Overview

A one-credit orientation “Intercultural Communications” is provided to help participants prepare for the Spring Engineering Term Abroad program (ETA) program at Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU). In the course, on-campus students get acquainted and complete the necessary paperwork to travel to China and to enroll as full-time engineering students at SJTU.

Off-campus ETA-SJTU participants are welcome to join whenever they can visit the class (ME 2054, 5:30 to 6:20 p.m., Mondays). Off-campus participants are expected to follow course content made available on the course website, https://engineering.purdue.edu/MECOM, then select link for ME 297.

Schedule

During 15 class meetings, each Monday at 5:30 p.m., the following items will be covered: paperwork required for ETA-SJTU participant the following semester (passport submission and information, Purdue Study Abroad (PSA) required forms, Purdue travel grant applications (PSA), Chinese Visa application, application for admission to SJTU, and additional “sign-ups” related to travel and housing.

The academic content of ME 297 covers additional areas: introduction to Chinese history and culture, tools for mapping cultural differences between USA and PRC, introduction to communications issues related to cultural differences, 15 basic phrases (one per week! in Chinese-- please, thank-you, and similar, numbers from 1 to 100 in Chinese, and basics relating to banking, safety, and health.

Expectations

Students are expected to notify the instructor ahead of time if any class must be missed. Students are responsible for visiting the course website and making up the class based on those resources. Email and phone class are invited by both on-campus and off-campus participants in order for all participants to keep the same pace. Many assignments are time-sensitive.

Assignments

Students will be graded on the following: informal and in-class quizzes, individual presentations on “how-to” topics and a team report on an assigned dimension relating to a major cultural difference, USA /PRC. Academic grades will be based on those assignments.

Contact Information

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