



Claflin University

Global Education Programs

SHSS 201 Cultural Immersion in Southern Africa, 6 credit hours

Summer I 2026 May 10 - June 4, 2026

Dr. Annette Jackson

Dr. Emily Crawford

Dr. LaKerri Mack

Dr. Kumkum Singh

University of Eswatini Faculty members

Basic Course Information

SHSS 201-01, 6 credit hours

Summer I 2026

Pre-Departure Preparation: In-person and virtual

Operational Concerns:

- Funding
- Passports/visas
- Packing lists
- Travel logistics and itinerary

Cultural Autobiography: Students analyze their own cultural background and biases before encountering another.

Contextual Research:

- Study the history
- Politics
- language
- social norms

Goal Setting: Defining personal learning objectives for the immersion.

Immersion Experience (The "Field"): In-person Johannesburg and Eswatini

Participant Observation:

- Engaging in daily life
- Volunteering



- visiting local sites
- participating in community events

Structured Interaction:

- Language Immersion
- Attending lectures on history, culture, and economics
- participating in workshops on Traditional music and dance
- conducting interviews with community members
- meeting with professionals in students' chosen fields
- discussions with fellow students

Reflection & Analysis:

Journaling/Field Notes: Daily logging of observations, emotional responses, and cultural interactions.

Midterm Assessment: Applying theoretical frameworks of intercultural communication to current experiences.

Final Deliverables & Synthesis:

Cultural Portfolio/Journal: Compiled, reflective entries.

Final Project/Case Study: An ethnographic study or presentation analyzing the experience, comparing it to course readings, and outlining future implications for personal/professional growth.

Learning Objectives:

Cultural Competence: Understanding cultural nuances and developing empathy.

Personal Growth: Increased adaptability, resilience, and self-awareness.

Analytical Skills: Moving from observation to deeper understanding of social, economic, or environmental challenges.

Assessment Criteria:

Participation & Professionalism (40%): Active engagement in all scheduled activities.

Reflective Journaling (40%): Depth of analysis and introspection.

Final Project (20%): Synthesis of experience and academic research.

Course Guidelines:



APA Guidelines: All assignments should be formatted to APA Guidelines. It is strongly encouraged that students purchase a guide such as the Pocket Guide to APA Style, 6th edition by Robert Perrin, Houghton Mifflin. Your deliverables will be graded according to these guidelines.

Professionalism:

Professional behavior with interactions surrounding the course is required and encompasses participation, preparation, initiative, and civility to your fellow classmates and academic and non-academic staff, and general attitude and deportment. This includes:

- Adherence to the Clayton University dress code
- Timeliness
- Meaningfully contributing to class meetings and interactions
- Cell phone use is not allowed at meetings, activities, and interactions

Daily reminders will not be provided. Any lapses in professionalism will be deducted commensurately from your professionalism grade. Serious lapses in professional judgment will result in the loss of a commensurate number of professionalism points and, at the instructor's discretion, a referral to the Office of Student Development. Incidents abroad will result in an early return to the United States.

No dress code contravention will be accepted. Students found to be in contravention of the dress code will be asked to cure the problem and/or leave.

Responsible Use of AI Tools: Students are permitted to use AI tools for assistance with coursework. However, these tools should not replace the student's own understanding and learning. Students are expected to review, validate, and understand the output from these tools.

AI and Academic Integrity: The use of AI to complete assignments, write papers, or answer quiz questions on behalf of the student is strictly prohibited. This constitutes a breach of academic integrity, similar to plagiarism or cheating, and will be subject to the same penalties.

Original Work: While AI can provide assistance, the work you submit should be your own. Any use of AI-generated content should be clearly cited.



Data Privacy: Using AI tools often involves sharing data with third-party entities. Be mindful of what information you are sharing and always prioritize protecting your personal and academic data.

AI in Class Discussions: AI may not be used to generate contributions to class discussions. It's important that your contributions reflect your own thoughts and understanding of the material.

Accessibility and Equity: We recognize that not all students may have equal access to AI tools. Assignments will be designed with this in mind, and no student will be at a disadvantage for lack of access to AI technology.

To ensure responsible use of generative AI on campus, the university has provided the following guidelines:

Generative AI is permitted under some circumstances or with explicit permission The use of generative AI, including platforms like ChatGPT, is allowed in specific situations and with explicit permission. However, it must be used responsibly and with **appropriate, required** citation. If you are in doubt as to whether you are using AI models appropriately in this course, you are encouraged to discuss your situation with the instructor of record. Any misuse or improper use of generative AI will be considered a violation of the Clafin University Code of Honor Policy and will be treated as plagiarism.

Assurance Statement

Clafin University adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities should register with the ADA Student Services Coordinator and contact the instructor in a timely manner to arrange for appropriate accommodations. If you need accommodations for this class related to a disability, please contact me as soon as possible or Sadie Jarvis 803-535-5285 or e-mail: sjarvis@clafin.edu of the Office of Disability.

Code of Honor Policy Statement

Clafin University prohibits all forms of academic or scholarly dishonesty, including written or oral examinations, term and research papers or theses,



modes of creative expression, and computer-based work. *

Scholarly dishonesty includes lying, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the falsification or misrepresentation of experimental data. (For social behavior, see Claflin University Student Handbook: Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics). *For Code of Honor and Definitions, please see Artificial Intelligence Statements with Code of Honor or Claflin University Student Handbook.

CODE OF HONOR PLEDGE

In my enrollment at Claflin University, I do hereby solemnly pledge that I will adhere to the Code of Honor. As a Claflin University Student, I do solemnly pledge to uphold the integrity of Claflin University. I will not participate in nor tolerate dishonesty in any academic endeavor.