Cross Cultural Awareness and Study Abroad

Study Abroad Programs provide a potential context for the development of students’ cross-cultural awareness (CCA). Faculty designing study abroad programs are encouraged to incorporate the CCA competency outcomes into their program and consider whether the program might be appropriate to incorporate a course approved to fulfill students’ CCA requirement.

Clemson’s Cross Cultural Awareness Competency

CCA Competency Statement (revised Spring 2016): Explain culture as an integrated worldview; and then demonstrate how culture influences human behavior.

To qualify for CCA designation, courses should:
• Have an emphasis on non-US cultures
• Be broadly based, introductory level with general content

How a Study Abroad experience can fulfill the CCA requirement.

1. Include a course that is already approved for CCA in the course offerings on the study abroad program.

2. Recommend that students enroll in IS 1010: Cross Cultural Awareness during or after the program. IS 1010 is a zero credit course managed by OGE that requires students to reflect and write about the development of their cross-cultural awareness. It is only applicable to programs of one month or longer.

3. Design a course that meets the criteria to be approved and offered as IS 2100: Special Topics in International Studies.

Guidelines for Use of IS 2100

The International Programs Coordinating Committee serves as the curriculum committee for the IS 2100 course and shall establish guidelines for the review of syllabi of courses seeking to use the IS 2100 course designation, and shall review curricula and assess courses taught on Clemson’s Study Abroad programs.

The IS 2100, like other special topics course designations, is designed to provide the opportunity to deliver a unique course in specific instances. It is not designed to be used for long-standing courses. It is expected that after 2-3 iterations of the course, the faculty and sponsoring departments will submit the course for approval by Clemson University’s Undergraduate Curriculum Committee under a course designation within the most appropriate discipline.
The IS 2100 course may NOT be used for fulfillment of other requirements within the discipline and/or general education. If a significant number of students participating in the program have already fulfilled the CCA requirement, we recommend that another course be provided as an option.

Proposal Requirements:
- Approval by Chair/Curriculum Committee of sponsoring department
- Rationale for the use of IS 2100 rather than existing CCA approved course
- Timeline for developing and submitting proposal for course within the discipline to replace the IS 2100
- Full stand-alone syllabus (syllabi that combine IS 2100 and a companion course will not be accepted). Syllabi must include:
  1. Contact hours equivalent to a 3 credit course
  2. The CCA competency statement (transcribed verbatim)
  3. 1-3 Core Study Abroad Learning Outcomes from list provided by IPCC
  4. 1-3 Additional Learning outcomes established by faculty proposing the program. These may be discipline specific.
  5. Assignments specifically identified as demonstrating the CCA competency and learning outcomes.

Curriculum Review of IS 2100 Courses:

Process for Proposing New Courses:
- Discuss idea for course and proposal process with a designated member of the IPCC committee
- Obtain approval from Department Chair (or Department Curriculum Committee) prior to proposing course to IPCC
- Submit full Syllabus and proposal to IPCC at least 4 months prior to anticipated date of program.
- IS 2100 cannot be advertised to students prior to receiving IPCC approval
- Approval will be granted for THREE iterations of the course.

Support for Faculty Teaching IS 2100 Courses:

Faculty teaching IS 2100 courses are often teaching outside of their disciplines. Workshops will be provided to support faculty development of cross-cultural learning material. Faculty offering IS 2100 courses may be required to attend one of these workshops. Alternatively, experienced faculty directors may be identified to advise/mentor first-time IS 2100 course instructors.