



## Seminar Title: International Culture and Career Seminar

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### Seminar Description

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This seminar is designed for students to hone in on developing their professional, academic, and personal skills during their study abroad program. The seminar is specifically designed to meet students where they are and guide them into a deeper reflection. The seminar will help our students put their understanding into context and prepare for their future personal and professional lives. Students and on-site team will meet regularly during the students' study abroad experience. Students will participate in several cultural excursions, a service-learning opportunity, business visits, an international symposium, several reflective discussions, and engage in culture and career development activities.

*(Not for credit)*

### Seminar Objectives

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The mission of the CEPA Foundation is to serve students by offering affordable, high-quality study abroad programs that positively impact their personal and career goals. We truly believe that the best way to achieve this is by providing students with dedicated, professional, and caring staff, advisors, and faculty who listen to the needs of our students and offer support and assistance.

Within this framework, this course has the following Learning Goals:

1. Students will be able to articulate and apply what they have learned through the International Career Seminar and their study abroad experience
2. Students will participate in reflective discussions throughout the semester and partake in intentionally designed cultural excursions to deepen their understanding
3. Students will gain additional self-resilience, confidence, and intercultural communication skills by living and studying in an international environment

Each student will write his/her own professional, academic, and personal goals for their time abroad at the beginning of the semester. This seminar is not credit-bearing. The reflective topics are specifically organized to guide the student into a deeper immersion into the culture. Class and excursion attendance and participation are mandatory.



## Orientation Sessions

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Orientation Sessions with the On-site Director and Coordinator during the first 2 weeks of the program (including a welcome session with the CEPA Directors):

1. Getting to know the area, roommates, language, academic classes, and things to do at and around the Château de Pourtalès
  - Neighborhood:
  - Shops, public transportation, laundry facilities
  - Get to know your Classmates through the interactive game “Encuentro”
2. Fun things to see and do
  - Concerts, clubs, museums, walks, events, movie theatres, sporting events, neighborhoods, and restaurants
  - Student organizations on-campus
  - What has the student discovered?
3. Health and the Environment
  - Sleep, exercise, food, beverages, making new friends, homesickness, staying in touch, and local support system
  - The environment: differences and similarities in use of water, energy, public transportation, and recycling
  - University Classrooms, faculty offices, recreational sports, cafeteria, and student support services

## Class Schedule and Sequence of Instruction

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Session	Date	Content
		Orientation sessions upon arrival
1		Introduction to intercultural and cultural surprises – where are the cultural differences between student’s home countries and France or Germany?
2		Quick Introduction to Intercultural Awareness Theories
3		Preparing to go home



**Session 1 with Instructor: Introduction to intercultural and cultural surprises – where are the cultural differences between the US and France or Germany?**

- What can be generalized – what shouldn't be generalized?
- What are the stereotypes?
- What's typical French (see below)?
- What are the "do's" and the "don'ts" in France?
- Collection of personal, academic, and career goals

**Understanding the local languages and the Alsatian dialect**

Differences /Similarities

- Gestures, facial expressions, greetings (shaking hands, kissing)
- Non-verbal behavior

**Academic classes**

- Roles of professors, teaching assistants, office hours, lectures, discussions, presentations, homework, independent reading, exams, papers, tutoring, etc.
- University culture & norms

**Session 2 with Instructor: Quick Introduction to Intercultural awareness theories**

Society, the culture, and economy

- Introduction into the society and current economic situation
- Cultural trends, the role religion has on the culture, and other general introductions into deeper topics in the French and German?
- Business Culture in France and Germany

Social issues

- Celebrating differences, ethnic mix, homelessness, poverty, differences in neighborhoods, support available (homeless shelters, soup kitchens, low cost/no cost grocery/clothing "stores"), etc.
- Service-Learning opportunities
- General Know How regarding the Host Countries. What every student should know by now!

**Session 3 with Instructor: Preparing to go home**

- How to describe/share the student's experience, reconnecting with friends and family?
- How to talk about education abroad experience on resume, cover letter, in interviews, grad and professional school applications?
- How to stay in touch with their host country friends?
- How to continue to use and improve the host language ability once he/she has returned?
- How to bring what the student has learned abroad back into the home campus classes, student organizations, and interactions (tutoring international students in English, making friends with international students, local community service work, etc.)?