

GEOG 296: Field Study Tour in Geography: QATAR

This course is open to all Majors/Minors on Campus

Fulfills the following BSU's Core Curriculum: (CGCL; CMCL; CSOC)

Prerequisite: Approved application through Study Abroad Office.

Repeatable to another country: May earn a maximum of six credits.

Course Overview:

By taking this course students will gain first-hand experience and a better understanding of Qatar - the richest country in the World. Currently as you travel, one understands the growing economic interdependence among countries as reflected in the increasing cross-border flows of goods and services, capital, know-how and people. In this interdependent world, it is therefore, appropriate to understand how Qatar has influence on and is impacted by the phenomenon of oil wealth, construction, media, immigration and globalization in the midst of Islamic culture.

Learning Objectives:

1. Experience and explore the socio-economic and cultural fabric of Qatar.
2. From visual and personal interaction, apply critical thinking skills and link the demographics, socio-economy and political systems of Qatar.
3. Conduct exploratory research on the various dimensions of globalization and their impact on Qatar and *vice versa*.
4. Understand the socio-cultural implications of immigrants in Qatar.
5. Develop an understanding of the business and social environment in Qatar, and gain insights into the distinctive nature of the business opportunities and challenges in this market world.
6. Provide a geographic appraisal of Qatar as a region in the Middle East.
7. Enhance the oral communication skills of students.

Tentative Course Schedule

References:

Friedman, Thomas. (2006) *The World is Flat*.

Cox, M. (2007). *What Every Student Should Know About Preparing Effective Oral Presentations*, Pearson.

Evaluation: Evaluation of student performance will be based on a variety of individual presentations and a final project. Grading is weighted as indicated below:

Individual Intuitive Learning and Field Work Observations in Qatar 30%

Field Study Tour – Observations on a specific theme - on Culture/Economy/Society/Geography
(Oral Presentation) 30%

Assignments:

Individual Report and In-Class Oral Presentations:-

The objective of these assignments is to provide you with the experience of researching and understanding an assigned topic. It is also designed to help you enhance your oral communication skills. Detailed guidelines for this assignment will be provided in class.

You will be expected to share the knowledge gained from research on the assigned topic in a short oral presentation before the class.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS: In case of > 12 to 15 students

Impact of Globalization on Economy/Society/Geography

Working in teams, you will research and explore the impact of globalization on a specific assigned segment of that country's society and make an oral presentation of the issues identified. You will then carry out further teamwork and make recommendations to address one of the issues identified, prepare a written report and make a final presentation. Detailed guidelines for the team project and presentations will be provided in class. This is done after you return from the field trip.

Team learning requires that students be held accountable for learning the skills of collaboration. To that end, peer evaluations of the effectiveness of an individual's work on team assignments will be factored into while finalizing the grades on team assignments.

Field Trip Discussions & Field Trip Learning:-

Participation and learning through field trip is very important. Apart from allowing you an opportunity to hone your oral communication skills, you can also make an effective contribution to the learning by interacting in a positive manner the local people and in turn benefit from their knowledge. Your participation includes your overall level of preparedness, and the extent to which you ask questions, attempt to answer questions, or provide other relevant comments during discussions. Grades for field trip participation will depend on both quality and frequency of participation. Participation will be judged on the basis of:

- Evidence of informed and thoughtful analysis
- Fit with the flow of on-site field-based discussion
- Ability to provoke constructive debate
- Ability to influence the class opinion

Synopsis:-

Courses that involve field study tours increase the scope and definition of the learning environment, and also significantly enlarge the space-time continuum. This is even more so when the field study tour undertaken is overseas. While on a field tour abroad, each of us act as ambassadors of the university and the country that we belong to. It is therefore all the more necessary that we maintain exemplary standards of conduct and professionalism in all that we say or do 24/7 while on tour. Pursuant to this objective, each student will be required to adhere to the *Do's and Don'ts* for the foreign field tour. Violation of these rules and conduct will entail dismissal from the tour and award of a "Fail" grade in the course.

Grade Ranges:

The following grade ranges will be used to determine the final letter grade:

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A = 93-100%	A- = 90-92 %	
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B+ = 87-89 %	B = 83-86 %	B- = 80-82 %
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C+ = 77-79 %	C = 73-76 %	C- = 70-72 %
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D+ = 67-69 %	D = 63-66 %	D- = 60-62 %
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F = < 60 %		
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