

Syllabus

Maximizing the Study Abroad Experience

Inter Disciplinary Studies 102X (.25)

Semester Abroad: Spring 2009

This course is required for students accepted to study abroad through Willamette University. By accepting placement in a Willamette Sponsored study abroad program you are registering for the course “Maximizing the Study Abroad Experience” IDS102X during the Spring 2009 semester. You will receive .25 credits upon completion of the course.

The goal of the course is to prepare and assist the student in maximizing the learning potential of the study abroad experience as well as award credit for the time and effort necessary in the preparation, culture-learning, and re-entry processes of study abroad.

TOOLS

- The Office of International Education’s (OIE) website “Maximize Your Experience.” At www.willamette.edu/dept/oie/accepted/maximize you will find all of the information you need for the course as well as assignments and tips – bookmark this page. (You may wish to print the assignments in case you have limited computer access while abroad.)
- The **Study Abroad Checklist** should be used as your primary organizational document. All of the assignments for the IDS102X course are included on the checklist.
- Use the following contact information to turn in your assignments:
Stacy West
Office of International Education – Matthews Hall
Willamette University, Salem, Oregon 97301
Email: swest@willamette.edu Fax: 503-370-6565
- The rest of the OIE’s website: www.willamette.edu/dept/oie/abroad (left menu items)
 - Accepted to Study Abroad
 - Currently Abroad
 - Home from Abroad
 - Continuing International Connections

NOTES

- The .25 credit will be recorded in the semester of your program.
- At meetings or events where attendance is graded it is the student’s responsibility to verify attendance according to instructions given at the meeting or event.
- Students who elect to take IDS 203 (W) Intercultural Study within Cultural Immersion (1.0) will receive credit for IDS 203 ONLY.
- Students enrolled in IDS 203 are only required to complete the mandatory meetings (#1) and evaluation (#5) in addition to the IDS 203 requirements. For more information about this course visit www.willamette.edu/dept/oie/abroad/programs/ids203/
- Students studying abroad for a full year will receive .25 credit for one semester (students choice) and are only expected to complete each assignment once.

ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING

Students must complete a Willamette University Study Abroad Program in order to receive credit for the course. A mark of Credit (CR) will be earned at completion of items one through six below. **Although in most cases only one assignment is due for each item, students are encouraged to complete all in order to truly maximize their experience abroad.**

1. Students must attend all mandatory pre-departure meetings. Absence at any of these meetings will result in dismissal from the study abroad program. The mandatory pre-departure meetings include:
 - a. The General Pre-departure meeting
 - b. The Site-specific Pre-departure meeting
 - c. The Language Learning Strategies session. Students studying in countries where the primary language of instruction is English are exempt from this requirement. However, students studying at sites where social interaction is in another language are encouraged to attend the session.
2. Pre-Departure: Complete ONE of the *preparing to study abroad assignments* found under *Maximizing Your Experience* on the OIE website. This assignment is due on December 12th, 2008.
3. While Abroad: Complete ONE of the *while abroad assignments* found under *Maximizing Your Experience* on the OIE website. This assignment is due by May 5th, 2009.
4. Returning from Abroad: Complete ONE *returning from study abroad assignments* found under *Maximizing Your Experience* on the OIE website. The assignment is due by October 15th, 2009. Note: in some cases the assignment is most appropriately completed prior to departure from host country.
5. Study Abroad Evaluation: Complete the Study Abroad Program Evaluation found under *Maximizing Your Experience* on the OIE Website. Evaluations are due by October 15th 2009.
6. Back on Campus: Attend or participate in ONE *re-entry activity* the semester after returning from study abroad. Participation or intended participation must be acknowledged by October 15th, 2009. Descriptions of these events as well as other re-entry resources can be found online at www.willamette.edu/dept/oie/abroad/alumni.