

Global Learning: Immersion

UNIV 394, 1 credit hour, Spring 2020

Online

Dates: Throughout Semester

C. Dominique Speer

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MU 116, M-F 1:30-3:30 by appt

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COURSE PREREQUISITES

Approval to study abroad, and/or instructor approval.

NDSU CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

Individual student work on research or criticism under the supervision of a professor.

DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

Congratulations again on your decision to study abroad! As you take part in your program abroad, this course is a forum to record your experiences, consider what they might mean, and share your insights with others in the class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. **Apply and reflect on independent thought and actions as part of a study abroad program** by employing knowledge gained in the pre-departure course and pursuing, evaluating, and adjusting program goals while abroad.
2. **Discover and interpret identity and values in a multicultural context** by reflecting on aspects of their personal identity and exploring how the interactions between self and society affect the ongoing formation of self-identity.
3. **Practice intercultural awareness and skills as a global citizen** by respectfully interacting with people from diverse backgrounds and reflecting on culture shock; comparing similarities and differences between cultures; and considering their impact on the world and individuals as a study abroad participant.

COURSE POLICIES

Participation: This course is online, but you are still expected to participate as an active and respectful member of the class throughout the term. While we have only limited time in our virtual classroom together, the entirety of your experiences during your term abroad are a part of this course as well. This semester is the time where you step from classroom learning into a role of a self-directed international scholar. Course discussions are one way you are growing and sharing what you find with others in this community of learning.

Respect: This class is intended to be a helpful and supportive class for people who are abroad. As such, politeness and thoughtful engagement in the material is required. You may be wrestling with some topics that challenge you. Being respectful of others and of yourself is important for building an environment of trust and communication.

Electronics: Access to some kind of electronic device with a microphone that is connected to the internet is needed for completion of this course.

ATTENDANCE STATEMENT

According to [NDSU Policy 333 \(www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/policy/333.pdf\)](http://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/policy/333.pdf), participation is expected. Veterans and student service members with special circumstances or who are activated are encouraged to notify the instructor as soon as possible and are encouraged to provide Activation Orders.

COURSE FORMAT & DELIVERY

This course is delivered through an in-person format, with half of the course devoted to lecture and half to discussion and activity.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Any students with disabilities or other special needs, who need special accommodations in this course, are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor and contact the [Disability Services Office \(www.ndsu.edu/disabilityservices\)](http://www.ndsu.edu/disabilityservices) as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. [NDSU Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct](#) applies to cases in which cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct have occurred in an instructional context. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are subject to penalties, up to and possibly including suspension and/or expulsion. Student academic misconduct records are maintained by the [Office of Registration and Records](#). Informational resources about academic honesty for students and instructional staff members can be found at www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty.

COURSE MATERIALS & RESOURCES

There are no required books for this course. All readings will be provided in PDF format before they are due.

ASSIGNMENTS

Because study abroad programs are often on significantly different academic calendars, there are only a few deadlines set for submitting assignments. An introductory Flipgrid video is due by January 31 (regardless of whether you have left yet or not), one additional Flipgrid video is due the end of each of the next two months, and all remaining assignments are due by the end of the NDSU semester. I strongly recommend that you complete the Flipgrid videos and responses on a regular schedule, so you aren't stuck completing everything at the end of the semester—an easy situation to have happen you have so many fun and interesting things happening abroad!

- **Flipgrid Videos (40%):** Five (5) video entries will be due throughout the course of this course. A Flipgrid app is available on all major mobile platforms and can be accessed on their website from a desktop. A microphone is required; a video camera on the device is optional. Each video is to be 1-2 minutes.

The content of your response what is important and successful completion of these videos will require demonstrating thought and consideration. Jotting down notes on what you plan to say before the camera is rolling will help to keep your video on track. The topics are Introductions ([due January 31](#)), Experiencing and Learning, Immersion, Local Issues, and Global Dexterity.

Why video and not essays or online forums? First, it takes less time—you can think about what you are going to say while you are out and about and then put together the video itself relatively quickly. You don't need to worry about the formatting and punctuation you'd have with a written

assignment. Flipgrid offers a streamlined video process, one where you don't need to worry about lighting, editing, or other time-consuming processing—just film and submit. Second, video is a great way to have a fun but meaningful discussion about a topic. You can convey context and emotion about your experiences that might be lost in a purely text-based format.

Each video is worth 8 points, for a total of 40 points.

- **Video Responses (20%):** Five (5) responses to other videos will be due throughout the course. In addition to creating our own videos, this will offer the chance to engage in a conversation and compare our experiences as they happen. To do this, in Flipgrid you will watch videos made by others and record a 1-minute response that highlights specific points of agreement, asks questions, or brings in similar or contrasting experiences from where you are. No more than two of these video responses can be in response to prompt 1 (the introduction videos). You can also respond to others' responses to your videos as long as you make a meaningful addition to the conversation (i.e. more than just a thank you and yes, I agree). Each response is worth 4 points, for a total of 20 points.
- **Reflective Journal & Meta-Reflective Essay (40%):** As part of this class, you will keep a reflective journal and submit a Meta-Reflective Essay at the end of the semester. You will be asked to submit your journal in some format to show that you have completed the requirements, but the content of the journal itself will not be assessed. The journal may be submitted in Blackboard or by email to c.dominique.speer@ndsu.edu. A grade will be awarded based on a 750 to 1000-word Meta-Reflective Essay looking back on your experiences throughout the semester. These two items together are worth 40 points.

GRADING

Assignment	Points Per Assignment	Number Required	Total
Flipgrid Videos	8	5	40
Video Responses	4	5	20
Reflective Journal	40	1	40
			100

SCHEDULE

Date	Calendar	Assignment Due This Day
January 13	Class at NDSU begins	None
January 31	Introductions	Introductory video
February 28*		At least 1 additional video
March 31*		At least 1 additional video
April 30		At least 1 additional video
May 15	End of Finals Week at NDSU	All videos, video responses, copy of reflective journal, and reflection essay due.

* or shortly after arrival for programs starting in March/early April