Study Away Preparation
Learning Resources 202m2 (1 credit)

REQUIRED for students studying abroad or away

T 5:00-6:30pm

Liebowitz Classroom 02

Session I: Tuesday, April 22
Session II: Tuesday, April 29
Session II: Tuesday, May 6

(An alternate meeting time will be arranged for students with a course conflict or who miss a meeting due to an excused absence.)

Instructors: Sue Lyon (slyon@simons-rock.edu) and Maryann Tebben (mtebben@simons-rock.edu)

Grading and Requirements:
The Study Away Preparation course is a required part of the Leave to Study Away process, intended to help students prepare for a study term abroad or away from Simon's Rock. A second course, the Study Away Reflection course (LR 203m1), is intended to help students maintain contact with the Simon's Rock community while away and transition successfully back to campus on their return. The Reflection course's requirements include 1) the Study Abroad blog, 2) Return Survey, and 3) Returning Student Presentation.

The course provides practical information and engagement with the chosen destination before the student's program begins, but it also offers a chance for students to consider "culture" as a larger concept, and allows recently returned study away students to share experiences with those who are new to study away or abroad. It is expected that some students may have already traveled abroad, or in the case of international students, may have already completed a similar course in their home country. Every effort will be made to provide a meaningful and useful experience in this course for these students, and the course will be modified based on the participants.

A grade of "Pass" will be awarded for the Preparation course for students who complete the following requirements:

- Attend all three sessions of the Preparation course
- Submit the Workbook and the Research Assignment
- Give a presentation on selected country or program at the end of the course

Students who fail to complete this course will not be granted permission to study abroad as part of a Simon's Rock degree program.

Links and documents can be found at the Liebowitz Center Campus Guides page:
http://simons-rock.campusguides.com/liebowitz

Session I. Practical Information: "Nuts and Bolts"

- Preparation and assignment: Cross-Cultural Training Workbook (alternate assignment for students on domestic programs)
  BEFORE CLASS, students going abroad must complete the workbook found at http://globaled.us/safeti/151course_syllabus_workbook.asp
  - Research your destination and complete all sections
  - Substitute Bard College at Simon's Rock policies for all references to University of the Pacific; make adjustments as necessary
  - If you need help locating information, contact Sue Lyon or Maryann Tebben
  - Type and print your workbook; bring it with you to class

- Session content
  - Practical advice on preparing for study and living abroad/away from current students
  - Financial Aid while away and on your return
  - Safety; Managing risk; Health services; Eating habits
  - Gender considerations; Sexual identity and expression
  - What and how to pack; Travel suggestions while in country

Session II. Cultural/Campus Differences
Domestic Programs: Adjusting to another campus

- Preparation and assignment: interview a current Simon's Rock student who has completed a study away term (if possible, at the program site you will attend). Ask how his/her experience at the study away campus was different from a semester at Simon's Rock in terms of academics, housing, student community, interactions with faculty, etc.
- Session content
  - Adjusting to a non-Simon's Rock classroom
  - Strategies for completing an independent project (for ECP students)
  - Budgeting and financial aid
  - Clubs, sports, student groups: how to find your community
  - Keeping in contact with Simon's Rock: the Study Abroad blog

International Programs: Cultural Difference(s)

- Preparation and assignment:
  - Read and complete Modules 1.1 "If You are Going Abroad Soon", 1.7.1 "Common Reactions", and 1.7.3 "Ten Transition Tips" from *What's Up With Culture* at http://www2.pacific.edu/sis/culture/index.htm
  - Read selection from Philip R. DeVita, ed., *Distant Mirrors* (on Campus Guides page)
- Session content
  - Recognizing and examining cultural difference
  - Strategies for maintaining a respectful attitude abroad
  - Expressing cultural difference productively: the Study Abroad blog
  - American culture viewed from the outside

Session III. Research Assignment and Presentations

- Preparation and assignment: Prepare a 10-minute presentation on your destination, paying special attention to cultural expectations and cultural differences if going abroad, or to academic and campus differences if attending a domestic program.
  - For abroad programs: Use "What's Up With Culture" Module 1.6.4 "Intensity Factors" as a starting point. If possible, interview a current student from your destination country (or who has completed a program there) and include this information in your paper.
  - For away programs, use your interview with a Simon's Rock student as a starting point.
- Session content:
  - Student Presentations
  - Final thoughts and suggestions
  - Preview of the blog tasks, return survey, and return presentations