

## IE 499<sup>1</sup>

## INTERCULTURAL EXPERIENCE

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**TEXT:** No text.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

The central objective of this course is to encourage students to develop an awareness of **cultural differences** and the ways in which these differences shape and influence our experiences. **Students will focus and report on differences in customs, beliefs, food, dress, art, music, language, architecture, government ---in short, on all aspects of cultural difference which they have personally experienced/observed.**

### **PROCEDURE:**

Students will travel to and spend time in a different country/culture, through either an organized University study-abroad program or some other program/venue. A “Contract for Directed Independent Study” (Attached) with a ‘Brief Description of Work to be Completed by Student’ will be filled out and filed. Students will relate **their own observations of cultural differences**. This report, approximately 5 pages long (double-spaced), is **NOT INFORMATION ABOUT**, but rather **YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES/OBSERVATIONS OF CULTURAL DIFFERENCES**. Accordingly, there are no reference sources, no statistical or historical information, etc.

**\*\*\*INFORMATION THAT CAN BE FOUND IN PRINT SOURCES OR ONLINE CANNOT BE INCLUDED IN YOUR PAPER!\*\*\***

Since these are **YOUR OBSERVATIONS**, you should use words such as ‘I’, ‘my’, and ‘me’, as opposed to ‘one’, ‘we’, etc. You may supplement your report with photographs or other realia if you choose, though this is not a requirement. **DO NOT SUBMIT A TRAVELOGUE** (for example: “I bought my ticket with money I saved for five years. When we landed I found out my luggage was lost. Then I had to overpay for a taxi to the hotel.....”). **For each and every observation you make about one culture, a comparison perspective should be given for the other culture.**

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<sup>1</sup> Depending on the nature of the project and/or length of time abroad, this course may be taken for one, two, or three credits: IE 499 (01) 1credit hour; IE 499 (02) 2 credit hours; IE 499 (03) 3 credit hours.

**EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Through a process of reflecting on their experiences in a culture other than their own, and by contemplating and identifying points of cultural divergence, as informed by their own specific observations, students are expected to attain an understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity, and an ability to express this understanding verbally.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

I will contact you, beginning with a message announcing the due date for your report, at your **campus (Pipeline) e-mail address**. My Pipeline e-mail address appears at the top left of this syllabus. It is especially important that you check your e-mail at the beginning and towards the end of the semester, especially once your project has been submitted. This will facilitate making required changes/additions in a timely fashion. **Please email me your paper as an attached file ([tcchristy@una.edu](mailto:tcchristy@una.edu)), or you may put your paper in my office mailbox in Wesleyan Hall Room 209** (mailbox is on the left just inside the door). Papers can be picked up in Wesleyan 209 at the end of the semester (in a box on the bookshelf on the right just inside the door).

**GRADE:**

The grade will be based on the quality of the submitted project as a successful **record of cultural differences which YOU observed, and the ways in which awareness of these differences have led to new ways of looking at the cultures being compared.** Points will be subtracted for late submission.

Course Objectives and Assessments

OBJECTIVE	ASSESSMENT
290-3-3-.11(2)(b)2.(ii) Ability to ask questions and compare answers to interpret literary and cultural texts from both native and target cultures for the purpose of interpreting and reflecting on the perspectives of both cultures.	Student is living and functioning in the target language. Immersion in the language and culture of the target language (experience takes place abroad), often also accompanied by enrollment in a local language school. Daily functioning in speaking, reading, hearing and writing the target language. Achievement registered in required course paper, the assessment of which generates the course grade.