



**Southern
New Hampshire
University**



Topics in Cultural Studies: Developing Global Competence Through Cultural Exploration

(6 undergraduate credits)

Course Description:

To support the EF Gap Year program, this course offers you opportunities to expand your global thinking and increase cultural competence through various activities that challenge your growth mindset, personal development, and global perspective. The interdisciplinary structure allows you to choose which assignments to investigate further, specific to the countries on your tour, all with a personal reflection element based on your experience. Throughout the course, you will reflect on your journey as a traveler and cultural explorer, research various topics with reference to countries' systems and local customs, and take next steps with an inspired project.

Course Outline:

This course includes six (6) total modules. Module One: Start of Term Module must be accessed and completed prior to the end of the first week of the term. Modules Two through Five can be completed at your pace and in any order. Module Six: Inspired Activity is the culminating module; this should be completed as your final activity.

Below outlines each module, their alignment to course objectives, and the deliverable(s).

Module One: *Start of Term Module*

The Start of Term Module is the first part of your course experience with SNHU/EF! The goal of this module is to give you a space to connect with both your instructor and peers. This is a required module and must be completed by the end of the first week of the term. Failure to complete the activity by the end of the first week of the term will result in the instructor dropping you from the course through our Roster Verification process. You will always have the option to join this course in a future term. The rest of the course is self-paced. There is a single activity to be completed, with the option to connect with your peers as they respond to the provided prompts.

Deliverable:

- Complete the *"Introduce Yourself"* Discussion Post prior to the end of Week 1 of the term.

Module Two: *Reflection Activities*

In “Reflection Activities” you will have multiple opportunities to reflect on different aspects of your travel experience and your personal growth throughout the experience. The focus of the Reflection module is to think about what you have experienced and how you have grown as a traveler. You will choose five of the assignments to complete, focusing on in-depth reflection related to your travel experience. Each assignment is worth 10 points, for a combine total of 50 points.

Aligned Course Objectives:

- **Growth Mindset:** Students will demonstrate a growth mindset by analyzing newly acquired skills with regards to travel and navigating new cultures and connect those skills to practical applications.
- **Personal Development:** I can demonstrate a deeper understanding of who I am as a global traveler and explain what I have learned about myself and others using explicit examples and specific descriptions.

Deliverables:

- **Select and complete five (5) of the activities within this module.**

Module Three: *Research Activities*

In Research you will have multiple opportunities to build upon your experience and knowledge by researching different aspects of your tour countries. Researching prior to traveling, during travel, and post travel expands your understanding of the culture, language, government, economy, education system, etc. which helps you get a deeper sense of the country as a whole. Throughout this module, you will explore different aspects of your tour countries with this goal in mind. Choose 5 assignments to complete. Each is worth 30 points for a combined total of 150 points.

Aligned Course Objectives:

- **Global Perspective:** Students will demonstrate a global perspective by researching culture, language, business, economics, education, government, etc. about a country they explored and compare/contrast to the student’s home country.
- **Growth Mindset:** Students will demonstrate a growth mindset by analyzing newly acquired skills with regards to travel and navigating new cultures and connect those skills to practical applications.

Module Four: *Systems*

Every country has systems in place for government, education, and healthcare. These are integral to how the society is run. Many countries have differing systems, each with pros and cons. In addition to research, part of global perspective is comparing what you have learned to your home country and personal experience. In this module, you will choose one system in one of your tour countries to research, including a comparison to your home country’s corresponding system. This is one assignment worth 50 points.

Aligned Course Objectives:

- **Global Perspective:** Students will demonstrate a global perspective by researching culture, language, business, economics, education, government, etc. about a country they explored and compare/contrast to the student’s home country.

Deliverable:

- Select and complete five (5) of the activities within this module.

Module Five: Google Earth *Digital Tour*

For this module, you will focus on one of the tour countries you have already traveled to and create a digital itinerary to showcase what you experienced in that country. There is one assignment in this module worth 100 points.

Aligned Course Objectives:

- **Global Perspective:** Students will demonstrate a global perspective by researching culture, language, business, economics, education, government, etc. about a country they explored and compare/contrast to the student's home country.
- **Growth Mindset:** Students will demonstrate a growth mindset by analyzing newly acquired skills with regards to travel and navigating new cultures and connect those skills to practical applications.
- **Personal Development:** I can demonstrate a deeper understanding of who I am as a global traveler and explain what I have learned about myself and others using explicit examples and specific descriptions.

Deliverable:

- Complete the one (1) Digital Tour Activity within this module

Module Six: *Inspired Activity*

In this module you have the opportunity to share your overall experience and growth with an inspired project. You have three options to choose from: Inspired to Share, Inspired to Change, and Inspired to Activate. There is one assignment in this module worth 100 points.

Aligned Course Objectives:

- **Growth Mindset:** Students will demonstrate a growth mindset by analyzing newly acquired skills with regards to travel and navigating new cultures and connect those skills to practical applications.
- **Global Perspective:** Students will demonstrate a global perspective by researching culture, language, business, economics, education, government, etc. about a country they explored and compare/contrast to the student's home country.
- **Personal Development:** Students will demonstrate personal growth and development by reflecting on their experiences while traveling and experiencing new cultures.
- **Action:** Students will take action by formulating a plan for next steps, whether that be next steps for life, travel, work, learning, etc. based on what they have learned in the EF experience.