

**EO J190; EO 191; or EO J191
ENGAGING OTHER CULTURES INDEPENDENT-EXPERIENCE (2 CREDIT HOURS)
PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Before graduating from Huntington University, you may choose to provide evidence on your course transcripts of having immersed yourself in an intensive participatory experience with members of a contemporary cultural group different from your own and of having thoughtfully reflected on that experience. EO 190/191 credits, which are graded satisfactory/unsatisfactory, can be applied toward *one* January Term requirement or toward 2 credit hours of cultural enrichment requirements or in many cases, toward both simultaneously. (Note: You may complete the EO option by taking a course designated EO in the Schedule of Classes. If you do this, you do not need to complete this form or the reflection paper requirement described below. Such courses do not, however, count toward January Term credits unless they are January Term courses.)

To enroll in EO J190, EO 191, or EO J191 for 2-credit hours of independent study in a cross-cultural setting, complete the form on the opposite side of this page. What you propose must meet the following criteria:

- The experience should be *participatory* in the sense of it involving at a minimum 20 documented hours of ongoing interaction, conversation, and activity with people from a host group. (This interaction will be defined as “face time” and excludes periods of time when you are not in the presence of members of the host group). This stipulation thus requires more than just observing actions or cultural artifacts and institutions.
- The host group should be *cross-cultural* in the sense that the group holds a differing set of symbols, values, beliefs, practices, or rites and rituals from your own. Often cultural distinctions include ethnic, racial, religious, socioeconomic, or language differences. Generally, the shorter your time with the group, the more distinctive the cultural differences should be from your own cultural identity; the longer your time with the group (such as semester-abroad classes), the less distinctive the cultural differences need to be to meet the objectives of the cross-cultural engagement.
- As evidence of thoughtful *reflection* on the experience, you must compose a seven-page minimum reflection paper on the experience that includes a bibliography of at least four substantive sources. One of the sources must be (a) *Cross-Cultural Conflict: Building Relationships for Effective Ministry* (Intervarsity Press) by Duane Elmer. This should be read completely before you begin your cross-cultural experience. A second source should be (b) a significant article or book that gives an overview of the demographics and history of the specific cultural group you are visiting. The third and fourth sources you choose should address in more detail (c) the social or cultural history of the host group and (d) principles of cross-cultural communication and understanding, especially as they apply to the host group.

Objectives of the Engaging-Other-Cultures Option

The goal of the EO option is to help you grow in appreciation for another cultural group with its values and practices. The specific objectives are for you to

- Listen and learn from those different than you.
- Experience what it is like to be a minority within a cultural group.
- Observe how faith is expressed in a different cultural group and reflectively compare it to evangelical expressions of Christian faith.
- Develop and practice the skills needed to communicate effectively across cultural differences.
- Adapt to the customs of another culture group while using moral discernment to know when particular cultural practices should or should not be adopted or condoned.

Steps for Completing the EO 190/191 Independent Experience Plan

1. Complete the appropriate EO 190/191 independent experience proposal form. It asks you to outline a plan that includes at least 20 face-time hours of participatory cross-cultural experience within a single term, semester, summer, or even Christmas or spring break. Such a plan could be an assignment through the JMC or the Enterprise Resource Center—as long as it involves serving the members of a different cultural group. Or it could be a Spring Break or summer service or mission project (approved beforehand) which includes at least 20 hours of face-to-face interaction with the members of a cultural group different from your own.
2. Secure the signature of a faculty member, qualified staff member, or the core curriculum director as your on-campus advisor.
3. Submit the form to the registrar's office. It must be completed and submitted to the registrar's office before the experience begins.
4. Complete the cross-cultural engagement experience. As you do so, continue your reading of the four bibliographic sources. Also keep a time log of face-time with members of the group, and write a daily journal about your experiences as they unfold. The journal should also serve as a memory resource for writing your paper.
5. At the end of the experience, ask a respected person in the field who has observed you engaging others cross-culturally to write a simple letter of evaluation of your time with the group.
6. Write your reflection paper based on your reading and your journaling. Turn in the paper, the journal, the time log, and the letter of evaluation (sealed with the person's signature across the seal) within 30 days of the end of the experience.

Note: Students may be exempted from the experiential portion of the EO requirements if they meet one of the following two conditions. Such students must, however, still register for the credit and complete the reflection paper during the specified time period. The two exceptions are for those students who have recently lived for an extensive period of time in a cross-cultural setting *before* coming to Huntington University, such as children of missionary or overseas business parents, and international students whose exposure to the United States is a cross-cultural experience. Such students must, however, still complete a reflection paper on their cross-cultural living experience.

**EO J190/191/J191 Engaging Other Cultures Independent Experience
(2 Credit Hours, Graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory)
PLAN PROPOSAL FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT**

On a separate piece of paper--which you staple to this form--complete of the following sections. Please type.

1. Your complete name, student id, and the date
2. Indicate which of the following credit options you are applying to receive:
 - EO J190** Engaging Other Cultures Independent Experience completed *during* a January Term and counting for two credits toward both January Term and Cultural Enrichment credit.
 - EO J191** Engaging Other Cultures Independent Experience completed *outside* of January Term and counting for two credits of January Term credit and two credits of Cultural Enrichment.
 - EO 191** Engaging Other Cultures Independent Experience completed outside of January Term and counting for two credit hours of Cultural Enrichment credit but not January Term credit (example: department internships that count toward major requirements, such as PRIME). If choosing EO 191, name the department through you are completing the internship and how it fits into your program.
3. Give a title for your proposed experience and briefly describe the proposed experience.
4. What semester, summer, term, or semester break do you plan to complete this? Give as specific dates as possible.
5. Briefly describe your own cultural sense of identity and explain why this proposed experience will stretch you cross-culturally and help you meet the objectives of the EO option as described on this form.
6. Describe the logistics of the proposed cross-cultural engagement, including schedules and anticipated amount of "face time" of direct involvement with people from the host cultural group, and, if possible, an on-site person who may be able to offer a letter of evaluation of your time with the group.
7. List four written sources (in MLA or APA or Chicago style)—one of which must be the Duane Elmer book Understanding Cross-Cultural Conflict—you plan to read before and during the cross-cultural experience and will likely use in your reflection paper. See the specifications for this on the instructions sheet.

Please give this completed form (with the attached typed answers to the questions above) to the professor or on-campus advisor and ask the advisor to complete the information in the box below. Then turn in this page and your typed page to the Registrar's Office. Please keep a photocopy of the application for your own records.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ON-CAMPUS ADVISOR

CIRCLE TYPE OF CREDIT STUDENT SELECTED: EO J190 EO J191 EO 191

DATE APPROVED BY SPONSORING PROFESSOR, STAFF MEMBER, OR CORE DIRECTOR: _____

PROFESSOR, STAFF MEMBER OR CORE DIRECTOR SIGNATURE OF APPROVAL: _____

SEMESTER OR TERM FOR WHICH THE PROPOSAL IS APPROVED: _____

THE SUBMISSION OF THIS SIGNED & DATED PROPOSAL TO THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE INDICATES THE STUDENT IS REGISTERING FOR 2 CREDIT HOURS OF EO INDEPENDENT EXPERIENCE FOR THE TERM INDICATED