

Syllabus for SYE 4751 Off-Campus Study—Preparation and Experience SYE 4752 Off-Campus Study-- Final Project and Paper

Facilitator: Leesa Kern, SYE Program Director
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
614-823-1267
Email: lkern@otterbein.edu

SYE 4751 is the first of two courses for students fulfilling the SYE requirement through Off-Campus Study. Students will enroll in SYE 4751 (1 credit) for the semester they study off-campus. Upon their return, they will complete SYE 4752 (1 credit).

Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing for SYE 4751; senior standing for SYE 4752.

Each course is 1 credit hour. SYE 4751 is pass/fail graded once the student returns and shares the folder of collected materials from the experience with the faculty mentor. SYE 4752 is letter graded upon successful completion of the project, presentation and reflection paper.

During the semester prior to departure, students will locate faculty members willing to serve as mentors/advisers during their off-campus experiences. Faculty mentors assist students in determining how they will meet the course objectives and in setting deadlines.

An approved off-campus study experience, combined with SYE 4751 Off-Campus Study--Preparation and with SYE 4752 Off-Campus Study Project and Paper, will meet the goals and outcomes established for the Senior Year Experience program:

Act--Goal 1: You will apply the knowledge, skills and values developed through your major and general education to develop solutions to meet contemporary challenges/problems.

- You will work with students from multiple departments to practice inquiry and problem-solving skills.
- You will articulate how your knowledge, skills and values come together to address the challenge/problem.
- You will identify the roles you practiced and imagine future roles for yourself related to the challenge.
- You will demonstrate that your education and the experience have come together by publicly presenting the results of your work.
- You will prepare a learning legacy to leave to future students.

Reflect--Goal 2: You will actively reflect on your entire undergraduate education and imagine its future purposes and uses.

- You will ponder how your education may contribute to your personal, professional and community life.
- You will imagine yourself in your new roles and identify possible challenges in those roles.
- You will reflect on your future personal, ethical, community and global responsibilities as a change agent.
- You will complete e-portfolio and reflective pieces required by the SYE.

Transition--Goal 3: You will actively prepare for your transition from student to professional, citizen, leader and community member.

- You will gain awareness of the key adjustments encountered by seniors and new graduates.
- You will use campus and community resources to help guide your transition.
- You will attend co-curricular workshops about financial, career, and other transition issues.
- You will use your reflections to develop an action plan related to at least one of your future roles.

SYE 4751 Requirements:

1. **In preparation for your experience**, select a faculty mentor/adviser who will be your “contact” person at Otterbein in conjunction with the SYE program director. Notify the international programs director and SYE program director as to whom your faculty mentor will be by registering on the CIEGE website. Then, you and your faculty mentor will meet to review your plans. In addition, you should determine what your learning goals are in preparation for this experience (e.g. to gain understanding of a culture that is significantly different from your own; apply international language skills in a native environment; gain experience in a professional internship setting that offers experiences different from those found in Central Ohio; etc.) **To enroll in SYE 4751, you must notify the SYE program director by email who can then grant permission in Banner allowing you to enroll in the course.**

2. **Prior to departure**, take time to read articles, books and materials about the place where you will be studying.

3. **During the experience**, you will submit by email to your faculty mentor and the SYE director journal writings that ask you to reflect on your experiences. These journals, a minimum of 750 words, are outlined below. Use the following questions as guidelines as you prepare your journal writings, but do not feel limited to these questions only.

- In **Journal 1**, submitted the week prior to your departure, tell us what you read and investigated to help prepare you for this experience. What information have you obtained? What have you learned about the place where you will be studying? Include a reference list with the sources you consulted as part of Journal 1. What do you want to

learn or gain from this experience? What are your hopes, apprehensions and/or expectations?

- **Journal 2--** By the end of the third week of your experience—What is your initial reaction and experience upon your arrival, introduction to the culture, school, community? What are you noticing about any differences? Note any obvious comparisons that have surprised you or that you were not prepared to confront.
- **Journal 3--**By the end of the eight or ninth week of your experience (or immediately after your mid-semester break) — What is a contemporary/social issue that seems to be emerging or that you are observing as part of your experience? As you think about this particular issue, what have you learned about this topic in the past (through courses in your major or in Integrative Studies classes at Otterbein). Is the information you are now confronting, confirming or disputing what you have previously learned? In what ways? What new information are you now learning about this particular issue/topic? Talk with at least three individuals who can tell you more about this particular topic and name, with title or description, who those sources are. Be specific and tell us what you have learned from those individuals. In addition, what are the joys you are experiencing? What difficulties and challenges are you facing? How has your Otterbein education/experience prepared you for this experience? What are you looking forward to during the rest of your off-campus experience?
- **Journal 4--** Two weeks before the end of your off-campus semester—As you prepare to return to Otterbein, what have you not been able to do that you will make time to do before departure? How are you preparing yourself for returning to Otterbein/home? Review the expectations that you wrote before your experience (you submitted them as part of Journal 1). How do you now respond to what your initial thoughts were? What highlights have you taken special note of that will be significant in any future discussion of this experience?

4. **During your experience**, collect materials that reflect what you are learning about the culture, history, geography, government or other characteristics of the off-campus experience. Take lots of photos. Save copies of your course syllabi and assignments that you have completed during this experience. Keep ticket stubs, concert programs, information from any of the sites you are visiting. Remember, these materials along with your journal writings will provide information for your final reflection paper that you will prepare during SYE 4752.

5. **When you return to Otterbein**, take your folder of materials (copies of your journals and support materials) to your faculty mentor during the first week of the semester. When you have shared that information with your faculty mentor, the mentor will notify the SYE program director that you have submitted satisfactory evidence of your experience and the director will enter the pass/fail grade into your record for SYE 4751. A grade of IP (in progress) for SYE 4751 will be entered at the end of the semester when you are studying off campus and will remain until your faculty mentor notifies the SYE program director to change your grade to pass/fail.

Grading: SYE 4751 is graded pass/fail. Failure to meet any one of the criteria (any one of the journals or submitting your folder of materials to your faculty mentor) will result in failure of the course. If a student fails 4751, the student may not enroll in SYE 4752 and must select from another SYE option to fulfill the SYE requirement.

SYE 4752—Off-Campus Study—Final Project and Paper

Prerequisite: Senior standing and successful completion of SYE 4751.

Course is 1 credit hour and letter graded.

To complete SYE 4752, you will work with other students who completed a study abroad experience to complete an “action” project that includes a public presentation component and write a final reflection paper.

Project: During the semester you enroll in SYE 4752, you will meet with the other students who also completed an off-campus study experience. Together, you will work with either the SYE program director or faculty mentors to determine a project that helps you identify local or campus needs and then, using the information and skills you gained during your off-campus experience, develop and implement a project. These projects can include, but are not limited to, orientation sessions for future study abroad students, an international fair or festival hosted for the campus, a debate focused on international issues, an audiovisual program about off-campus experiences that can be shown to incoming freshmen, etc. It is highly suggested that the project be completed during the first half of the semester in order that you complete your final reflection paper no later than week 10 of the semester.

Final reflection paper: In preparation for writing your final paper, refer to your initial reading and research, the journals submitted and the materials you collected during your experience. Revisit your initial learning objectives as to why you chose this off-campus experience. Review the SYE goals included at the beginning of this syllabus.

In an 8 - 12 page paper, describe how your off-campus experience helped you meet the SYE goals. Highlight what you had hoped to accomplish during this experience and what occurred. Overall, we will be looking for how this culminating experience has helped you pull together what you have learned from your education (your major, your Integrative Studies and other requirements, your electives, and the courses you may have taken as part of your off-campus experience.)

Refer to Journal 3 in which you were asked to identify a contemporary issue. As part of your paper, discuss that particular issue and how you were able to connect your education, experience and think about possible resolutions to this particular problem or issue. In your paper, include reflection on how you believe your liberal arts education contributed to your off-campus experience, and how the experience became an integral component of your liberal arts education and contributed to your plans for the future.

Throughout the paper, use specific examples from your experience, classes you took, comments and expertise you gained from others at the academic institution where you studied or lived, and references from any sources you consulted in preparation of your

experience or media or sources you encountered while you were gone. List references in a bibliography, including any of the interviews or personal sources that you have consulted. Identify with your faculty mentor the style to be used for the bibliography and for appropriate citation when referencing outside sources.

Your paper must be submitted to your faculty mentor and the SYE program director by the end of week 10 of the semester. The SYE program director and your faculty mentor will meet to review your paper and your project to determine your final grade.

Grading: SYE 4752 is pass/fail graded. Failure to complete successfully either the project or the paper results in a failing grade and requires the student to enroll in another SYE course or option to fulfill the SYE requirement.