



STUDY ABROAD REFLECTION PAPER – ISSUES REFLECTION

The upper-division – Issues – component of the General Education Program is designed to develop your ability to draw on previous knowledge and experience, collaborate with others, and address problems that connect to important world issues:

Globalization (I-G) — including issues related to capitalism, economic justice, health, migration and immigration, communication, borders, education, etc.

Health (I-H) — including issues related to equity, disparities, health systems, finance, ethics, access, quality of care, safety, happiness, human development, genetics, etc.

Human Rights (I-HR) — including issues related to political systems, power, war, peace, violence, terrorism, wealth, poverty, privacy, religion, gender, women, children, disabilities, labor, aging, incarceration, torture, etc.

Identity — including issues related to gender, sexuality, religion, culture, race, class, family, community, difference, education, technology, etc.

Information, Innovation, and Technology — including issues related to media, privacy, access, transparency, intellectual property, ethics, economics, creativity, education, politics, etc.

Sustainability — including issues related to the environment, population, natural resources, economic development, social justice, energy, etc.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- ***This document, and your essay*** must be submitted to gened@gvsu.edu within 30 days of your return from studying abroad!
- In the email subject line please put: Reflection – your name (for example: Reflection – Joan Smith)
- This document must be between 1-2 pages, single spaced.
- Select 1 of the 6 Issues noted above (you can pick one of the topics underneath the broader Issue, just be sure to list both the Issue and the specific topic). Reflect on the entirety of your experience abroad including your course work and out of course experiences (for example, sight-seeing, mass transportation, lodging, encounters with other people in the country, buying food, etc.).
- Once your reflection has been reviewed, you and Records will receive an email that will allow you to use the courses to fulfill your Issues requirement.

Student Information (type or print clearly)

Your name: _____ G number: _____ Email: _____

Country where you studied: _____ Semester you studied abroad: _____

Did you participate in a GVSU faculty-led program? YES NO

If you studied at a host university overseas, please indicate the name of that institution: _____

List the 1 or 2 courses you want to use for Issues credit

Course 1 – course prefix and number as it will show on the GVSU system (example, BIO 338): _____

Course 2 – course prefix and number as it will show on the GVSU system (example, SOC 380): _____

Reflection Questions

1. Select 1 of the 6 Issues noted above. List the Issue. (You can pick one of the topics underneath the broader Issue, just be sure to list both the Issue and the specific topic).
2. Describe the similarities in perspectives on the problem, causes, and potential solutions to the Issue between the U.S. and the country you visited.
3. Describe the differences in perspectives on the problem, causes, and potential solutions to the Issue between the U.S. and the country you visited.

Courses taken abroad that are used to fulfill the Issues General Education requirement **cannot** be used to fulfill a General Education Foundations requirement. Students must choose between fulfilling the Issues requirement or fulfilling a Foundations requirement.