GLST 390 - “Pre-Departure” Study Abroad
GLST 392 - “In Country” Study Abroad

Course Description & Outcomes Course Description: These two 1-credit online seminars are designed to help you make the most of your study abroad experience. You will engage in both reflective and event-oriented learning exercises to explore cross-cultural adjustment; to examine cultural stereotyping; and to identify unexpected opportunities for the development of intercultural competence. By the end of the two courses, you’ll be able to relate what you learned during the course to your broader studies and future plans. The course is broken into three parts: Part I (Pre-Departure), Part II (In-Country), and Part III (Re-Entry). This course is required for GSM minors, and is a prerequisite for GLST 490, “Global Studies Capstone.”

Required Text: NONE REQUIRED - all readings available in Bb

Desired Learning Outcomes: This course is intended to help you to:

- deal with the demands of cross-cultural adjustment (such as culture shock)
- avoid the reinforcement of cultural stereotypes while arriving at insightful generalizations about cross-cultural differences in point of view and perception
- recognize the phases of cultural awareness
- cope with failed expectations
- identify unexpected opportunities for the development of intercultural competence (including the full range of nonverbal communication differences),
- relate what is learned in study abroad to students’ prior studies and future plans (including the gathering of in-country information or artifacts in connection with an individualized project of research or creative production to be completed upon return from study abroad)
- prepare for “reverse culture shock”
**Goal and Outcomes**

By the time you have completed the Global Studies Minor you will be able to:

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<th>Identify, evaluate and use a wide range of the available online and other resources including materials from other countries and in other languages (both popular and scholarly) to examine specific aspects of your destination country including: Cultural and ethnic diversity; &quot;material culture&quot; (including food, clothing, and housing); geography, history, politics and religion, global and international factors and forces.</th>
<th>Employ proven strategies for intercultural adjustment and communication including on-site language learning tips, identifying times and places for authentic but safe personal interaction with members of the host culture, finding ways to maintain reassuring contact with family and friends, both at home and in-country, without creating an isolated home-culture island or cocoon.</th>
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<td>Identify subtle cues regarding cultural differences, most of which are rooted in unconscious but culturally-acquired assumptions, habits, and judgments.</td>
<td>Understand the uses and limits of cultural generalizations; recognize the ethnocentric limitations of one's own cultural and personal point of view;</td>
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<td>Recognize and appreciate differences in points of view and perceptions between your culture and the host culture as well as differences among members of the host culture; deal respectfully and effectively with such differences; avoid inadvertent or stress-induced violations of behavioral norms.</td>
<td>Employ participant-observer methods of perception and analysis in order to integrate as fully as possible into the host environment, and to interrogate your own preconceived ideas about the host culture.</td>
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<td>Appreciate and apply the insights of anthropology to the study of cultural universals, cultural particulars, and individual differences in regard to beliefs, customs, values, nonverbal communication, beliefs, and culture shock.</td>
<td>Understand the implications of global knowledge and intercultural skills for one's responsibilities as a 21st century citizen.</td>
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Assignments: This course consists of a series of 15 assignments; each assignment is expected to take less than three hours to complete. Although the sequence of the assignments is the same for all of you, assignment deadlines will differ since your dates of arrival and departure from your study abroad sites (and of travel and other activities during your stay) vary greatly. While the assignment deadlines are flexible, the course beginning and ending dates are fixed:

Our “online classroom” is created through the use of Blackboard (Bb) as well as BU email. Remember, we can only use BU email with Bb. If you do not plan on using your BU email while you are in-country, please forward your BU email to the account you are using.

Deadlines: Under the Wiki tool, you will find a page for “Individual Calendars.” As part of your activities for Assignment 1, you will enter your personal deadlines for GLST 390 for those assignments in the table that appears on this wiki page. Once GLST 392 begins, you’ll do the same for that course. The calendar deadlines you select will serve as your contract for GLST 390 & GLST 392. It is your responsibility to keep up with your deadlines.

Setting deadlines:

You should complete the first 5 assignments prior to your arrival abroad, in order to make the most of precious time at your destination. The next 8 assignments should be done while you are at your study abroad site. The final two assignments will be done upon your return to the U.S.

As part of GLST 390 Assignment 1, you will plot out the entire sequence of assignments for GLST 390. At the start of GLST 392, you’ll again plan your deadlines for the next 10 assignments.

You will determine your dates relative to your planned time abroad and establish a schedule of deadlines for the completion of those you assignments. Start by putting in your proposed due dates on the next page, and then you’ll transfer these to the Bb Wiki when each course begins. All of the white blocks are done at your host site, while the final two are done after you leave your abroad site.
You can use this graph to help you figure out your due dates for assignments for GLST 390.

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<tr>
<th>GLST 390 Assignments</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>Departure Date</th>
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<td>Due Date</td>
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*work backwards from this date spacing out your assignments.

Remember: Try to select specific due dates which fit best into your personal schedule. (You personally may prefer not to have deadlines fall on a Saturday or Sunday because you reserve those days for nonacademic activities. Or you may want to avoid Wednesday deadlines because that’s your busiest class day.) You are free to follow your personal preferences as long as the period between deadlines remains roughly the same throughout the course.

- **3-day Asynchronous Conversations:** During both GLST 390 (twice) and GLST 392 (once) you will have assignments with “fixed dates” (i.e. the instructor sets the dates). These discussions will extend over the designated 3-day period, and you are required to participate each day. Questions for discussion build on students’ input and are shaped directly by students’ needs/interests.

- **Meeting your deadlines:** Posting your assignments on time is a course requirement. We understand, however, that at times you may need to adjust your deadlines due to circumstances beyond your control. If you are having difficulty meeting a particular deadline, **YOU MUST COMMUNICATE WITH THE INSTRUCTOR(S).** We are more than happy to work with you to adjust deadlines when necessary, but you must consult with us first. **Note, if you are still in country by the course end date please email your instructor for direction.**
Grading: There is only one grade option for this course: P/F. To pass the course, you must complete all 15 assignments, receive a passing grade for at least 13 out of the 15 assignments. Grades will be posted to the grade book in Bb and will be visible by means of the My Grades option in Tools. You can expect to receive either a grade or a reply to each of your submitted assignments within five class days.

Successful completion of the assignments and thus the course is based on your preparation for assignments, the quality of your work, your timeliness in meeting course deadlines established in your “individual calendars,” and your active participation in the asynchronous online discussions.

- Preparation means you will read the assignment and its accompanying materials thoroughly. You’ll also need to proof read your submissions (checking for typographical errors and overall clarity) before posting.
- Quality assignments are well-written and clearly address all of the items indicated in the assignment or topic under discussion. You will receive a grade of P/F for each assignment.
- Timeliness: Posting assignments and/or follow-up responses on time is a course requirement. In order to complete an assignment, you need to do the following: post your initial thread, check back to the discussion forum to read all new posts, reply/respond to follow-up questions as required.
  - You must respond to follow-up questions from your instructor(s)/classmates within 5 class days from the date of their post.
  - All assignments must be posted in order to complete this course.
  - You will receive a grade of “F” for late assignments. (Remember, you have every opportunity to adjust your deadlines in collaboration with the instructor).
  - Two or more late assignments will result in expulsion from the course, and thus the GSM program.
Active Participation: Regular and active participation is critical to your success. The course instructors expect that you will log on to the course Blackboard site/check your BU email at least twice per week (if you are unable to meet this expectation due to limited internet access at your study abroad site, you need to let the instructor(s) know).

- **“Valuable Participation” in Blackboard Discussion Forums:** The instructors for GLST courses expect “valuable participation” in online discussion. Value is created in three ways: 1) Answering a question or addressing an issue thoughtfully; 2) expanding on a classmate’s posting to a discussion by bringing up other considerations that support or conflict with that posting; 3) asking a question in relation to an ongoing discussion (what someone else said) or the material that has been assigned. No participation points are earned for a) repeating what someone else said using different words; b) stating agreement or disagreement with someone else’s statement without giving specific reasons why and adding something valuable (see above) to the discussion; or c) bringing up something as a statement or question that is unrelated to the topic being discussed.

**Expectations:** As a student in GLST 390 & 392, you have a responsibility to do the following:

- submit assignments in accordance with your self-imposed deadlines and/or email instructor(s) if you are unable to meet a deadline
- email instructor(s) if you have questions or concerns about an assignment (or any other issue related to the course)
- actively participate in our online classroom by reading and commenting on your classmates’ post
- keep in mind the shared goals of everyone in our course

Your instructor(s) for this course have a responsibility to do the following:

- post a reply or a grade to your assignment submission within 5-7 class days of the date of your post (please keep in mind that only completed assignments will receive a grade)
- facilitate active discussion among all participants
- assist students in achieving their individual goals
- guide students toward successful completion of this course
Online Classroom Decorum and Privacy: At times, the topics discussed may be controversial. We expect you to work hard to express yourself in a respectful manner. All viewpoints that are expressed respectfully will be considered and discussed within the context of the course subject matter. Many of us might also be sharing personal concerns in our writing. Please remember to respect your classmates by keeping their comments & writings confidential. If there is an assignment, which due to its personal or controversial nature, you do not wish to submit to the group, you may send the assignment directly to the instructor(s) via email.