

SoSc211: The Cross Cultural Experience
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Course meetings:

A Cross-Cultural Experience workshop *prior to* the off-campus trip (TBA)

Tutorial sessions after the trip is completed (TBA)

Course description

The ***Cross Cultural Experience*** equips the student with the necessary skills and preparatory knowledge required to embark on an off-campus trip to a location culturally dissimilar to ones own. Emphasis is placed on contact with indigenous peoples, and the aim is for the student to acquire a deeper understanding of cultural diversity. In order to fulfill the Cross Cultural requirement all students, except Nursing, Accounting, and Business Administration majors, must enroll in SOSC 210 or SOSC 211. Nursing majors must enroll in NURS 401 and NURS 430. Business Administration and Accounting majors must enroll in BUS 361.

Course requirements

Students are required to attend a workshop and actively participate in the program ***before*** application is made (applications are only required from students who are not participating in a service learning trip organized by a Malone College facilitator).

While on the trip, students will:

- Utilize acquired skills in ethnography.
- Record experience by taking extensive field notes

After the trip, students will:

- Meet with the Cross Cultural Experience Coordinator to discuss the experience and formulate a structure for the required research paper.
- ‘Write up’ the cross-cultural experience in the form of a ten page research paper. The paper should incorporate references to the material read (secondary data that places the encounter in context).
- Material from the student’s field notes is to be used as primary data along with the student’s own comments, impressions and overall evaluation of the experience.
- Field notes should also be submitted but it is only the research paper that receives the final grade.

Course readings

Berdan, F.F., Stark, E.A. & Van Loon, C. (2005). *Student Field Guide and Workbook: Ethnoquest*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Bohannan, P. & Elst, D. van der. (1998). *Asking and Listening: Ethnography as Personal Adaptation*. Prospect Heights, Ill: Waveland Press.

Livermore, D.A., (2006). *Serving With Eyes Wide Open*. Grand Rapids, MI: BakerBooks.

Van Maanen, J. (1988). *Tales of the Field*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

In addition to the above, the student will be supplied with a book list comprising of readings suited to the location of his or her off-campus trip.

Checklist for SOS211: The Cross Cultural Experience

- ❑ Attend one of the Cross Cultural Experience workshops; three are held per semester (note - attendance at the workshop prior to your planned trip is a requirement of this course). Care should be taken to ensure that the workshop you attend is not so near the date of your proposed trip that you allow yourself no time to complete any preparatory work required (i.e. your application form).
- ❑ Complete and submit your application form no later than 1 week after the workshop (note - applications are only required from students who are not participating in a service learning trip organized by a Malone College facilitator).
- ❑ Utilize observational/ethnographic methods to record your experiences while on the off-campus trip.
- ❑ Upon your return, contact the Cross Cultural Experience coordinator to arrange post-trip tutorials (note - contacting the coordinator is solely the student's responsibility, failure to initiate tutorial meetings in a timely manner may result in a reduced grade, delays in registering a final grade, or even failure of the course).
- ❑ Complete and submit your research paper by the specified date.

Note: choosing an option that involves less than the maximum of 3 credit hours for this experience fulfills the Cross Cultural Experience component of the general education requirements but does not lower the total requirement of 124 credit hours for graduation.