



Fall 2010
Global Studies
Capstone
Seminar
Expo

Monday
December 13, 2010

Welcome to the Spring 2010 Global Studies Capstone Expo

The Capstone Projects featured this evening are informed by on-going conversations from our Global Studies Minor courses. Students enrolled in the Minor are required to complete a pre-departure and in-country on-line “Study Abroad Experience” course and the “Global Studies Capstone Course,” which is the culmination of the Global Studies Minor (GSM) program. The GSM builds on Binghamton University’s Global Vision and combines a Study Abroad Experience with foreign language and international/global content courses above and beyond the General Education requirements.

The capstone projects are inspired by students’ study abroad experiences. Whether abroad for a summer, a semester, or a year, students drew on the Global Studies minor to make the most of their time abroad by connecting it to their academic work at Binghamton University.

We are happy that you’ve chosen to spend time with us this evening reviewing the projects and discussing them with our students.

Course Instructors

Global Studies 394 - Summer 2010

Dr. Suronda Gonzalez
Dr. David Kleinberg
Dr. Kivanc Kilinc

Global Studies 490 - Fall 2010

Dr. Suronda Gonzalez
Dr. Jessie Kabwila Kapasula
Ms. Natalia Andrievskikh

Presenters

Ashley Alesi

University of East Anglia
Human Development

My capstone project focuses on the different lifestyles of the British and the Americans. It mainly concentrates on the economic impacts each lifestyle may have on the country and why this is so. It also looks at why this may have occurred and why some Americans have the drive for that "bigger is better" lifestyle and why the British lifestyle seems to be more simple.

Arkadiy 'David' Aloyts

Russia

Political Science, Russian and Eastern European Studies; Minors:
History, Chemistry; Business Adjunct

'The Ghost of Communism: How Soviet Society Is Preventing The Rise Of A Modern Russian Economy'

Describes how the culture created under the socialist cultural engineering programs of the Soviet Union continues to affect modern Russia, and how the differences in economic culture are preventing it from developing a modern 'Western' economy based on service and globalization.

Michele L. Aronson

Salamanca, Spain

Political Science and Philosophy, Politics, and Law

My capstone project is a comparative study of the United States and Spain that analyzes the relationship between culture and economic/financial crises. Specifically, I answer the following question: How has the role of home ownership in Spanish and American culture contributed to the growing and bursting of each country's respective property bubble? I propose that, although the cultural meaning and origin of home ownership varies, its very existence has been a cause of the property bubbles that have caused the recent economic crises. At the end, I will present broad policy recommendations that take these cultural factors into consideration, and will prevent similar crises in the future.

Aaron Axelson

London
History and English

My Capstone Project is a study on the differences between the higher education systems of the United States and England. With the increasing tuition costs in the U.S. and the current protests against the same in England, I felt that this issue was extremely relevant. Using a variety of statistics, and a short survey sent out to current American and British students, I have attempted to identify which system is more efficient based on cost, employment, and academics.

Viktorija Balsys-Spencer

Florence, Italy
Environmental Geography

My capstone is looking at the carnival celebration in Venice-the largest carnival site in Italy. I am looking at the historical meaning of carnival through the lenses of costumes, celebrations and origin of attendees. I will then compare its intended meaning to today's meaning by looking at tourism and where carnival-goers come from now.

Luisa Batiz

Ghana
Sociology

"What is Africa to me?"

A question that many people from the African Diaspora have probably asked themselves at least once in their lives. This presentation traces the connection that people from the African Diaspora have to Africa and how it feels to return back to Africa. Ultimately I question if returning to the continent gives people from the diaspora a better understanding of what Africa means to them? I conclude that returning to Africa has major impact on anyone but that the legacy of colonialism and imperialism is what solidifies the binds between the people in the diaspora and the people on the continent.

Rob Woodward

London, England
History

I am looking at the National Curriculum in England. I will be looking into whether we have something similar in the United States, although it may not be called the same thing.

Chu Zheng

Madrid, Spain
Accounting

My experience abroad was different from others because I lost everything when I was in Belgium, so my PIP is about how to survive when emergency happens. I write about what to prepare before going abroad, what to be careful about when you are abroad and what to do if an emergency happens and where you can look for help. In addition, I write down about my own experience in my PIP and illustrate 7 major errors I made before and after the whole case happened to me. I also include lots of resources from the State Department.

Yong Lei Zhu

Shanghai, China
Economics; Minor: Chinese

My Capstone project is about the success of KFC in China. I want to dig deeper into all the factors that contributed to its success. Moreover, I want to analysis the leadership and approaches it made to be successful in the Chinese market as compared to other foreign fast-food chains (i.e McDonald's)

Anne Zuffranieri

Madrid and Malaga, Spain
Industrial and systems engineering

My capstone project is about health regulations in food establishments in Spain. I will focus on both my experience and what I was able to research on their sanitation laws and practices.

Thomas M. Spader

Utrecht, Netherlands

Accounting

Transportation and Obesity: Netherlands vs. United States

In the United States, the majority of Americans are dependent on cars for transportation. In contrast, cycling is one of the most common and popular methods of transportation in the Netherlands. My PIP investigates the relationship between transportation and obesity in the Netherlands and the United States.

Aaron Vanderhoff

Paris, France

Integrated Molecular Neuroscience and French Language and Literature

The French have gotten away with eating large amounts of carbs, fats, and oil for so long, leading researchers to call this the "French paradox". However, there is no a rising concern of obesity in French children, something that has led government officials to summon national attention, going as far as having a National Weighing Day for the country's children. Some have blamed it on the "Americanization" of France, living a fast-paced life with little time to spend on eating food, let alone time to think about it. However, with a stiff 35-hour workweek it's hard to see how anyone could be in a rush, so who's to blame?

Nori Williams

Rome, Italy

Integrated Neuroscience

I will be taking a look at Italian Renaissance art from a Neurological perspective. I will explain the cultural influences of the Renaissance period in regards to science and art. I will explore the discovery of mirror neurons and what that means for art appreciation.

Thomas Beard

Argentina and France

Linguistics and Arabic; Minor: Spanish

My PIP will discuss the linguistic impact that English has had on Spanish in Argentina and French in France. I will explore the "tools" (such as the media) that English has used to instill new vocabulary and expressions in these languages. I will also look at organizations such as L'Académie Française and La Real Academia Española that have made efforts to combat this.

Gustavo Benzan

Valencia, Spain

Geography

Barcelona is a modern city located on the Mediterranean sea which has developed over the past couple of decades. The capstone takes a look at how it has transformed to become an iconic city in Europe and how it arrived there. Also, to find out why Barcelona has not yet reached the global status of recognition such as other world cities as New York and London.

Caitlin Brennan

Madrid, Spain

Accounting; Minor: Spanish

My Capstone project is about soccer and the reasons behind its popularity. Also, the effects that soccer has on Europe and the benefits it could bring to the USA if we were as involved with that particular sport. I discuss why Europe is for it and why the United States would rather watch other sports, like football. This all ties back to the main idea of the United States being more of an individualistic country, as opposed to Europe, which is more team-oriented.

Irene Bunnell

Urbino, Italy

English and Comparative Literature; Minor: Italian

My Capstone Project looks at what gets lost in translation. When translating from one language to another, it is impossible to directly translate. What is lost for the reader who is reading a translated novel or watched a subtitled movie? Can we ever really understand a work that has been translated?

George Chang

Fudan University, Shanghai, China

Accounting

The growth of the Chinese economy has been astounding due to the influx of foreign investment and China's willingness to learn. The growth has undoubtedly changed the landscape of Chinese daily life and affected the people tremendously. The focus of my presentation is to expand how people internationally think of Chinese living standards by giving examples of both positive and negative changes in daily life.

Kristin Chen

London, UK

Human Development; Minor: Asian and Asian Studies

My capstone project is on smoking trends in the UK. I'm specifically looking at why smoking seems to be so prevalent, and what the UK is doing about it.

Danielle Colantonio

Madrid, Spain

Psychology; Minor: Spanish

My Capstone Project will evaluate the evolution of Bullfighting and more specifically what has become of it. I will be examining the influence tourism has had on this industry and the surrounding opinions of this sport, including its relevance in today's Spanish culture. This research will determine how a cultural phenomenon could possibly transition into a captivating social event and beyond that a mere public display used to attract tourism.

Alandra Price

Madrid and Malaga, Spain

Mathematics; Minor: Spanish

My capstone is exploring the difference in the rates of smoking between the US and Spain. How the smoking culture differs between the two places. What factors influence the differences. Lastly, my capstone discusses the rate of deaths per year in each country due to smoking related illnesses.

Luz-April Pulgarin

Florence, Italy

Industrial & Systems Engineering and Italian

My project will be on the issue of Sexism in Italy. I plan to provide various examples and videos of subtle cases of sexism in the Italian media. I will also further investigate Berlusconi's (Italy's Prime Minister) influences and how Italian women feel about this issue.

Matthew Sackett

Copenhagen, Denmark

Management

My capstone discusses Christiania bikes, an innovation of an everyday bike, and how it can be applied to Entrepreneurship. I study the subculture-commune that it emerged from, the product itself, how it fits into the Opportunity Model and Denmark's view of such endeavors.

Christopher Grant Smith

Veliky Novgorod, Russia

Political Science; Minor: Russian

The Russian Hypermarket Phenomenon

As Russia's capital free market economy has grown so has the business of retail, more specifically the hypermarket has emerged. The combination grocery-retail stores are springing up in Russian cities everywhere. The major question is: Are these hypermarkets sustainable for the long term? This presentation looks at the increase in hypermarkets in Russia and their sustainability.

Armanda Morico

La Sorbonne, Paris, France
French; Minor: Linguistics

One of the main things that shocked me throughout my whole stay in France, was how private the Parisians are about religious topics. Any signs of religion are prohibited in public schools, and just recently it became illegal for Muslim women to wear the veils that cover their face. The question I am asking in my presentation is "Is France violating their citizens' right to religious freedom?"

Melissa O'Donnell

Spain
Psychology

My Pip is a review of the existing literature regarding the impact of diverse multicultural values on behavioral service provision for children with Developmental Disabilities. It addresses variations in multicultural views that impact acceptance of diagnosis, proposed course of treatment, and ongoing communication with families to support treatment integrity. Also included are potential strategies for promoting multicultural awareness as an integral component of behavioral service provision, as well as the implications of using values-based systems to identify individualized needs and develop effective treatment plans to promote best outcomes.

Phyllis Ellington

Madrid and Malaga, Spain
Human Development; Minor: Africana studies
How has the American LGBT community affected the Spanish LGBT community?

Rachel Passer

La Sorbonne, Paris, France
Geography; Minor: French
I'm doing my PIP on working in France, or more specifically the process of working or interning while studying abroad.

Kaitlyn Concialdi

Rome, Italy
Economics

My capstone project will focus on the Italian economy before and after the introduction of the Euro in 1999. The euro untimely acts as a shield by stabilizing their economy despite their unstable/corrupt political system. As a whole, Italy experience a net gain from the Euro.

Danielle Marie Contino

Madrid/Malaga, Spain
Industrial & Systems Engineering; Minor: Italian
Analysis on ANECA, the Spanish education accreditation system and how their system is dictated by and or dictates their culture.

Marie Cordaro

Rome, Italy
Financial Engineering

"My life lessons: the stuff they didn't tell you before going abroad"

Basically, about 8 to 10 different "lessons" I learned while abroad, and an investigation into the cultural root of why things were the way they were.

Marina Dosch

Würzburg, Germany
Linguistics

My capstone project focuses on the differences and similarities in higher education, Germany versus the U.S.A. I compared/contrasted cost of tuition, average age of students, extracurricular activities and number of semesters, and explore how these factors influence the mentality associated with the ideology of "college" or "university" in each country.

Daniela Droguett

Malaga/Madrid, Spain

Industrial and Systems Engineering; Minor: Spanish

My capstone project is investigating the success of musical artist of Latin or Spanish ethnicity. My focus will be centered on Selena but I will be including other artist to make comparisons. I will also discuss the impact Spanish has on music and see if a shift in this theory is occurring.

Jodi Ezratty

Tel Aviv, Israel

Biochemistry

Often times, the music of a certain population is descriptive of the past they endured, the struggles they have overcome, their societal values, and their unique cultural aspects. Israel, a country which declared its independence in 1948, has survived 62 years of chronic warfare as well as political/religious tensions with the surrounding Arab nations. A close analysis of popular Israeli music through the years illustrates the country's blemished past, extreme nationalism, and constant craving for peace.

Liz Grace

Madrid, Spain

Anthropology; Minor: Spanish

Within the last 10 to 20 years there has been an increase of immigration to Spain. The negative image that Spaniards cast on non-natives is projected through their education system. In certain areas immigrant students are the majority in the classroom. There is a lack of education programs available for foreigners, even at the most basic levels.

Ashley Lewis

Malaga and Madrid, Spain

Industrial and Systems Engineering

I am going to show how regionalism is promoted in soccer. I am going to talk about what regionalism is and how it is shown in Spain. Then I am going to go ahead and show how soccer, their main sport also shows signs of regionalism. Lastly, I will tie it together with my observations in Spain.

Kelly Liew

Sydney, Australia

Management; Minors: French, Spanish

My project focuses on the trends of skin cancer in Australia (with some comparison to the US), and preventative measures.

Justine Maloy

Akita, Japan

Linguistics

"The Business of English in Japan"

A look at the status and usage of English as a foreign language in Japan in terms of the ideologies of globalization and academic competition. Also tries to analyze the motivations behind the trend of learning English outside of the requirements of the classroom in the frame of international voluntary second language acquisition.

Regina McCormack

Dominican Republic

Nursing

I am looking at the ethics of studying abroad, specifically for nursing students and other students in health care professions. Looking at opinions and experiences of doctors and nurses participating in international healthcare aid programs, I set forth to show that there are certain things to do and not to do to successfully aid people in international communities through our healthcare knowledge.

Eva Kamer

Capital Normal University, Beijing, China
Linguistics and Spanish; Minor: Chinese

My capstone project focuses on the phenomenon of 'Chinglish' and the influence of English in China. I discuss the idea of Chinglish as a language as well as its linguistic features. Major events such as the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing and the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai have contributed to the increased presence of English in China. As a result, there are more bilingual speakers of Chinese and English and consequently more people who speak Chinglish, which brings both positive and negative consequences for China and Chinese culture.

Vilena Khazhimuratova

Istanbul Turkey; London, UK
Political Science, History and Politics Philosophy and Law
Fertility rate and education among Turkish female citizens in Southeast Turkey

Turkey has experienced one of the highest fertility rates in the European continent. Fertility is especially high in the Southeastern Turkey, which is a multicultural region and it is both economically and politically unstable region. Despite all other proposed solutions to high fertility rate in Turkey, increased efforts towards education level of females in that region is the best solution to decrease reproduction rate in South- East Turkey.

Brittney Kovary

Malaga and Madrid, Spain
Mechanical Engineering
Transportation and means of travel through the U.S. as compared to all of Europe. The different types of travel and why they are different in Europe than here. Also, how progress in globalization is obtained through access of transportation.

Roseanne Grigoli

Salamanca, Spain
Cinema

Film-Induced Tourism

I will examine the effect that place representation in film production has on the image of an actual location. Although the primary goal of most motion picture films is not to entice people to visit their filming locations, it is still evident that they have the ability to use the power of imagery and pull of the story to increase awareness and appeal of locations and cultures.

Kaysha Haile

Costa Rica
Environmental Studies
I researched the promotion and practice of several ecotourism destinations in Costa Rica. My project analyzes the varying approaches to ecotourism and how they are marketed on a case studies basis. Green washing is a major concern within ecotourism so I also discuss what can be done to make ecotourism more sustainable.

Alexander Halman

Fudan University, Shanghai, China
Political Science; Minor: Chinese
My PIP discusses the role of alcohol in Chinese culture. I will compare and contrast traditional and modern viewpoints of the role of alcohol in Chinese culture. Furthermore, how these viewpoints affect public policy and alcoholism.

Rebecca Harro

Cairo, Egypt; Haifa, Israel

Arabic and Judaic Studies

The Egyptian culture is rich and engaging, and very different from our own. Transitioning from American culture, especially for women, presents some very real challenges. One major challenge for women involves the question of modesty: what value is placed on modesty, and what constitutes modest dress? Also, how can one walk the line between dressing like a tourist and donning Islamic garb? My presentation addresses the challenge of modest dress for women with particular focus on the veil.

Randi Hoenig

Jerusalem, Israel

Human Development

"The Transformation of Israel's Kibbutz"

Throughout the past thirty years, Kibbutz life gradually eroded from a collective lifestyle to a privatized way of life. In the early days, the Kibbutz provided for all basic needs- food, clothing, health, housing, and gave each member a small allowance for discretionary spending. Over the years, both the allowance and spending increased. Individuals started buying items and working outside of the kibbutz causing Kibbutzniks to become less enmeshed in the life of the community and more focused on the larger society and their family units. Children's houses suddenly began to disappear, hired laborers do much of the community work, the general assembly has been abandoned, communal laundries have been closed, and dining halls are used only on special occasions. My presentation discusses the transformation from collectivism to privatization and ways in which it revolutionized Kibbutz life in Israel and helped Israel as a whole.

Shannon Irish

Shanghai, China and Suzhou, China

Asian and Asian American Studies

My capstone project will be about Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). I will start by explaining the origins and history of TCM and give examples of different types of TCM. I will discuss how they differ from Western medicines, and the views of people in both the West and the East on the use and effectiveness of these two types of medicines.

Allison Jaekle

Costa Rica

History; Minor: Environmental Studies

For my Capstone PIP project, I researched and examined the pros and cons of ecological tourism, in its current form, in Costa Rica. Based on this information, I make a recommendation about whether ecological tourism is palatable in Costa Rica, as well as other Third World countries.

Natalia Jankoje

La Sorbonne - Paris, France

Management

My PIP focuses on French and American Advertising.

Specifically, I will discuss to what degree culture is reflected in advertisements. My conclusion is that French advertisements focus on themes such as seduction, love, humor, and spectacle which are present in the French culture. Whereas, Americans society emphasizes consumerism, and American advertisements depict that by using themes such as power, self-actualization, and esteem.

Theresa Juergens

Graz, Austria

Political Science and German

Culture of Austria, and its return.