

**Bridging Cultures**

**East European Learning Module, A Social Media Approach**

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**Course Title:**

CIST 100, Introduction to Information Technology, Department of Business and Technology

Introduction to Information Technology is a general education requirement at Community College of Beaver County. Each semester I usually teach five (5) or more sections of this course; this is usually about 150 students of the hundreds taking the class each semester.

Students learn about and how to use information technology in this course. During two (2) weeks of the course, students study social media and global issues in information technology.

**Module Title:** Eastern Europe and Community College Students eLearn

By participating in the Bridging Cultures grant course, I have been able to learn about Eastern Europe. Particularly important for me as a teacher are the things that I have learned with which I interest my students in the countries and cultures of Eastern Europe. As I teach Information Technology, I developed a plan and presentation for my students, after instructing them on an overview of Eastern Europe, to share about our culture and education with people of Eastern Europe.

The most elegant way to do this, in my opinion, was to do it faster and better through social media, e.g. a Facebook page.

**Module Description & Learning Objectives:**

* Using social media like Facebook or YouTube, introduce my students to the opportunity to meet students/instructors from Eastern Europe. Develop a website (Facebook or YouTube) where students/teachers can create a 21st century “pen-pal” relations.
* Students will research, discuss and present aspects of Eastern Europe that interest them.
  + They will share aspects of their culture such as community setting(s) and favorite food(s), clothing/music/art styles and interests.
  + Students will find, document and share culture of Eastern Europe. This can be music, art, poetry, literature, stories and film.
  + Students will participate in a Facebook page by either liking, posting, sharing and critically reviewing the page. This could also include a YouTube channel.
  + The class will share their findings and their ideas with each other and with Eastern Europeans.
* Learning Outcomes: Students will produce a brief paper and graphic presentation, e.g. PowerPoint and their findings with each other as well as, those who want to, post to the Facebook page.
* Discussions will take place to gauge interest in future trips to Eastern Europe for students and instructors. Included in the discussions are the possibilities of students/teachers coming to CCBC to visit or study/teach.

A student sample is included in the following pages, and power points are included as separate links. The link to the Facebook page is here. [www.facebook.com/EasternEuropeCCBC](http://www.facebook.com/EasternEuropeCCBC)

**Syllabus topics with weeks highlighted when we discuss and work on the module in and out of class.**

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| **Week#** | **Topics** | **Chapter** |
| 1. | Using the Internet, e.g. Blackboard,& my.ccbc. Chapter 2 through Making Use of the Web on page 79 as well as the Introduction to Internet Explorer 8 and other web browser software). Saving files in specific folders, saving files with screen prints, etc. Course Casts: <http://coursecasts.course.com/> | 1, 2 & IE |
| 2. | Communications – Blackboard, email using CCBC Outlook Web Access, Facebook and Facebook-like issues (proper/professional use of and privacy and associated ethical issues) Page 167 in the text. Pp 63-66, OFF58 | OFF |
| 3. | MICROSOFT WORD 2013: Creating, Formatting, and Editing a Word Document with Pictures. | Word 1 |
| 4. | MICROSOFT WORD 2013: Creating a Research Paper with Citations and References. | Word 2 |
| 5. | MICROSOFT WORD 2013: Creating a Business Letter with a Letterhead and Table | Word 3 |
| 6. | Digital Communication Media: Social Networks, YouTube, Twitter, Flicker, Jing, file types, e.g. swf files etc. Pp 167-180 | 3, 4 |
| 7. | MICROSOFT POWERPOINT 2013: Creating and Editing a Presentation with Clip Art. | PPT 1 |
| 8. | MICROSOFT POWERPOINT 2013: Enhancing a Presentation with Pictures, Shapes, and WordArt. | PPT 2 |
| 9. | **MIDTERM Evaluation** |  |
| 10. | Computer Concepts/Utilities with Ethics, Security, Privacy (Office 2013 and Windows 7 and C 5 Computer Security and Safety, Ethics, and Privacy. C 4 Operating Systems and Utility Programs) | 4, 5 |
| 11. | Purchasing Computers, Internet Apps, e.g. Google docs, Adobe Suites, Mobile Apps... Saving to the Web, Windows Live / SkyDrive **(Cloud Storage)** and **BIG DATA & Business Intelligence** | **3 & OFF & Windows 8/10, APX A** |
| 12. | EXCEL 2013. Creating a Worksheet and an Embedded Chart | EXL 1 |
| 13. | EXCEL 2013. Formulas, Functions, and Formatting. | EXL 2 |
| 14. | ACCESS 2013. What is a database | ACC 1 |
| 15. | Current and Global Issues in Information Technology  Current Issues in Information Technology (Use critical thinking to reflect on what we have studied and the current issues of IT in society, business and government.) Living digitally **(EASTERN EUROPE FOCUS)**  Global Concerns – International issues in IT: There are social and legal issues as well as political issues (WikiLeaks, cross-cultural communications for understanding other people in other nations and cultures, trade in information as opposed to trade in products, etc.) | 5 |
| 16. | Review, course wrap-up  **FINAL Exam and INTEGRATED PORTFOLIO PROJECT** | All |

**STUDENT PROJECT SAMPLE**

Evan Meyers

Professor Lauffer

Introduction to IT CIST 100 01

December 2, 2015

IT Self-Guided Study of Global Issues in Eastern Europe

1. What are the names and capitals of the countries of Eastern Europe?

There are thirteen countries and capitals that comprise Eastern Europe. The capital of Poland is Warsaw. The capital of the Czech Republic is Prague. The capital of Slovakia is Bratislava. The capital of Hungary is Budapest. The capital of Romania is Bucharest. The capital of Bulgaria is Sofia. The capital of Slovenia is Ljubljana. The capital of Croatia is Zagreb. The capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina is Sarajevo. The capital of Montenegro is Belgrade. The capital of Albania is Tirana. The capital of Macedonia is Skopje. The capital of Serbia is Belgrade (Eastern Europe Counties and Capitals). I researched this information myself.

1. What are five (5) examples of the artwork of Eastern Europe? Share examples and the names of the artists.

There are many different forms of art in Eastern Europe. However, Eastern Europe features many unique and different types of urban art. For example, a famous urban artist in Poland is Pawel Ryzko. His paintings are created in the form of murals and can be found in many galleries. “He is the author of Frank Zappa’s album cover Hammersmith Odon.” In Bulgaria one can find many different street arts in Sofia from the famous artist Bozko. A person can always see unique and different creatures created by Bozko. Lonac the street artist from Croatia is famous for his moral paintings. In his hometown, one can see many photorealistic imagery of his work. Another famous work of imagery is by Ukraine street artist Kislow. The use of creative colors creates a three-dimensional picture. Last, Marko Stankovic from Serbia is famous for his sculpture The Motif of System. His sculpture helps represent the diversity of systems around the world (Maric). I got this information from Laura.

1. What kind of Architecture is there in Eastern Europe? Share five (5) or more examples.

In Poland: Archcathedral Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul, Poznań (Archcathedral). In Hungary: The Citadel: a fortress atop Gellért Hill (Citadel). In Russia: St. Basil's Cathedral (Sacred Destinations). In Moldova: Soroca fortress (Soroca). In Romaina: Sucevita Monastery (Romanian Monasteries). I got this information from Victoria.

1. What kind of classical and contemporary music and dance are there in Eastern Europe? Give five (5) examples.

The majority of music listeners in the eastern region of Europe are jamming to what is called “Balkan.” Traditional Balkan music mixed with modern, electronic beats: this genre first appeared in the Berlin underground scene in the mid-1990s. (Rossig, 2006) While each country in Eastern Europe has their own style that they enjoy, the majority is considered Balkan or gypsy music. Another popular exploration has been between Balkan music and other styles around the Mediterranean like Flamenco and Jazz. (Rossig, 2006) The Flamenco dance is a Spanish movement centered on the guitar; which is a huge influence in Balkan music. The Flamenco song, or cante, is considered a way for the poor and the oppressed to feel relief from their daily lives (Rossig, 2006). I received this information from Mercedes

1. What are some examples of famous literature in Eastern Europe? Who are the authors and what is their country? List five (5).

Some famous literature from Eastern Europe includes Anna Karenina and War and Peace

by Leo Tolstoy of the Russian Federation (Morson), Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka of the Czech Republic (Franz Kafka), Zemsta (The Revenge) by Count Aleksander Fredro of Poland (Krzyzanowski), The Master and Margarita by Mikhaíl Afanasyevich Bulgakov of the Russian Federation (Mikhail), and Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky of the Russian Federation (Fyodor). I got this information from Dacota.

1. Of all of the places in Eastern Europe where you would like to visit; state what interests you about it? What is the country and what is capital and the latitude and longitude coordinates of the capital city?

This information came from Johanna. There are many places in Europe that I would like to visit, but the one I’d like to visit the most in Eastern Europe would be Poland. It takes a major part in European History, particularly WWII. Also, I learned from my grandmother (on my mother’s side) that a part of our family has lived in Poland for around two centuries, and I have neighbors who are Polish. Poland neighbors the countries of Germany, the Czech Republic, Belarus, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Slovakia, and the Baltic Sea (Political Map). The capital of this country is Warsaw, which is 52.2333° N, 21.0167° E (Coordinates).

1. What are some famous science and technology or medical institutions in Eastern Europe? List five (5).

Some of the famous science and technology institutions in Eastern Europe are the AGH University of Science and Technology in Poland, Czech Technical University in the Czech Republic, the Warsaw University of Technology in Poland, the Brno University of Technology in the Czech Republic, and the Technical University of Košice in Slovakia (Central Eastern Europe). I received this information from Matt.

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