**Room and Board**

I arrived late at night the first week, left the same week, and returned the week after (in the morning), and was assigned a different yet similar room, so I was able to document the experience following the second week.

It appears that college visitors (and other guests to the college) will stay at the Academic Exchange Center (which also doubled as an “on-campus hotel”), so the International Office put me up in one of those rooms there.

In all of the rooms I stayed in, there were 2 beds, a desk, a TV, and 2 loungers. Each room had a bathroom with a shower. I could not tell if the rooms had been vacuumed, and I found dust in many locations around the room.

I took photos in room A309, the first room I was assigned to. It was at the end of the building, right next to a fire escape with a door that wouldn’t close. Sometimes, I’d hear it creak open before hitting the wall (the door didn’t fit). It was starting to get annoying, so I ended up switching to room A307.

**Classrooms**

CIT’s international program took place 2 buildings away from my location. The International Office is also located in the same place. The classes I took were located on the same floor, the 2nd floor, of the Xuedao building.

Going up the stairs to the right was the director’s office, complete with 2 desks and a couch for guests. Going down the hallway, there was a conference/exhibition room with stuffed bears (apparently promoting cooperation between CIT and multiple American universities) and posters.

To the left of the stairs were two ESL classrooms (aptly named ESL 1 and ESL 2, in the order closest to the stairs). Both classrooms are probably the same size, although ESL 1 had more desks and chairs, making it feel cozier. Meanwhile, there were 2 mini-Christmas trees in ESL 2, which I found particularly interesting.

**Classes**

I had the opportunity to take 3 classes – 2 with Stout and 1 with Eau Claire (which I had to audit because of prior commitments), both UW schools. The 2 classes with Stout were American Folklore (ENGL) and University Success (ESL), all taught by Justin Nicholes. The one class with Eau Claire was Languages and Intercultural Competence, taught by Kaishan Kong.

The Languages and Intercultural Competence class started first. Most of this class centered around introductions to American culture, because most of the class would be in the U.S. to continue their degree as part of a program with UWEC. Being someone from the U.S. and from the local area, I was often asked to share some of my experience in the American Midwest. This class was also the class I audited – having prior commitments during the last week – so I found myself attending this class less often when there was a conflict with the other two Stout classes.

American Folklore is a higher-level English class that was taught by Justin – one of my favorite professors – and was slightly modified because of the target audience such that Chinese folklore was also introduced in the class. Having never studied folklore before – with my limited understanding of both American and Chinese folklore – it was a little bit of a challenging start. I returned back to my room after class and did some online research to familiarize myself with some of the more popular folklore in Wisconsin – like Paul Bunyan and some of the Native American stories from various tribes across the state. There were two large writing assignments in the course, but all of them were in-class activities.

There were to be 8 total classes, each of them two-and-a-half hours long, so Justin printed out packets containing all class activities. This meant that we knew what to expect, and while there was no official “homework,” I would have a good idea of what to expect in the next class (and do some preparation beforehand so I could give my best work). Noteworthy is that Justin collected the packets (so we didn’t need to worry about keeping them), but I thought it was a better idea to look ahead, write a few notes on what to prepare for, and prepare for the next class ahead of time.

University Success was structured much like American Folklore (seeing it was also taught by Justin), but mainly was based on college life in the U.S. and life in Menomonie.

**Classmates**

I was first introduced to Harry, who is the class leader of the Food Science program. I believe he is responsible for communicating with his classmates and instructors as well as checking with classmates, but not sure. He shows up early to class and I often see him being the last to leave.

For the first class, I showed up about 15 minutes early. I’m someone who likes to show up early, and particularly wanted to see how things went. Justin was already there setting things up for class. I grabbed a seat in the front row, near the door. Harry showed up a few minutes after, grabbing a seat next to me, also in the front row.

Everyone else, however, grabbed seats in the back, preferring to be less spread out in the back. There were a few that grabbed seats behind Harry and I, and they seem to be closer friends to Harry.

**CIT Staff**