

THE GAP YEAR ASSOCIATION & PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE CREDIT

Current Course Offerings as of October 2021

ANTH 103: Introduction to Anthropology; How Location Affects Culture

In this course, students will better understand the ways populations are impacted by their location – environmentally, historically, culturally, and economically. Students will explore how social divisions occur as well as how divisions can be positively addressed. Students will learn about how the local culture has evolved to its present state, and strive to understand what influences environmentally, historically, culturally, and/or economically have influenced it. Supplemental assignments offer opportunities for research and reflection of experiences.

COMM 215: Introduction to Intercultural Communication; Building Effective Cross-Cultural Communication Skills

This course will provide hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate students who participate in study away experiences. It offers students the chance to learn outside of the classroom while building intercultural competencies through global learning and community-based participation. Through immersive experiences and service learning engagements, the course will help students develop stronger communication skills with individuals from a variety of different backgrounds including (but not limited to): socio-economic, racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious lived experiences.

ESM 101: Environmental Sustainability

This course is designed to provide hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate students who participate in study away opportunities. It offers the student a chance to learn outside of the classroom focusing on sustainability and technological issues impacting communities locally, regionally and/or globally. Students will engage with issues of environmental sustainability observed through travel and service learning.

ESM 102: Global Perspectives

This course is designed to provide hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate students who undertake study away opportunities. It offers the student an opportunity to learn outside of the classroom and to learn first-hand about local issues of global citizenship observed through travel. It will provide an introduction to the richness of cultures in the world, drawing on perspectives from the locals themselves, and rooted in the humanities and social sciences. Students will explore the balance between political, economic, environmental, and cultural systems, to cultivate skills and attitudes in support of global citizenship.

ESM 199: Climate Change and Its Impacts

This course will provide hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate students who undertake foreign travel. It offers the student an opportunity to learn outside of the classroom and affords an opportunity to learn first-hand about how climate change affects local ecosystems and the people that depend on them. Through travel and service-learning, the course will equip students with an awareness about global impacts of climate change; students will be able to identify specific impacts local to their travels that result from rising CO2 emissions; and students will research how multiple issues of climate change can compound for great effect.

GEOG 230: Geography of Global Issues

This course is designed to provide hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate students who undertake study away opportunities. This course introduces global perspectives, basic concepts and fundamental questions of geography. It focuses on how all locations on Earth are interconnected. It explores how humans use, adapt, and impact their environment through a variety of social constraints. Students will work to understand the growth and distribution of human populations, the complexities and varying systems of land use, geopolitics and colonialism, as well as the geographic impact of selected issues such as land use and urban development.

HIST 299: Colonialization and Western Influences

This course is designed to provide hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate students who undertake study away opportunities. In this study of colonialism and the history of Western influences, students will strive to understand the influences that colonialism has had on the host-country. Students will explore the ways local cultures have been impacted by the influences of "westernized countries" that might include infrastructure (roads, trains, and transportation), language, gender roles, world-view, social justice issues, sanitation, food, politics, political influences, natural resource management, etc.

INTL 199: Globalization Awareness and Community Development

This course provides students with an opportunity to learn through work experience and volunteer service concurrent with assignments while on their academic study away program. It engages students in meaningful work/volunteer experiences while helping them gain an understanding of a particular issue of their choosing relevant to globalization and its impacts on local populations including international development initiatives.

INTL 299: Leadership Across Borders

This course is designed to provide hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate students who undertake study away opportunities. This course creates a chance for students to assess and understand differing models of leadership in modern societies. Students will explore varying models of leadership from a host culture perspective, compare them to the student's home culture, and assess personal leadership strengths. Students will be expected to integrate information from participant observation, research, readings and interviews to inform conclusions.

MGMT 299: Principles of Economics; International Economics

Students will enhance their understanding of global economics and gain a first-hand experience of the ways that international policy impacts local populations and seek an understanding for how the global supply chain works. Students will be asked to trace a particular commodity from production to purchase, with each step along the way understanding where the dollars have passed and what the impacts are from each step.

MGMT 199: Social Entrepreneurship - Creating Impact Through Innovative Action

This course will provide hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate students who participate in study away opportunities. It will introduce students to examples of social entrepreneurship and ask them to reflect and analyze an organization's ability to drive enduring change. Students will understand a problematic issue in depth and analyze ways social entrepreneurs have attempted to address this issue.

MGMT 199: Sustainable Hospitality and Tourism in Practice

This course will provide hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate students who participate in study away opportunities. Students will examine issues associated with sustainability in the hospitality and tourism industry. This course will introduce students to the idea of the triple bottom line (economic, social, and environmental) and ask them to analyze sustainability programs in practice with a critical eye toward evaluating their effectiveness.

PHE 299: Healthcare Systems and the Affected

This course is designed to provide hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate students who undertake study away opportunities. Students will be exposed to alternative healthcare systems and alternative healthcare practices. They will learn about the pros and cons of the location's health and healthcare, and chart progressive ways to improve. Possible areas of focus might include: obesity, infant-mortality, domestic-violence, addiction issues, HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention, nutrition, water sanitation, etc.

PHIL 299: Introduction to Spiritual / Religious Studies & Their Roles in Culture

This course engages students in meaningful work/volunteer experiences while helping them gain understanding, acquire knowledge, and develop the necessary skills for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world. Students will study the spirituality and religious practices in their region to understand a sense of local spiritual traditions and provide a level of insight into personal belief structures and how they structure daily life during their academic study away.

PSYCH 204: Culture and Its Influence on the Ways People Operate

This course is designed to provide hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate students who undertake study away opportunities. Students will explore the ways in which human individuality is defined by social contexts, leveraging topics such as identity, intelligence, motivation, coping skills, psychological disorders, and cultural context. By comparing their own experiences, students will learn about the theories, methodologies and research that help frame how humans interact with one another, and thus better contextualize their own cultural norms and biases.

SOC 199: Self and Community - Culture, Cohort, and Self

This course is designed to provide hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate students who undertake study away opportunities. Students will explore the ways in which human individuality is defined by social contexts, leveraging topics such as identity, intelligence, motivation, coping skills, psychological disorders, and cultural context. By comparing their own experiences, students will learn about the theories, methodologies and research that help frame how humans interact with one another, and thus better contextualize their own cultural norms and biases.