

## ASSIGNMENTS

To be completed **before** our all-day class:

Assignment #1: Prepare a photo-journal with 5 annotated images slides (Full description below)

Assignment #2: Prepare 4 paragraphs on changes to your worldview lenses (Full description below)

To be submitted **within one week after** class:

Assignment #3: Write a Final Reflection essay (Full description below)

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### Assignment #1: Photo-journal

To be submitted to Prof. John Skillen by Thursday 4:00 PM February 18<sup>th</sup> as an attachment to an e-mail [john.skillen@gordon.edu](mailto:john.skillen@gordon.edu)

Create a photo-journal (a captioned slide show) of 5 images with paragraph-length captions that illustrate aspects of the world-view of your host culture.

If you took lots of photographs while participating in your off-campus experience, many of them may be group photos of you and your program friends or snapshots of famous places. But we'd like you to dig around in your collection (or those of your friends) for images that in some way illustrate or suggest something important, even if assumed, about the lenses through which these folk view the world.

Select 5 of these photos and for each one write a paragraph that describes how the image evokes a *value, belief, assumption* or *commitment* apparently shared among the folk.

Who knows ... maybe a photo that you might use to describe how fashion operates in your host-country, or family relations, or attitudes and beliefs about religion, or daily patterns, or long-established holidays that remain important even if belief in their subject has weakened, or habits about health (no wet hair outdoors!), or perhaps aspects of the geography that have influenced the world-view of the local folk (hill towns with steep narrow streets, vineyards or rice fields, canals ...), or ... or ... or ...

Send these photos+captions electronically to Professor Skillen either as a powerpoint show [ppt] or as a document with the photos simply pasted into the document with each caption [Word.doc]

Prof. Skillen will load these onto a common folder for use/projection during our class session.

### Assignment #2: Indicators of world-view change

Complete before the class session, e-mail to Prof. Skillen, and print out a copy to read in class

*Write a paragraph responding to each of the following four questions:*

What of your own **assumptions** aren't assumed anymore?

These may be things you assumed before your international experience either about your host country or about yourself and your own culture.

What of your **values** stood in conflict with the values of the host culture?

Who knows ... these might be differing values given to stuff, or to technological devices, or to satisfying ways of spending time, or how women are valued, or how children or the elderly are treated, or ... or ... or...

What elements of your **beliefs** as a Christian have been confirmed or destabilized?

What **commitments** do you now want to make?

Who knows ... maybe reading something every week about your host country, or committing yourself to learning the language, or reading the blogs of Christians working and ministering in the host country, or living more sustainably, or turning off the smart phone on Sundays, or walking more ... or ... or ...

### **Assignment #3: Final Reflection Essay**

To be submitted within one-week after the class session by e-mail to [john.skillen@gordon.edu](mailto:john.skillen@gordon.edu)

Your final assignment is to reflect on how you have changed as a result of your recent cross-cultural experience away from campus and home-turf. Your responses will help you clarify how some of your **assumptions** may have altered, your **values** adjusted, your **beliefs** deepened or challenged, your **commitments** shifted or renewed.

In other words, you'll be charting how your world-view has been reoriented. Don't simply provide narrative description, but go deeper to consider the **whys** and **hows**. **Why** did these things impact or move you? **How** did different patterns/values shift in you? We hope that writing this essay will help you find good in the sometimes-confusing path of *re-entry* and *reverse culture shock*. If "home-coming" reveals that "you can't go home again," it also reveals that you can make a new home.

The essay should be about 3-pages, double-spaced, and is due by 4:00 PM on the Friday after class.

The small-group discussions in class are designed to get you started:

1. Describe a thing or two that you appreciated about life in your recent home-away-from-home that, with a bit of will-power, you could very well import into your life *here and now*. (Why did you appreciate these aspects?)
2. Describe a thing or two that maybe you could "bring home" with you, but only if you "translate" it into the differing circumstances of life at Gordon or in the States.
3. Lastly, describe a thing or two that just aren't translatable. You'll have to leave them behind, no matter how much you would like to keep them.