussion of such topics as comparative cross-cultural behaviors and mind-sets, culture shock, cultural stereotypes, and cultural metaphors. Along with short lectures and discussion periods, classes will consist of student presentations and continued contact with the target culture through conversation sections with native informants. Students will write two short papers and one research paper.

Course Prerequisites

Completion of the Study Abroad requirement.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, students will have a good working knowledge of foreign-language print and internet sources and library research techniques. They will be better prepared to interact more effectively with members of other cultures on both professional and personal levels, and will have practical knowledge of how to put their language skills and study-abroad experience to best use in the newly emerging global marketplace.

Procedures for Assessment of Student Achievement

Since this is an interactive course, attendance is essential. Students will be graded daily on their participation in classroom activities, including discussions and presentations. Students are expected to listen actively to the presentations of others and to ask questions after the presentations. Absent students will earn no points for participation. Students absent the day of a presentation will earn no credit for the presentation.

Late work is not accepted.

For all written assignments, a page consists of at least 25 lines of text in a font no larger than 12-point. Margins should be no larger than 1 inch.

Conversation Component

Beginning September 8, the Thursday class period will be devoted to small-group conversation in the target language with a native informant. The tutor leading the discussion will evaluate each student at the end of the term. This evaluation will count for 10% of the course grade, as will participation in the conversation group.

Evaluation and Grading	Grading Scale		
Participation in Class Discussion:	15%	90-100	A
Participation in TL Conversation:	10%	80-89	B
TL Oral Evaluation:	10%	70-79	C
Short Paper:	15%	60-69	D
Two Short Presentations	10%	00-60	F
Multimedia Presentation:	15%		
Final Research Paper:	25%		

Graded Assignments

Friday, September 9: Short Paper

NOTE: This paper is due on a day the class does not meet. Papers must be in my physical mailbox or internet mailbox by 4PM.

Study Abroad Self Assessment (5-7 pages). An essay evaluating your experience in your foreign study. Did you meet the linguistic/cultural goals you had set for yourself? If so, how? If not, why not? What were the greatest obstacles you faced? What did this experience teach you about the culture you visited? About yourself?

Tuesday, September 13: First Short Presentation

Students will do a 5-10 minute oral presentation on the topic of their written paper turned in the previous Friday. You may use notes and/or props, but **do not read your paper**. Students will be evaluated by their peers as well as by the instructor.

Tuesday, September 20: Second Short Presentation

Presentation of the topic of your final research paper. Be prepared to ask questions of your classmates to help them sharpen their topics. (5-10 minutes) Students will be evaluated on their own presentations as well as on their participation in the question session following each presentation.

beginning Tuesday, November 1: Multimedia Presentation

Using PowerPoint (with other media if desired), students will present the research from their final papers. (30 minutes) Two students will present each week until the end of the term. All students are expected to be present and to ask questions at the end of all presentations. You need not have finished the final research paper by the date of your presentation.

Thursday, December 8: Final Research Paper

A multi-sourced research paper on an approved topic of cultural/linguistic significance in your target culture. (20-25 pages)

Papers should have no fewer than 10 sources, of which:
 at least 8 should be in the target language,
 the majority should be print sources, although some web sources should be included.

Class Meetings

23 August
Introduction

30 August
“Evaluating Your Study Abroad...”

6 September
Portfolio Workshop : **Language Lab**

13 September
Self-Assessment Presentations

20 September
Initial Topic Presentations

27 September
Research Skills Workshop: **University Library**

4 October
“Get out of the Country, Please”
(Bollag); “American Objectives...” (Gullahorn)

11 October
Power Point Workshop: **Computer Services Center**

18 October
“What’s the Subject...” (Talbert and Stewart)

25 October
“Education Abroad...” (Jenkins and Skelly)

1 November
Presentations

8 November
Presentations

15 November
Presentations

22 November
Presentations

29 November
Presentations

6 December
Presentations

25 August
Values Assessment; “What Students Don’t
Learn Abroad” (Feinberg)

1 September
“Emerging Questions ...”
(Wilkinson)

8 September
Conversation

15 September
Conversation

22 September
Conversation

29 September
Conversation

6 October
Conversation

13 October
Conversation

20 October
Conversation

27 October
Conversation

3 November
Conversation

15 November
Conversation

17 November
Conversation

24 November
THANKSGIVING

1 December
Conversation

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations.

Since all classes do not progress at the same rate, the instructor may wish to modify these requirements or their timing as circumstances dictate. For example, the instructor may wish to change the number and frequency of exams, or the number and sequence of assignments. It is the responsibility of the student to remain abreast of any such changes.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures Academic Honesty Policy will be strictly enforced in this class.