

Australia Study Abroad - Winter 2014
(Tentative Course Syllabus)

COMM 463 (also available for HON) Intercultural Communication in Australia:

Learn and apply advanced intercultural communication while traveling in the Land Down Under

SMTWThFSa starting Sunday, Jan. 5th – Wednesday, Jan. 22nd, 2014

Instructor: Jieyoung Kong, Assistant Professor

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Description:

Intercultural Communication in Australia provides students the opportunity to explore advanced intercultural communication through travel to Australia. Students will interact with various local communities and learn about their practices. The course uses the cultural space of travel as a method for students to become intercultural detectives and cultural brokers necessary to thrive as members of the dynamic global community.

** This is open to communication majors and minors. With Program Leader and advisor approval, it is also open for undergraduate and graduate independent study arrangements.*

Objectives:

Students in this unique program will take advantage of the entire process of their travel to Australia from pre-departure, onsite learning/exchange, to return to develop intercultural communication skills, knowledge and relationships. Students will develop critical thinking and reflexivity, as well as an ethical poise, through encounters with diverse communities in Australia and its environs. Students will also have a chance to organize and lead intercultural dialogue with students at Deakin University to share perspectives across a range of issues. Students will work together and independently to compile multimedia presentations and travelogue. Each will work closely with the instructor to strategize the effective use of their itinerary for their projects. Individual students will be required to compile three multimedia pieces in this program. The first will be about him/herself, community and WKU to be presented to students in Australia. The second one will be an individual thematic travelogue to be submitted after return. The third will be an intercultural piece that facilitates understanding about Australia and communicating across cultures for posting on YouTube. This program invites students to take active charge of one's own intercultural learning and engagement, as well as to creatively enrich public knowledge crucial to meet the challenges of today's ever-changing world.

Required Materials:

- Digital camera (including smartphone), audio recorder, and/or video is recommended.
- A notebook or logbook for personal journaling.
- A removable USB Flashdrive (or portable hard drive) and a YouTube account.

Required Reading:

- Smith, R. (2000). *Cold beer and crocodiles: A bicycle journey into Australia*. Adventure Press, National Geographic Society.
- Excerpts/articles posted on BB for pre-departure reading & discussion.

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Recommended Reading:

- Martin, J. N., & Nakayama, T. K. (2009 or 2012). *Intercultural communication in contexts* (5th or 6th edition). New York: McGraw Hill.

Attendance policies:

- Prompt and regular attendance is mandatory. There is no distinction between excused and unexcused absences in terms of your total number of absences. Each absence will result in a lowering of your final grade.

Evaluation/Grading:

Evaluation of multimedia pieces is based on:

- critical thinking - the quality and originality of the idea/theme/story it tells
- creativity - exploration of intercultural issue friendly and engaging for audience
- workmanship - amount of effort (time and thought) invested
- ethics - demonstration of cultural insight and sensitivity

Attendance + Pre-departure orientation/media training = 40%, Presentation in Australia = 10%, Individual Travelogue Project = 25%, On-site Group Dialogue = 10%, YouTube Posting = 15%

*** The letter grade of "A" is given only for exceptional work.

A = 90-100% - Outstanding achievement; only for the highest accomplishment.

B = 80-89% - Praiseworthy performance; above average performance.

C = 70-79% - Average; awarded for satisfactory performance.

D = 60-69% - Minimally passing; less than average achievement.

F = < 59% - Failing.

Eligibility:

The Program Leaders may determine other eligibility requirements, but at a minimum, all applicants need to meet these requirements:

- Current WKU student eligible to register for WKU courses.
- 3.2 cumulative GPA or good standing in the Honors College (HON sections only)
- Permission of instructor(s).
- Good academic standing (Undergraduate Catalog p.27; Graduate Catalog p.30).
- 18 years of age or older at time of departure (parent/guardian permission for anyone under 18 at time of departure).
- Possess passport valid for at least six (6) months after FLSA return date.
- No current disciplinary sanctions as verified by Judicial Affairs.
- Full payment prior to departure.
- Completion of all pre-departure orientation.
- Complete the Study Abroad & Global Learning application process on TopNet prior to being registered in this course. We suggest you start this application process immediately and respond to all emails promptly.

Student Travelogue Projects:

For the purpose of promoting the student, the department and/or the university may use or submit student travelogues created in this course to symposiums, conferences and festivals.