



CO2051 / C03051 Intercultural Communication

Study Abroad: Australia - Landmark College

Summer 2016

Instructor: Geoff Burgess

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:

In this course we will explore the ways in which our cultural values, attitudes, and assumptions are reflected in our communication with others. We will examine how differences in perception, world-view, values, language, and nonverbal communication can lead to misunderstanding when people with different cultural backgrounds interact.

In addition to the work expected for the 2000-level of the course, students who take the course for 3000-level will be expected to (a) read and respond to an added series of handouts in the course pack, (b) provide specified leadership role in the final project and (c) complete an additional essay on each of the two tests.

Class Times: As this is an intensive study abroad trip, class times may vary depending upon the circumstances that present themselves. Students should assume that most all of their energy for the duration of the program will be spent on course related activities.

Prerequisites:

Full time status in the Landmark College credit program

Successful completions of EN1011 or EN1015, a FY course, and 1000 level CO course

Additional 3000 level prerequisites- successful completion of EN1021 and three 2000 level courses with C grade or better

Learning Objectives: Students will

- Gain an understanding of key concepts in the field of intercultural communication
- Explore characteristics of communication among specific cultural communities
- Identify and understand various challenges inherent in intercultural communication and explore ways to productively meet these challenges
- Develop a greater awareness of your own cultural identity and the unconscious cultural values, assumptions, and attitudes that influence your interactions with others

In addition, with the successful completion of this course students will have demonstrated the following *Landmark College General Education Goals*

- Sustain an ongoing process of self-reflection, self-awareness and self-advocacy that leads to both self-understanding and the successful management of the skills and strategies of a life-long learner.
- Think critically, reason soundly, and develop and apply problem solving strategies across the academic disciplines.
- Understand the complexities of multiple communities, including educational, cultural and geographic, and respect different perspectives and diversity.
- Communicate with clarity, coherence and persuasiveness through written, oral and other modes of expression.

Required Texts:

Course Pack designed by the instructor
“Australian Language and Culture” by Lonely Planet

Assignments and Grading:

20% Writing

Frequent in-class short writing assignments (in the form of journals, blog entries, and reading responses) for the purpose of reviewing, describing and sharing the day-to-day assortment of experiences. Drawings, photos, and videos are welcome and may be incorporated.

30% Presentations

By investigating the connections between communication practices and cultural values drawn from structured observations and interviews students on four occasions will report to the class using the format of small-group multi-modal presentations.

Assignment descriptions and evaluation rubrics provided

30% Tests

Tests consisting of several short essays at the end of week one and week two serve to integrate course content with cultural experiences.

Assignment descriptions and evaluation rubrics provided

20% Final Project

For the duration of the trip, in small groups students will focus and collect information on a particular aspect of cultural expression, and in the third and final week they will engage in direct learning from host national individuals and groups by way of site visits and interviews. The final project will involve

consolidating evidence from various sources and providing a summative analysis to the class.
Assignment description and rubric provided

Besides the policies described in the Study Abroad handbooks, students should be aware of the following:

Landmark College Student Code of Conduct:

The following standards of conduct are examples and general expectations for all student members of the Landmark College community:

1. **Honesty:** Students will exhibit honesty in academic endeavors and in all aspects of campus life.
2. **Safety:** Students will make a commitment to contribute to a safe, clean, congenial, and productive learning environment.
3. **Understanding:** Students will make a commitment to understand their own strengths and challenges, and to work towards academic and personal growth.
4. **Respect for Others:** Students will show respect for the feelings, time, efforts, and physical well-being of others, and for their capacity for growth.
5. **Respect for Property:** Students will show respect for the property and materials of Landmark College as well as the personal property of all members of the Landmark community.
6. **Respect for Community:** Students will respect the rules and regulations of Landmark College and its governing bodies, and the laws of the State of Vermont and of the United States.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

As an academic community, Landmark strives to instill and foster intellectual honesty and integrity. Effective evaluation of student work can occur only in an environment where intellectual honesty is respected. Academic dishonesty, which includes the inappropriate giving or receiving of aid during any test situation, is a clear violation of academic integrity.

To plagiarize is to give the impression that a thought or a piece of writing is original, when, in fact, it was borrowed from another. A form of academic dishonesty, plagiarism is a violation of intellectual integrity and academic responsibility.

The individual student is responsible for ensuring that his or her work does not involve plagiarism. Ignorance of the nature of plagiarism or of Landmark rules may not be offered as a mitigating circumstance. Students with questions on matters of plagiarism should consult their English course instructor and the instructor of the course for whom they are preparing work.

The minimum penalty for plagiarism is no credit (recorded as a zero for the purpose of determining the student's course grade) in the unit of work in which plagiarism has occurred. The maximum penalty for first offense plagiarism is failure for the course in which the plagiarism occurred; in cases of repeated offense, suspension or expulsion from Landmark may be imposed. No opportunity may be granted to

make up or otherwise fulfill the requirements of the unit of work involved. A student suspended from Landmark may not transfer to Landmark any course credits earned at other institutions during the period of suspension.