

HON 410 (Area Study)
Pre-Departure Instructions, Agreement, and Guidelines

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HON 410 provides Honors students with the opportunity to earn Honors credit for international study upon return from abroad. In order for the student to receive a grade, the student must have registered for and attended accredited classes abroad through an approved international studies program, and submitted a signed copy of this form to the Honors Program prior to leaving. Additionally,

In order to receive Honors credit for international study

- Students must update the course instructor at least once every two weeks on their progress while abroad (minimum 250 words per update). This may be done either by creating and regularly updating an online blog or webpage or by sending an update to the instructor via e-mail. If a blog or webpage is the chosen medium, the instructor must receive the URL no later than one week after the student's arrival in the foreign country. Guidelines for the updates are on page 3 of this form.

Once students have returned to UNR,

- Students must enroll in and complete HON 410 (offered fall and spring)
- Students must meet as a group the first week of class and three additional times during the semester
- Students must present and participate in the Honors international studies evening *Honors Students Discover the World!*
- Students must participate in one additional presentation (e.g., USAC, classes, public schools, etc.)
- Students must create a final project incorporating their blog posts or updates

HON 410 students are entirely responsible for *Honors Students Discover the World!*

- During the first week of classes, HON 410 students meet to determine the date, time, and theme of the public presentation and to choose a student coordinator.
- During the semester, HON 410 students update the instructor on the progress of the presentations and engage in other activities.
- Each student must present a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation of his/her study abroad on a themed panel. The format and content of the presentation is up to the group.
- The class must create a program flyer, provide food, and ensure a respectable audience. Flyers must be given to the Honors Program a week prior to the event.
- Each student is responsible for giving the student coordinator the following information for the flyer: name, title of PowerPoint presentation, food that he/she will bring.
- Students may bring to the presentations their journals, scrapbooks, photos, items specific to the country, and other souvenirs.
- HON 410 students are required to be present at all presentations. Excused absences must be approved in advance.

Final project submission: In order to receive a grade in HON 410, each student must submit a copy of the PowerPoint presentation and a final project by the end of the semester to the Honors Program. (Specific instructions on these and other HON 410 assignments will be distributed in class.)

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is a serious offense, even while studying abroad. All work that you submit while abroad and in HON 410 must be your own or properly cited if not your own. Each student is responsible for being familiar with UNR's policies on academic dishonesty. Any student engaging in academic dishonesty while abroad or in HON 410 will receive an F for the course. The case may also be turned over for prosecution by the proper university authorities.

My printed name and signature below indicate acceptance of all above criteria for a grade in HON 410 upon my return as of the date noted:

student name (printed)

student signature

date

HON 410 Blog and E-Mail Update Guidelines

As a reminder, in order to enroll in and receive credit for HON 410 upon your return to the Honors Program, you are required to update us regularly on your studies, travels and cultural impressions while abroad. These updates will be used for HON 410 activities when you return. Updates must be posted to a public blog or sent via e-mail. In the former case, you must provide me with the URL no later than the date your program begins.

1. SUMMER PROGRAMS: Updates via e-mail (eedgington@unr.edu) or blog must appear approximately every week, at the very latest 7 days after your last e-mail or post. These must begin no later than the week your program begins end no earlier than the week your program ends. You may keep updating thereafter of course.
2. FALL/SPRING PROGRAMS: Updates via e-mail (eedgington@unr.edu) or blog must appear approximately every 2 weeks, at the very latest 14 days after your last e-mail or post. These must begin no later than the week your program begins end no earlier than the week your program ends. You may keep updating thereafter of course.

2a. If blogging, at least one photo must appear along with each post. These can be:

- 1) A picture of you doing some activity (in class, on a field trip, excursion or the like);
- 2) A picture of you and others on your program engaging the local community (cultural event, service project or the like).
- 3) A picture of something representative of the country that is meaningful to you (beach or mountain landscape, a building or public square, café, or other landmark).

2b. If e-mailing, you must provide the Honors Program with at least three photographs taken within a month after your arrival in each of the categories above.

3. Each update must be a minimum of 250 words, with as much reflection as possible. There is no maximum word limit. Mere lists (cities you travel(ed) to, foods you ate) or briefly-captioned pictures (interesting buildings, landscapes, etc.) are not acceptable. There will be weeks where “not much” is happening, and others when there is much going on, but each post must contain equal content and depth. Content can include, but is not limited to:

- Descriptions of local customs, foods, activities, etc. and your reaction to them (are they similar, different, what you expected or didn't expect from the country, etc.? Is it hard or easy to be motivated to participate in 'local customs?')
- Descriptions of interactions with citizens of the countr(ies) you are in (what do they talk about? What do you do with them? Is it easy to understand their language, or when they speak to you in English? Do they prefer communicating in English or in their native tongue? What do you find enjoyable or frustrating about communicating – verbally or nonverbally – with citizens of the countr(ies)?)
- Descriptions of cultural, political, linguistic, nutritional, entertainment, etc. similarities and differences between the USA and host country you have noticed. How do you react to/respond to these? Are things (state specific items) becoming less foreign to you with more time in country?
- Descriptions of the program site, university campus, professors, host family, students, etc. and how these are similar or different to UNR (and what you expected going over.)
- Descriptions of places you visit in the town of your program site. What particularly catches your eye? What is different or similar to the USA? What is the history of places, buildings, theatres, etc. you choose to write about?
- Descriptions of how people in your host country or in places you visit elsewhere view you (as an American, as male, female, etc.) Do you feel “at home” anywhere you are currently living or visiting? Why or why not?
- Descriptions of your host family, dorm or suite mates (if not also program participants.) What is similar, different, welcoming, off-putting? What is the food and/or are general eating customs like?
- Descriptions of media portrayals of current events in the USA or of American culture generally. Does anything about the portrayal surprise you? Do you have the same or different response as your friends on the program and of host country citizens?
- Descriptions of events with a big impact on you – a beach sunset, opera visit, particular meal, guest speaker or internship activity, etc. What is the impact, and why is this so meaningful to you?