

Instructor: Dr. Isabel Z. Brown
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Office Hours: MWF 9-10
Tuesday 11:30-12:30

LG 480: Senior Seminar Fall 2009

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. The course will also serve as the capstone to the major, covering approaches to the study of culture and research skills. Another aspect of LG 480 Senior Seminar is as an assessment of the majors' degree of success during their tenure at USA. A comprehensive senior assessment exam will be administered as part of the course for the purpose of evaluating the major's achievements and gauge the success level therein. Finally, the course considers career opportunities for FL majors. In that vein, students write a resume. Additionally, 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 global marketplace.

Course Materials

Students will receive handouts to read and comment.

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.

Conversation Component

Beginning September 3, the Thursday class period will be devoted to small-group conversation in the target language with an international student with native speaking ability. The native conversation partner (NCP) 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.

International Film Series

Students in the senior seminar must attend **five** of the International Film Series (films Thursday evenings in the USA Library) and write up a one page personal review of the same. The films are also a good point of departure for discussion in the conversation groups.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading Scale

Participation in Class Discussion and film reviews:	20%	90-100	A
Participation in NCP Conversation:	10%	80-89	B
NCP Oral Evaluation:	10%	70-79	C
Two Short Papers and Resume	15%	60-69	D
Multimedia Presentation:	10%	00-60	F
Final Research Paper:	35%		

Graded Assignments

Thursday, August 20: Thank you letter to the USA Foundation

Write a hand-written note of thanks and appreciation to Maxie Roberts, USA Foundation Director and to the Board of Directors of the USA Foundation. The address is:

P. O. Box 3148
Mobile, Alabama
36652-3148

Thursday, August 27: First Short Paper Due

Study Abroad Self Assessment (5-7 pages). A typed 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?

Note: Any assignment sent by email must be received by class time on the due date.

Thursday, September 3: Second Short Paper Due

Self Assessment of your experience in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. (3 -5 pages) A typed essay examining your progress with foreign language learning. Some of the following questions may help you get started. Why did you choose to study the language you are studying? How difficult was it to learn as much as you have learned thus far? How has knowing a second or third foreign language changed your world view? What do you expect to do with your foreign language acquisition? In what ways have you been disappointed with the experience of foreign language study? Are there any aspects of foreign language study whereby your own achievements exceed your expectations?

Thursday, September 10: Resumé Due

Type up a resume as if you were applying for a job, a scholarship or an internship. There are many models online. Also, Career Services in Meisler Hall is a great resource for getting you started along these lines.

Beginning Tuesday, November 17: Multimedia Presentation 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Using PowerPoint (with other media if desired), students will present the research from their final papers. (10-15 minutes) 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. Consider inviting family members to your own presentation as well as favorite professors. I will be letting the Dean and Associate Deans of the college know of your presentation as well as members of the Board of the USA Foundation.

Monday, December 7: Final Research Paper

A multi-sourced research paper on an approved topic of cultural/linguistic significance in your target culture. (18-20 pages *in English*)

Papers should have no fewer than 8 sources, of which at least half should be in the target language and the majority should be print sources, although some electronic sources should be included. We will discuss appropriate topics and potential approaches in class (see below).

This paper will have several intermediate deadlines:

Tuesday, September 1: Topic Ideas for class discussion/suggestions Working in small groups, you will discuss possible topics for your paper. The whole class will discuss possible approaches to the various proposed subjects._

Tuesday, September 8: Paper Topic Due. Submit your topic for approval, with a proposed title and a short paragraph suggesting what approach you plan to take (literary, historical, comparative, etc.)

Tuesday, September 29: Initial Bibliography Due. By this point you should have identified at least 4 potential sources and actually begun to review at least two.

Tuesday, October 20: Rough Outline Due. Not necessarily a formal outline with roman numerals like you probably learned in high school, your rough outline can

be in any format you are comfortable with, but should show that you have an idea of how your paper will be organized, the logical progression of ideas, use of source materials, etc.

Tuesday, November 3 – Tuesday, November 17: First Draft of Paper. You are not required to submit a draft, but you are welcome to do so, if you would like guidance/ comments in the earlier part of the writing process. Of course, I am available to discuss your progress with the research paper at any time, but if you would like more formal comments you must submit a draft by November 17.

Not graded Assignment: Thursday, November 5 – Senior Assessment Exam

The assignments listed on the course calendar may be modified by the instructor and it is the responsibility of the student to remain abreast of any changes in the schedule of assignments.

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

Course Calendar

Dates in **BOLD** are those on which an assignment is due.

Tuesday

18 August
Introduction

24 August
Readings/Discussion

1 September
Readings/Discussion

8 September
Readings/Discussion

15 September
Library Workshop

22 September
Readings/Discussion

29 September

Thursday

20 August
Readings/Discussion

27 August
Readings/Discussion

3 September
Conversation

10 September
Conversation

17 September
Conversation

24 September
Conversation

1 October

Readings/Discussion

Conversation

6 October
Readings/Discussion

8 October
Conversation

13 October
Readings/Discussion

15 October
Conversation

20 October
Readings/Discussion

22 October
Conversation

27 October
Paper/Presentation Workshop

29 October
Conversation

3 November
Presentations

5 November
Conversation

10 November
Presentations

12 November
Conversation

17 November
Presentations

19 November
Conversation

24 November
Presentations

26 November
THANKSGIVING

1 December
Presentations