Research Methods and Ethics
ANTH 3500 (3 Credits / 45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Australia: Sustainability and Environmental Action

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description
Research Methods and Ethics (RME) provides conceptual preparation and skill development for all other program components. Beginning with sessions during orientation week, and continuing throughout the semester, Research Methods and Ethics provides the skills and fosters the ability to observe, interpret, and appropriately function within the Australian environment. This is initially done through a series of discussions designed to break down stereotypes and sensitize students to the values assigned to behaviors and customs based on each individual's cultural heritage. Later, lectures, projects and discussions will focus on various methods of field research to prepare students for the Independent Study Project (ISP) or Internship. Most classes are taken by both ISP and Internship students but as the course progresses some classes focus on just one stream.

The Course is divided into five modules:
1. Cultural Comparison
2. Introduction to the Independent Study Project/Internship
3. Research Methods & Ethics
4. Developing a Proposal
5. Writing a research/internship paper

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:
- Recognize a wide range of field study methods and their appropriate uses;
- Compare Australian and North American cultures;
- Apply an appropriate selection of research methods to a specific topic;
- Employ cultural sensitivity and an appropriate ethical stance in field study/internship;

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• Appraise previous research and literature on a topic of interest and reference it appropriately;
• Design an independent study project or organize an internship and write a project proposal;
• Demonstrate increased confidence to engage with another culture.

**Language of Instruction**
This course is taught in English.

**Course Requirements**

**Course Schedule**

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*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers’ availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

**Week 1: Cultural comparisons (5 hours)**

**Discussions:**
- How to minimize environmental and social impact while studying in Australia
- Cultural stereotypes and expectations of Australians
- Australians’ stereotypes and expectations of Americans

**Lectures:**
- Preparing for homestays: expectations and cultural practices in Australian homes

**Required Reading:**

**Week 2: Preparing for the ISP / Internship (10 hours)**

**Lectures:**
- What is an ISP or Internship?
- Expectations of Advisors and Internship Supervisors
- Keeping a Work Journal
- Developing ISP topics / Organizing and applying for an internship
- Social Science report writing
- APA referencing and plagiarism

**Required Readings:**

**Week 3: Research methods (12 hours)**

**Lectures:**
- Introduction to research methods
- The Interview Process
- Sampling a Population
- Developing and conducting a survey
- Indirect and Observational Methods of Data Collection
- Participant Observation
- Content Analysis
- Analyzing and displaying data

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Discussion:  Homestay: Cultural differences, sense of place, environmental ethics

Required Readings:


Week 4: Research ethics and techniques (6 hours)
Lectures: Research Ethics
Library Skills
Writing a good title

Week 8: Writing a Proposal (5 hours)
Lectures: Proposal Writing
Reviewing the Literature
Referencing

Week 9: Presenting Research (5 hours)
Lectures: Writing an Abstract
Report Writing
Giving an Oral Presentation

Required Reading:

Exam

Week 15: Cultural Reflection (2 hours)
Discussion: What have we learnt about culture, the USA, and us?

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Assessment:
1. ISP/Internship Proposals
   Topic ideas 5%
   Topic and Methods 10%
   ISP Proposal/Internship Learning Agreement 20%

2. Choose 2 of the following 4 exercises in research methods: 20%
   2a. Intensive Interviewing Exercise
   2b. Content Analysis Exercise
   2c. Observation Exercise
   2d. Survey Exercise

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3. Work Journal 15%
4. Participation 10%
5. Open-book Exam 15%
6. Reflection on the ISP / Internship process 5%

Grading Scale
- 94-100% A
- 90-93% A-
- 87-89% B+
- 84-86% B
- 80-83% B-
- 77-79% C+
- 74-76% C
- 70-73% C-
- 67-69% D+
- 64-66% D
- below 64 F

Requirements
Detailed descriptions of the above assignments along with the grading criteria for each are contained in the program handbook.

You are expected to attend and fully participate in all class sessions. You must submit all assigned work to get a passing grade. You must get a grade of D or above for each assignment in order to get a passing grade for the class. You should familiarize yourself with the policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process that are contained in the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook. Breaches of academic integrity such as cheating and deliberate plagiarism will result in severe penalties. Assignments must be properly referenced using the APA system. See the grading policy in the appendices of the program handbook.

Participation Grade:
This element will comprise 10% of your Research Methods and Ethics grade. The objective of this element of assessment is to give students credit for the ability and the effort made to independently undertake the Study Project in an ethical and culturally appropriate manner, and the effort made to engage Australian culture throughout the semester. Students will be graded based on what the AD has observed, what has been reported by the ISP advisor and homestay family, and the evidence contained in the ISP journal and report. The following will be considered in determining the grade:
- Did you take steps to engage Australian culture away from the group?
- Did you make the most of the opportunities for cultural immersion offered by your homestay?
- To what extent did you use initiative in developing an ISP topic / Internship and establishing contacts in a timely manner?
- Did you maintain an appropriate attitude throughout the process (e.g. did you accept the limitations placed by SIT on ISP topics / Internships? Did you deal well with adversity during the ISP/Internship process? Did you display cultural sensitivity when necessary? Did you follow the ethics guidelines?)
- Did you turn up on time for all classes and ISP/Internship appointments?
- Did you fill out the ethics and contact forms correctly and submit them on time?
- Did you put the appropriate amount of effort into the ISP/Internship?
- Did you put the interests of the people studied and worked with before your own and give proper acknowledgement and thanks to all who helped? Did you provide the organization you worked with a copy of the paper and any data needed from the ISP/Internship?

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• Did you keep the required contact with program staff during the ISP/Internship, submit all information on time and keep them informed of your whereabouts?
• Did you fulfill your obligations to your SIT advisor?

Expectations and Policies
Show up prepared. Be on time, have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.

Have assignments completed on schedule, and submitted according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.

Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices.