**UNST 150: Global Living and Learning: Madison International (1 credit)**

**Instructors:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Department/Office** | **Email** |
| JoAnn Benjamin, M.Ed. | University Advising | benja2jd@jmu.edu  |
| Jonathan Kratz M.Ed. | Office of International Programs | kratzjx@jmu.edu  |
| Christen Pendleton, Ed.S. | Doctoral Candidate | pendlecc@dukes.jmu.edu |
| Craig Shealy, Ph.D. | Department of Graduate Psychology | shealycn@jmu.edu |
| Samantha Tynan, M.Ed. | Doctoral Candidate | samanthatynan@gmail.com  |

**Course Location and Time:** Monday 3:30-4:30 pm in Hoffman Hall

**ORIENTATION TO THE COURSE**

UNST 150 Global Living and Learning: Madison International is a 1 credit course designed to bring together the residents of the Madison International Learning Community, Madison International alumni, students interested in broadening their global perspectives and graduates of the International Study Center to increase students’ academic motivation and success, while engaging with the JMU community in becoming global citizens.

**Madison International**

The mission of the Madison International community is to provide a rich array of living and learning opportunities for student at James Madison University so they may:

1. think and act locally and globally;
2. learn from and contribute to the multiple communities in which they are embedded; and,
3. cultivate the values and competencies of informed and enlightened global citizens who are prepared to lead productive and meaningful lives.

Madison International community provides an extraordinary opportunity for a diverse cohort of international and domestic student to learn from and about one another through a series of exciting experiential and classroom-based activities including, but not limited to, the following:

* stimulating academic course work that is uniquely tailored to the Madison International community participants;
* intercultural programming (e.g., road trips, distinguished lectures, socials) and other special events that are coordinated and facilitated by JMU faculty, staff and students;

UNST 150 provides a consistent experience for all members of MI to participate together in the activities of this community. Through an array of didactic, experiential, and community-based activities, this course prepares student to apply their academic knowledge to the real world, serve their larger communities, and build intercultural relationships through cultural immersion and exchange opportunities; in so doing, personal and professional development is facilitated through active self-reflection regarding the beliefs and values, of self, others, and the world at large and how they influence human practices and policies.

Madison International activities are organized across the following broad dimensions (see the below Course Requirements):

* Academic course work and community development activities
* Residence hall experiences (for those in Hoffman Hall)
* Activities that support diversity/community development
* Activities by staff and faculty that support student well-being
* Project –based and service learning activities

Although this requirement is subject to modification by course instructors, MI students typically meet together on a weekly basis during the semester.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The following components are required for the successful completion of UNST 150.

**1. Reading and Conversation Contribution**

This class is designed to operate as a process group during which topics are presented, and class members engage in discussion based on readings and their reflections. As such, each class member will be responsible for contributing to both content and process. To contribute to course content, each class member is asked to choose a topic of interest relevant to the goals of this course, which they believe would allow for interesting dialogue.

* Students will propose topics of interest related to the goals of the course to be discussed in class. Class consensus will determine three topics of student choice that will be added to the syllabus. In order to generate readings for these classes, each small group will be responsible for procuring articles from a reputable news source or peer reviewed journal related to one of the selected topics. Articles will be submitted to Christen and Samantha, distributed to the class and used as class reading.
* To prepare for class discussion, students are expected to come to each class with three questions or talking points from that day’s assigned readings. This will help facilitate active participation in class discussions.

**2. Madison International Journal**

After completing the assigned weekly reading, students should look to the syllabus to find the journal topic each week. Journals may include reflection on readings as well as other aspects of students’ experience in this course or the MI community such as participation in the Conversation Partners Program, attending an event on campus or involvement in a club or organization on campus or in the community. Although the journal will be reviewed by the course instructor for purposes of deriving a grade for UNST 150, material in the journal will be kept confidential (i.e., won’t be shared with anyone else).

* Journals should be 1-2 pages (at least 500 words)
* Journals are due on a weekly basis.
* Journals should be posted to Blackboard the night before class by 5pm.
	+ Journals for students meeting on Monday are due Sunday by 5pm
	+ Journals for students meeting on Wednesday are due by Tuesday at 5pm.

**3. Cross-cultural Experience Group**

Class members of UNST 150 will be placed in a group of 3-5 individuals, who will be expected to meet outside of class weekly. Groups will be expected to participate in activities and events in the JMU and local community, as part of the course objectives. Additionally, groups will provide the opportunity to reflect on the community activities and the classroom discussions.

**4. MI Final Community Celebration**

UNST 150 class members are invited and encouraged to attend all Madison International community events throughout the semester. Each semester will conclude with a final celebration for the entire community. This is a time for group-level reflection upon the activities of the semester and time to enjoy food and conversation together.

**ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to attend all weekly class meetings. Excused absences require documentation to be brought to the instructor immediately following (or before) the absence. Regular attendance, thoughtful journal responses and reading of course materials will aid one’s grade considerably. Students are responsible for reading the material, obtaining class handouts and completing assignments for missed class. Students who must miss class sessions, for any reason, should email the instructor. **Missing more than 2 classes will lower one’s grade considerably.**

**PARTICIPATION**

This course is intended to be **interactive and participatory** in nature and to function much like a process group. Students are expected to attend class, complete assignments, and readings prior to the start of each class. Your active participation is essential to the success of the course as well as your own learning. In addition, material from the readings, lectures, in-class demonstrations, videos, etc. will provide you with multiple perspectives which facilitate learning. Learning requires active interaction with the material, not just passive exposure. With such didactic and interactive learning, it is likely you will hear differing viewpoints on various topics. You are encouraged to be **open, respectful, and courteous** to one another in sharing your thoughts on the material. **During class, please have all electronic devices turned off or on silent mode! No texting please.**

**BLACKBOARD**

The Blackboard online teaching tool will be utilized for this course. Log on to Blackboard at <http://blackboard.jmu.edu> or via MyMadison at <http://mymadison.jmu.edu> using your JMU email username and password. Click on this course to access the syllabus, schedule of topics, and any announcements or other information that changes throughout the semester. **You are responsible for reading all such announcements and taking action if needed.** More information on accessing and using Blackboard will be presented in class.

**GRADING**

Grades are based upon 1) full and active participation in class and scheduled MI activities and events 2) thoughtful completion of weekly journal writing assignments and 3) completion of all course requirements. Documentation for grading will be derived from attendance records, instructor observations, and review of journals. Guidelines for grading are as follows:

A = Excellent (attended all or nearly all classes and events; enthusiastic and engaged participant; completed all course requirements; quality of work is excellent)

B = Good (attended most classes and events; participated well in activities; completed all course requirements; good quality of work)

C = Fair (attended some classes and events; participated somewhat in activities; completed some course requirements; fair quality of work)

D / F = Poor (attended few or no classes or events; did not participate well in activities; did not complete most course requirements; poor quality of work)

**STAYING IN CONTACT**

Course instructors work to make themselves available to students in and out of the classroom. Please feel free to contact your instructors with questions that cannot be cleared up via the information offered on Blackboard.

**NOTE.**  This syllabus (including the course schedule) is subject to change. Students will be notified of any changes in class and/or via Blackboard announcement. The most current version of the syllabus can always be found on Blackboard. All aspects of the JMU Honor Code are applicable to this class. If you have any questions about the relevance or applicability of the JMU Honor Code, please ask your course instructors.