Pre-Departure Orientation

May Term 2014
International Travel Courses

March 27 & 31, 2014
“Study abroad programs are intended to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship.”

Senator William Fullbright
Passport and important documents

Packing

Phone use

Camera

Money Matters
  - ATM card
  - Credit card
  - Travelers’ checks
Consult your OWN health and mental health care professional for advice relating to YOU.

- Prescription medicines
- Eyeglass/contact lenses
- Water safety issues
- Food safety issues
- Complete a health info form
- Health insurance coverage abroad
Tips for being “street smart” and staying safe

- Be careful with money, passports, and ATM/credit cards
- Don’t carry lots of cash with you
- Leave valuables at home
- Lock your room, when traveling
- Avoid high crime areas, being out after midnight, or being out anytime after dark alone
- In an emergency, contact your professors, Dean of Students, and if needed, EIIA/FrontierMEDEX
Crisis Management Plan

Conditions Requiring Emergency Management

1. A medical emergency (regarding one’s physical and/or psychological health), or death of a program participant.
2. A program participant becomes the victim of a crime, such as theft, assault, rape, harassment, etc., or has been accused of committing such a crime.
3. A program participant is missing.
4. A widespread emergency affecting, or potentially affecting, all program participants (i.e., a natural disaster, an act or threat of terrorism, an act of war, or political/civil unrest).
Crisis Management Plan

- Your course leader will take appropriate action to remove you from danger.
- Your course leader will contact the appropriate local authorities, seek any needed medical treatment, and to contact Simpson’s Dean of Students, Dr. Jim Thorius.

- Dean Thorius will then contact the relevant student(s)’ families, and if needed, will convene the College’s Crisis Management Team to develop an action plan in response to the specific situation.
- The Director of International Education is the primary contact for the College with in-country officials.
- See green pamphlet with attached emergency assistance card
Emergency Travel Assistance

- Call EIIA/ Frontier MEDEX when:
  - You require a referral to a local hospital, doctor, or attorney
  - Your luggage or travel documents become lost or stolen
  - You may need to be evacuated or repatriated
  - You need to guarantee payment for medical expenses
  - You need over-the-phone language translation assistance in emergencies or medical situations
Seeing the world from another perspective

- Locals will have their own world views
  - Different from your own, but still valid
  - Discovering other views can be a highlight of your time abroad
- Un-doing the “Ugly American” stereotype
  - Notice how locals are behaving, and follow their lead
- Check out the *World Citizens Guide* in your packet
Good things to know about your destination country (ies) before you go:

- Names of governmental leaders
- Hot topics of the day
- Recent conflicts and the role of the U.S. in those conflicts
- Cultural diversity (immigration and refugee populations, etc.)
- Economic conditions
- Watch a film or two set in the country.
Behavior while abroad

- Student Handbook policies continue to apply.
- Remember that the purpose of Simpson’s study abroad programs is academic study.
- Be a good ambassador of Simpson College, Iowa, and the United States.
- Have a great experience!
There are three categories:

- **People & Culture** (photos that capture the essence of the people and culture of your host country and the places you visited)
- **Natural & Urban Landscapes** (show us the sights—natural wonders, thrilling architecture, and unique character—of your destinations)
- **The Storm Abroad** (pictures of Simpson students and faculty in recognizably “international” settings, i.e. with monuments, wildlife, or buildings typical of your program site)
2013 Contest Winning Photos
Please complete a double-sided evaluation form and drop it off before you leave.
Questions