



Introduction:

This assignment is intended to help increase your intercultural curiosity, openness, as well as strengthen your culture awareness connection to your profession (built environment and city planning). The activity is customized in several ways:

1. The activity is conducted before departure to your study abroad city in China.
2. The activity is customized to cater to the professional skills of participants who have a background in fundamental environmental engineering, environmental design, and urban planning.

There are four parts to this assignment: 1) Virtual photos and geo-tagging, 2) The cultural context, 3) Further research and mapping, and 4) Dialogue with peers.

Participant Instructions:

1. Virtual photos and geo-tags
 - Because you may be unfamiliar with the city we are going to explore, let’s try to get acquainted with some of the differences in a short amount of time. Using Google Street view, let’s first explore the city and locate the following features. Place a screenshot of each in order in a 18-page PowerPoint:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local bank 2. Local hospital 3. A place to get cell phones/calling cards 4. Pharmacy or place you can get medicine 5. A hotel downtown/in the city center 6. A public park 7. A public garden or zoo 8. A body of water (pond, stream, canal, river, etc.) 9. A church, temple, mosque, or synagogue* 10. An architectural landmark 	<p><i>The following should be geo-tagged:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. The liveliest street in the city 12. One of the oldest neighborhoods in the city 13. A neighborhood that looks different than its surroundings 14. A recent redevelopment 15. Some architecture that is out of scale 16. A transportation station 17. A bridge that looks surprising to you 18. A place that really surprised you
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*Check a good guidebook of the destination location or ask a trusted local person about photo etiquette in the country before photographing these items.

2. The cultural context

- Identify one of the items you captured from #1 to #10 that seems to be particularly representative of the culture (such as a temple, landmark, park, or body of water).
- Research the current/modern significance of this item for the culture. If possible, find at least two different individuals who are from the destination city and/or country and ask them about the cultural item.
- Post an essay on the virtual space provided by your instructor of 300-500 words that answers the following questions:
 - Which item did you investigate as a cultural item? Why did you choose this item to investigate?
 - What did you learn about it? What was your reaction to this information?
 - What insights did you gain into deep culture (values, beliefs, philosophy, religion, etc.) from your interviews with cultural informants? What was your emotional response to these insights?
 - What does this cultural artifact, or the relationship between it and deep culture, remind you of in your hometown/home culture?
 - Will you explore this aspect of the culture further, and if so, how, or why?

3. Further research and mapping

- Identify one of the items you captured from #11 to #18 that you would like to dig deeper into.
- Do a little more research by searching the history of its development and its surrounding area/neighborhood on the internet (e.g., When was it built? Who was the architect? How much money did the government spend building it? How is it received by the public?).
- Use collages or a collection of maps to show its surrounding environment.
- Post an essay of 300-500 words that answers the following questions:
 - What is the cultural significance of this architecture/neighborhood?
 - What are your feelings towards it?
 - How is it discussed within Chinese media?
 - How does this neighborhood/architecture represent the differences in design between China and the U.S.?
 - Do you think this architecture/neighborhood aligns with your expectations of cultural artifacts of China? Why or why not?
 - End your essay with your top two places to visit in this city and your reasons for wanting to visit them.

4. Dialogue with your peers

- Review the postings from other students in your group and reply with curiosity questions to your peers' essays. You must ask at least two questions and respond to each question posed to you.