

## MAKING MEANING OF STUDY ABROAD

Fall, 2023

<b>Class location &amp; time</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Kim Jones</b>
<b>Contact info</b>	<b><a href="mailto:kjones@arizona.edu">kjones@arizona.edu</a></b>
<b>Office hours</b>	<b>TBD</b>

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Study abroad is a unique experience ripe with possibilities. It can change our view of the language and culture we are learning—and of ourselves and our home cultures. Study abroad can connect to and deepen our understanding of our identities, relationships, academic majors and minors, extracurricular interests, and prospective careers. Study abroad can also help us grow in our ability to relate to people from different backgrounds and perspectives from our own.

This course examines the study abroad experience from several perspectives, including theoretical approaches to intercultural communication and intercultural competence; research into language acquisition, particularly in study abroad or other immersion contexts; more personal or creative explorations of intercultural contact (films, fiction, poetry, and essays); and your own observations and reflections on how to make meaning of your particular study abroad experience.

### TEXTS AND OTHER MATERIALS

We will read a variety of scholarly research based on theories of intercultural communication, intercultural competence, and second language acquisition. Other readings are reflective and creative treatments of what it means to be immersed in a new language and culture. In addition to course readings, we will also watch and discuss videos and films that reflect on intercultural contact and communication.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course, we will:

- Become familiar with the basic concepts of intercultural communication
- Explore the idea of “intercultural competence” and what it entails
- Examine research on how people learn languages
- Read/watch and discuss how intercultural interactions have been explored in media such as film and creative writing
- Reflect on our own intercultural experiences and their meaning, particularly focusing on this current study abroad experience

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain the basics of both intercultural communication and intercultural competence
- Demonstrate an understanding of what language acquisition entails and what factors best support language learning
- Explain the role of reflection in making meaning of learning
- Articulate the meaning of your own study abroad experience so far and how it connects to your academic, professional, and personal history and future goals

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Preparation and active participation in class discussions: Read/watch and think carefully about any assigned material before class. Take careful notes, and be prepared to participate actively in the day's activities. Please be sure that you have access to any readings that we are discussing that day.
2. Weekly written or recorded reflections on course materials and your own experiences
3. ePortfolio project: You will work to create your ePortfolio throughout the semester. The ePortfolio is where you will document aspects of your study abroad experience that you find most meaningful and explain how they connect to where you have come from and where you are going, academically, professionally, and personally.

## GRADING

Grades in this course will be based on preparation and in-class participation (30%), your weekly reflections (30%), and the ePortfolio project (40%). The grading scale is:

90-100:	A
80-89.9	B
70-79.9	C
60-69.9	D
<60	F

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

The Year-in-Japan program has adopted a uniform attendance policy for the afternoon Japan Studies courses. You are allowed two unexcused absences during the semester without penalty. A third unexcused absence will reduce your grade in the course by 10 points (equivalent to one letter grade in the American system). A fourth unexcused absence will reduce your grade by another 10 points. More than four unexcused absences will result in an automatic failing grade for the course. Legitimate excuses for absence are normally limited to illnesses or accidents. Please consult with me **in advance** if you believe that you have some other legitimate reason for absence.

#### A few final notes:

1. This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class or via email.
2. Please let me know as soon as possible if you need any special accommodations to help you do well in this class.
3. In general, I do not give grades of “incomplete”, so please plan on completing all work for the course during this semester.
4. All work you submit must be your own, and must be written for this class (i.e., not recycled from another class or turned in for another class this semester). If you include ideas or words from someone else, they must be properly cited. If you are unclear about what needs to be cited or how to cite it, come and talk to me about it. Work not your own will be given a failing grade and may result in a failing grade for the course.