**Biology and Psychology Research in Taiwan**

**Notes on the program, trip, and country**

**By Helen Harton**

**Before you go**

* ***Passports.*** I recommend leaving a copy of your passport with your parents just in case. Study abroad has one, but it might be easier to reach your parents, especially if you lose it on a weekend or something. You might also want to bring a copy with you, just in case. You won’t need to carry your passport around once you’re in Taipei UNLESS you are traveling (may need it for some trains or to pick up pre-purchased tickets) and/or planning to stay at a hotel or you want to rent a bike or scooter.
* ***Money.*** Call your bank and let them know you’ll be using your ATM card in Taiwan. If you plan to use a credit card while overseas, call them as well. Credit cards aren’t as widely used in Taiwan, but they are handy for buying train tickets (otherwise you can go to 7-11 and pay, but you might need a translator). You should also check if you want to use a CC to see if your card has foreign transaction fees. Most do (which will cost you an extra 3% or so on everything), but Capital One cards and some others don’t.
* The best and easiest way to get money will be with an ATM card, but you can also take cash and change it. It’s nice to have at least some cash (maybe $100?) so that you can get it changed at the airport when you arrive. Some of the ATM machines there (and elsewhere) don’t take foreign cards. More on ATM machines in Taiwan later.
* ***Communication and phones.*** Think about how you’ll communicate with your parents and friends while you’re gone. Email and skype will work, and you can get skype credits so you can also cheaply call their home or cell phone.
* Call your cell carrier to see if your phone is “unlockable” and to get it unlocked if so for your trip dates. Then you can buy a cheap SIM card near where you’ll be living in Taiwan (staff there can direct you—right across from NCCU) and use it locally. You still would not want to use it to call home, most likely. Another option is to get a cheap unlockable phone before you go (you can get a ‘dumb’ one for about $25) or to buy a phone there (cheapest is about $90). Turn off everything but wifi on your phone unless you have a Taiwan sim card. Otherwise you can get caught with very expensive roaming fees.
* You don’t have to have a phone there, but it’s nice for communication among your labmates and classmates, and you need a phone to receive texts so you can get set up for wifi at some public areas (e.g., subway stations) and to be able to use the bikeshare program.
* ***Immunizations.*** Taiwan does not require that you have specific immunizations prior to travel there, so you don't have to get any, but here is a page on what the US government recommends:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/taiwan>

You can get them at the UNI clinic.

**Packing**

* Pack for very hot, humid days. Shorts and t-shirts are fine (but leave the ratty ones at home—people they tend to dress a little neater than we do in Iowa), but keep in mind that cotton will show big sweat marks on your belly, your back, etc. I don’t recommend just taking a bunch of cotton t-shirts!
* Don’t bring a lot of clothes; there is a washer and dryer on every floor, and if you bring “quick dry” clothes you can just wash them out in the sink and hang them on the balcony (what I usually do—I only bring about 5 outfits for 2-3 weeks). You may want a jacket or something slightly warmer for the flight over (planes are often cold) and for the high speed train rides (also over-air-conditioned generally).
* Bring an umbrella and possibly a light raincoat/poncho. It rains a fair amount, and it’s usually heavy when it does.
* Bring a towel—I-House will only give you a hand towel. I like microfiber ones b/c they dry really fast and don’t take up much space in your luggage, but whatever is fine. You can buy one there if you forget.
* Bring sunscreen. You’ll need it, and it tends to be more expensive there (and not as much variety).
* Bring shoes you can walk in (not just flip flops). You’ll likely walk a lot.
* Bring a bathing suit for the Kenting trip.
* If you think you might want to rent a scooter (and now you might think you won’t, but when you get there, you’ll probably want to), bring your driver’s license AND get an international driver’s license (available from AAA offices for about $15). Some places will ask that the international driver’s license have a motorcycle endorsement, but most of them aren’t too picky about that. If you only have your IA license, you should be able to find a place that will rent you an electric scooter, but probably not a gas one (faster). You won’t need one in Taipei, but they can be useful (and fun) when you travel.
* Bring some cash. You can get most of your money from ATMs when you’re there (usually gets the best trade, unless you use the ones in 7-11 that charge you $3-4 US every time you use them). But sometimes your ATM card won’t work initially for some reason, so it’s good to have some cash as a backup. Don’t bother getting traveler’s checks, and you don’t need to change money before you go. Cash or ATM is the way to go.
* How much money should you bring? That depends on you and what you want to do. I think study abroad budgets about $500, which would definitely be enough to eat if your meals aren’t all in restaurants (there is a grocery store nearby and you have a fridge in your room) and you travel affordably (stay in hostels, share rooms, etc.). I usually travel and do a lot of tourist things, and I still average less $100/week. Last year there were some students who spent considerably more than that though—so just be aware of whatever your budget is and try not to waste money on things like ATM fees and expensive restaurants. To give you a little context—a fairly nice hotel is $50/night. A restaurant meal with burger, fries, and drink will usually be around $5-6. There is no tax and no tip. The longest, most expensive train ride you can take (the high speed from Taipei to close to Kenting) is $50 each way.
* Bring all your cords for your ipod, computer, etc. You won’t need a converter or adapter. You will need an Ethernet adapter though if you plan to use a tablet or Apple product in your room (unless you happen to find a computer expert who can set up the router in your room to be wireless). Wireless is available in the lobby, but it doesn’t always work.
* If you are bringing something with apps, consider downloading google translate if you haven’t already. It can be useful. You can translate phrases ahead of time, so when you get somewhere you can just choose it and show someone the characters (e.g., “where can I rent a bike”?) even if you don’t have wifi.
* Consider bringing a tour book on Taiwan. It will help you figure out places you want to go and how to get there.
* Consider bringing earplugs if noise bothers you—the walls at I-House are really thin.
* Bring a backpack or something similar for packing for weekend trips. When we go to Kenting, we may not be able to check in to the hotel when we get there, so you could have to carry it around with you for a while.
* Remember that you might want to bring small gifts for the people in your lab. Something that represents where you’re from is nice—they don’t have to be expensive at all—it’s the thought that counts. Something from UNI or your hometown would be nice, or a food you like (keep in mind that most packaged things they have there—major candy bars, etc., though they are less likely to have pop beyond the basics or other things—you can google and see, or ask one of us who’ve been).
* If you want to go swimming, some places (hot springs, pools, water park), will require that you have a swim cap, so you may want to bring one.

**What NOT to bring**

* You don’t need to bring bedding. You’ll get a little pillow and blanket on the plane, and you’ll have sufficient bedding at I-House.
* Water—their water is fine to drink, and there are water coolers everywhere.
* You don’t need to bring adapters or converters for electricity.
* You don’t need to buy fancy things to hide your passport and money.

**Getting money.** As I mentioned earlier, the 7-11 ATMs have a fee. Family Mart ones don’t (I think—it will show up when you’re getting money if it does). There is also a bank between campus and the Zoo MRT that has a no-fee ATM that I usually use (couple of blocks north—opposite direction of campus).

**Cultural differences:**

There are many of these, and you can read more about them online. Here are some things that are useful to know:

* People in Taiwan are extremely friendly and nice. They will take you places and try to pay. If you pull out a map, you’ll have 3 people there trying to help you find somewhere without you even asking.
* It’s very safe there, but you should still be careful when you’re in crowded areas (e.g., put a hand on your purse).
* Lines are very important. People line up for everything and they don’t like it if you break. When you wait for a train or bus, wait in line. When you are using an escalator, only stand on the right (and wait in line to stand there if it’s crowded). Otherwise, walk on the left side.
* If you order a drink (e.g., pop) in a restaurant, you probably won’t get free refills like here.
* You don’t need to tip, and there is no tax on top of the prices in restaurants, etc. Some restaurants in tourist places (e.g., Kenting) will have a “service fee” that’s basically a required tip, but I haven’t often seen that elsewhere.
* Status is more important there. For example, if students are eating with a professor, they won’t start to eat until after the professor has been served and has tried their food.
* Chopsticks! Practice beforehand, and if you think it will be a problem, get a plastic fork to carry around.
* There are toilets like those you’re used to (including in I-House), but you’ll also encounter squat toilets. With those you straddle and squat.

**Flights to Taiwan**

* Make sure you have everything with you at the airport, including your passport and some money/ATM card.
* You can have one piece of checked luggage that weighs no more than 50 pounds for free (there are also size restrictions—check the delta website). It’s $100 each way for a second bag. You can also have a carryon and a “personal item”. In the past, backpacks have counted as personal items, but I noticed that they’ve now changed the wording on the website so that it doesn’t include backpacks—says purse, briefcase, things of similar size. So I’m not sure if you could have a backpack and a carryon. But you could have at least one of those. Make sure you have some space in your bag or pack an empty one inside your other bag so you’ll have some room to bring home souvenirs.
* Review TSA rules for what you can carry on the flight (no pocket knives, lighters, etc.) and for details on liquids and gels (includes gel deodorant, mascara, and lip gloss). In your carryon luggage, you can only have these in 3 oz containers or less, and they all have to fit in a 1 quart zip lock bag. You’ll probably have to pull that out for security. You’ll also have to pull out your laptop or ipad (but not phones or ipods).
* If you put liquids in your checked bags, I recommend putting them in zip lock bags. Obviously avoid glass bottles, but sometimes plastic leaks too b/c of air pressure.
* Our first flight is about an hour and ½ then we have a really long layover in Detroit (5+ hrs). Bring money for lunch. Then we’ll have a flight from Detroit to Taiwan (nice and long—13 hrs), then we change in Tokyo. In Tokyo, you’ll have to go through security (and pulling out liquids, computers, etc.) again. Then it’s almost 4 more hours to Taiwan.
* You’ll get regular meals on the plane. If you have food issues (e.g., you’re vegetarian or gluten free), get on the delta website to order a special meal (free) ahead of time. If you need to eat a lot, consider bringing some snacks, but anything that’s not packaged (e.g., fruit, baked goods) will have to be eaten before you enter Taiwan. Customs will ask you about food you’re bringing in.
* Bring an empty water bottle on the plane so you can get it filled post security and/or on the plane (drink lots of water to avoid jet lag). Just make sure it’s empty before you go through security in Japan. It’ll also be good to have the water bottle once you’re in Taiwan, b/c there are water coolers in I-House and your classroom buildings you can use so you don’t have to buy water.
* Hopefully we’ll have individual entertainment systems on the plane. It says on the website that we will, but there is a chance that they might switch out planes, and some of the older ones don’t have this. If you do have it, you can choose lots of tv shows, movies, etc., as well as watch the plane progress through it and will be able to charge things with a USB port.
* My other tip to avoid jet lag (besides drinking lots of water) is to act like you’re on Taiwan time (figure that out) as soon as you get on the plane in Detroit—and sleep when you’d sleep if you were in Taiwan. It will also help that we get into Taipei late.
* While you’re on the last flight, the flight attendants will pass out forms for customs in Taiwan. Make sure you get one and fill it out (passport number, etc.). For where you’re staying, put I-House. Remember also that on the form and/or in person, you should tell the customs officials that you are there for pleasure. Do NOT mention that you’re there to study, as they will likely think you are taking credits through a Taiwan school and would need a visa (which you don’t have). Since you are taking UNI credits, you don’t need a visa. Charity sent an email explaining this earlier.
* We’ll arrive in Taipei about 9:30pm and have to go through customs and get luggage (and you can change some money at this time if you want). It’s about an hour taxi ride to I-House, so by the time we get checked in, it will be 11 or 12 o’clock. Go to sleep.

**Transportation and general travel advice**

Transportation is easy and cheap in Taipei and around. You’ll get an EZ card at orientation, and you can add to it at MRT (subway) stations or convenience stores such as 7-11 or Family Mart (they are everywhere). You can use them for buses and MRT in Taipei as well as at many stores (see their website), and for train rides within Taipei and New Taipei (basically a couple of hours away on the coast). The closest MRT station is Taipei Zoo, which is about a 15 minute walk north. Or you can take a bus from campus there, or you can take a bus from campus to many other places you want to go. At orientation, they’ll mention some of the most popular routes—bring something to right them down if you want.

For long distance trips, you can take the regular trains (I mention more about that in the Taroko section), high speed trains (HSR; get you from Taipei to the south of the island in 3-4 hours), or buses. Buses can be cheaper but tend to take longer. There are also usually cheap tourist shuttles from train stations to major attractions.

Train tickets, especially for the nonHSR trains, go on sell 2 weeks in advance, and often the shorter trains sell out quickly. Try to plan ahead and buy tickets online, at a station, or at a 7-11 14 days in advance if possible.

If you want to travel while in Taiwan, plan ahead. Last year people wanted to go to Taroko, but one weekend they didn’t buy their tickets enough ahead of time, and then later it was closed because of a typhoon. If you have places you want to visit outside Taipei, don’t put those off til the last weekend. The past two years there has been a typhoon the last weekend (which is about as bad as a blizzard here— not so bad if you’re in town and inside; a pain if you’re out in the country or stuck outside).

Once you’re in Taiwan, you can get plane tickets to other Asian countries pretty cheaply through carrier like AirAsia (e.g., $400 to fly roundtrip to Malaysia). Consider doing this or staying on longer to do this if you want to visit more places.

**Some of my favorite places:**

Taipei:

**Tamsui** (also called Damsui). Nice wharf area with really pretty, interesting places to walk around. It’s packed on weekends. You can rent bikes there, and it’s a stop on the MRT (takes an hour and ½ or so by MRT from the zoo station—it’s basically one end to the other).

**Da-an Park.** Like their version of NYC’s central park. Lots of trees, and you can see people doing Tai Chi or other things. Last year I stumbled on a jazz concert by an Israeli group. There is a youbike station on (I think) the northeast side, and you can ride through the park.

**Bike trails**. You can probably tell I’m big into biking. There are tons of great trails here, with cheap bike rentals. There are sometimes cafes on the trail too. You can get a bike map at the tourist office near the zoo. The trail from Damsui to Guandu (another big temple) goes along the river and is one of my favorites. You can also do a trail on the opposite side of the river. Another good option is to rent a nice bike for about 200 NTD at the Giant store near Dadaocheng Wharf and ride the trail up toward Tamsui and back (maybe an hour each way?). You can get bike maps at the tourist offices—closest to NCCU is the one outside Taipei Zoo (behind the gondola station).

**Longshan Temple**. Nice temple—one of the “big 3” here. Also an interesting night market (you can supposedly get snake, snake urine, snake semen, etc.) and a Chinese herb market (dried deer penis, etc.) nearby. It’s one of the older areas of Taipei and you may see homeless people and/or prostitutes, but it is still very safe, as is everywhere in Taiwan. At the MRT station, there are cheap “blind” massages.

**Taipei 101**. Everyone here will tell you to go there so just do it. It’s around $15 to go to the top, but it’s a lot neater than I expected. Nice views, and interesting commentary.

**XinBeitou area**. (Xinbeitou MRT). Hot springs museum, hot springs (the public one outside is

both genders and you wear a bathing suit. There are others in hotels there that you can go to that are single gender, no clothing. The geothermal valley scenic park is also neat (superhot sulphur spring).

If you like temples, other good ones are **Baoan Temple** and **Taipei Confucius Temple**. They are across the road from each other. When I went to Baoan there were Taiwanese teenagers very eager to practice their English by giving free tours.

**Maokong**—this is the area you take the Gondola to. Once there, there are lots of tea shops. Your labmates will probably take you there.

**National Palace Museum**. I haven’t been there, but it’s supposed to be good. I think your NCCU student card will get you a discount.

**Night markets**. There are lots of them, and I’m sure you’ll visit a few. Shilin is the most famous, but it’s not necessarily my favorite. They all have their own charms (and their own specialties—Shilin’s is probably food). One recommended by students is Ningxia (for different types of food).

If you are interested in the arts and want to see Chinese opera and aboriginal (Taiwan’s “native” group) dance, **Taipei Eye** has good shows. Touristy, but good. Maybe 880NTD?

**K-TV**—there are various K-TV outlets around, especially around Ximening. It’s their version of karaoke. You rent a room with your friends and have food/drinks brought in and do your own private karaoke with a machine there. They usually have some English songs.

Hiking in Tapei

***Three options near NCCU:***

1. There are steps behind the liberal arts building that go up into the woods. Follow these (don't take the split off to the left) up to a pavilion and a circle drive, then go across the drive to another set of steps. Take these up and you'll hit a temple with great views. From there you can go to other places in Maokong. It takes a little over 30 minutes to get to the top. Take water. It's all pretty much steps uphill.

2. There's another hillside temple you can hike to if you go toward campus, then turn left on the road just in front of campus (left if you are facing campus). It will soon fork--follow the right fork. Then fairly soon (just after the 7-11), you'll see on the left a road that forks off. At the end of that short road there's a Chinese gate with a path and more steps. Follow these up. Not sure how long this one would take since I only did it down--maybe 1/2 hour?

3. Another flat trail that's nice if you want to get slightly away from things without going far is to take the road in front of campus to the left again and this time take the left fork. On the right a little ways up, you'll see Qingxi Park or something like that. There is a flat trail that goes back and forth over a creek for about 45 minutes. There are lots of flowers and butterflies. It's called the literary trail, but I'm not sure why.

***Yangmingshan National Park*** is about a 40 minute bus ride from Taipei (you can get the bus outside of the Taipei Main Station MRT. There are some nice trails there and a hot spring as well.

Free events in Taipei

There are 3 free events that occur in July in Taipei that I’ve done.

1. Hohaiyan Rock Festival, Usually the first or second weekend is the Music Festival (bands from all over the world) in Fulong. The festival is right on the beach. Take the train (from Taipei Main Station) to Fulong. You do NOT need to buy a ticket—just use your EZ card. It’s about $4 US each way. There are also buses to and from Fulong. These may be crowded—prepare to stand. It takes about 1.5 to 2 hours by train, depending on which type of train you get. You can check out schedules ahead of time online, but there’s basically one about every hour of some type (slower or faster). Use your EZ card to go through the train station gates, then just ask the person standing there where and when the next train to Fulong is and they’ll direct you.

The festival is a cool atmosphere. People dig out “couches” on the sand to listen to the music, and while there are adult beverages available, it tends to not be as crazy as some American festivals (when people from Taiwan drink too much, they tend to become mellow instead of aggressive).

2. ***Street dance competition.*** Usually the second or third weekend is the street dance competition at Jiannan Rd. MRT station (brown line). Lots of groups competing--some really good with great costumes, free to watch, from 1pm on Saturday and Sunday. You'll see the crowds when you exit the station.  I think this is also the station for the ferris wheel, and there are some malls there.

3. Da’an Jazz Festival. Usually about the third weekend is a free jazz festival in Da'an Park. There are performances pretty much all afternoon and evenings. The performances are in the outdoor amphitheater in the park (south part of the park).

Outside of Taipei:

**Fulong**—one of the nearest beaches. Maybe an hour or an hour and ½ by train. Go to Taipei Main Station and go to the TRA (Taiwan Railway Association). You can just use your EZ card to get on the train. Scan it, and ask the person there where and when the next train to Fulong is. Then go there and wait and get on. Same thing coming back. The beach is a few blocks from the Train Station—follow the crowds. It’s 100NTD I think or maybe a little more to get into the beach area. There’s also a really great bike trail here. It goes through a tunnel and then goes along cliffs overlooking the ocean. Probably the prettiest bike ride I’ve ever done. It’s about 20km round trip. There are signs helping you keep on the trail. There is a tourist office near the Fulong train station—you can ask there about a map for the bike ride. (Using the EZ card for trains only works for the closeby trains—to places like Fulong. And you’ll probably have to stand.)

July 9-13 there are free rock concerts on the beach at Fulong as part of the Hohaiyan Rock Festival. Something like 4-10 pm or 11pm (Saturday). You should be able to find info online.

**Taroko Gorge or Taroko National Park**. This is near Hualien. I’d say it’s a must go if you like nature and are willing to hike (though you don’t have to do that a lot there necessarily). Mountains, gorges, waterfalls. You can take the train to Hualien and stay here (bigger city),and get a bus from near the train station that goes up and throughout the gorge every day. Or you can go to the closest train station, Xincheng. From there it’s a short cab ride (or you can rent a scooter—try the one called “Pony” something if you don’t have an Intl Driver’s license) to the park. Stop in at the park office and they can tell you what trails are open and give you suggestions on where to go. You can take the bus to go through the park (about 250 NTD for a day pass), do the scooter thing (about 400 NTD per day), or rent a driver to take you places and wait for you. I think that’s about $2000-3000/per day. I’ve done the bus and the scooter. I personally wouldn’t want to drive a scooter there (kind of crazy), but I was on the back so it was fine. You can stay in Hualien (1/2 hour away, or an hour by bus), near the gorge itself (a hotel and a hostel, but a very sleepy little town if you can even call it that), or inside the park at the furthest place the bus goes (another hostel or two there)—Tianxiang. You can also camp at 3 places in the park—2 of them for free and the other nearly free—but I’m not sure where you get the camping equipment. If you want to go to Taroko, buy train tickets at least a week ahead (2 is better). They go on sale 14 days in advance. You can get tickets at the train station, online, or at 7-11s (but last I checked the 7-11s info wasn’t in English—not sure if it is now—your Chinese buddy or labmates can help you). If you want to get them or check schedules online, use <http://railway.hinet.net/> and choose “booking options” on the left. That site is easier to negotiate than the one you’ll likely get with a google search.

Just an aside, if you’re looking for hotels, you can use agoda.com. It’s the Asian Travelocity. Though sometimes I’ve found it cheaper to just show up at a place—but you may not want to do that on weekends, especially in smaller or tourist towns.

**Sun-Moon Lake**—this is on the West coast and is the other big area you’ll hear people talking about (Taroko, Sun-Moon, and Kenting). You take a HSR (high speed rail) train and then a bus. It’s nice—there’s a boat you can take across the lake, a bunch of tourist areas, and a route to ride

a bike around the lake. I personally liked Taroko better, but that’s me.

**Green Island**—This is a relaxed (but touristy) island off the eastern coast—good snorkeling and diving, a lighthouse to tour, some hiking trails, etc. It’s really pretty but painful to get to—you take a train to Taitung (about 5-8 hours), then a taxi to the wharf, then a boat ride where most people had major motion sickness on the way over (way back was better), then maybe another short taxi ride into town on the island depending on where you stay. AVOID Green Island Adventures. There are cheaper options run by people who are more sane.

**Surfing in Yilan**—I haven’t done this, but it was a favorite of some previous students.

**Coming back**

You can arrange transport back through NCCU/I-House, but it will be much more expensive for a shuttle. The cheapest option is to take a taxi (about $1800 NTD, and you can fit 6 in the larger ones). Cheaper yet would be public transport, but it might be hard to have time to do that if you have a morning flight.

You can change any money you have left at the airport after you go through security.

Try to get to the airport**at least**a couple of hours ahead of time--there will be a long line at the Delta counter. After you find your gate, note that there is an upstairs area for your gate with interesting chairs and such, but that you'll need to go downstairs at that gate area to get at the actual gate and hear the announcements. Make sure you get there early enough; they moved my flight up 20 minutes the morning I was leaving (and then it ended up being late anyway).

You'll have to go through security in Tokyo again like last time. You'll go through US customs at the first US airport you land at. That can take a while too--sometimes it goes quick, but it took us over 2 hours in Detroit. You'll pick up your luggage there, and then carry it across the room to check it again.

**Grades and information related to the labs and classes:**

1. There will be an orientation for all students in the international program (about 200 from around the world) at 10am the first day. Bring something to take notes—they’ll give you lots of great information. You’ll also have a chance to sign up for some group trips and experiences—these go fast, so be sure to sign up right after orientation let out (very quickly) if you’re interested. They are convenient, but may cost more than you could do on your own. Some of the experiences, like a calligraphy workshop, though, are free.

2. If you’ve had Chinese classes before, you’ll take a placement test that afternoon. Otherwise, you’ll be placed in a beginning class. Either way, classes will be Monday to Thursday 1:10pm-4pm. You’ll generally be working in your labs in the mornings.

3. Your Chinese class will be pass/fail. If you want to take it for a grade instead, you can, but you have to let us know BEFORE we leave. We recommend taking it pass/fail so that you don’t have to spend all your extra time studying and can spend more time exploring the culture and your lab. Basically that means you need a C or higher, then it will show up as a “pass” or “credit” on your transcript here.

4. You should be working in your lab for about 10 hours/week or about 60 hours total. This includes time spent reading for lab, but doesn’t include time spent just hanging out with your labmates. Keep a log of your hours each day and what you did during those hours to turn in to your bio or psych supervisor at UNI at the end of your trip.

5. You will turn in a "cultural experiences" paper 2 weeks after you return from Taipei. This paper can be written informally and should address what you learned in general during your experience--addressing what you learned about science, about Eastern culture, about Taiwan, etc. It will probably be around 5 pages double spaced.

6. You will also do an extra project. This one may be longer and should contain more detail and be written more "scientifically." For the bio people, talk to Pete if you're not clear about what you need to turn in. For the people doing psych credits, I'll expect an APA-style paper, with an abstract, an intro of at least 3-4 pages discussing the scientific literature related to your research question or hypothesis (you need citations, and they need to be from scientific articles, not just websites--you might not find studies on Taiwan per se, but you should find things on East Asians and comparisons of them to Westerners or people in the US), a method section that explains exactly what you did (how many observations, where and when, what you observed, specific categories, maybe with a chart or two), a results section that explains your results (your comparisons of US and Taiwan, including graphs or tables), a discussion section that describes what these results mean, what limitations there are in your study (e.g., are the people you observed typical), and some ideas for future research on this topic, and references. For me, these things are due within a week of your return from Taiwan.

7. Your grade for the research portion (which is NOT pass/fail) will be based on your log, your paper, your extra project, and a report from your NCCU supervisor on how you did, often based at least in part on a presentation they may have you do to the lab near the end of your time there.  

Notes for Maureen:

Trip to Kenting

These are notes I sent out on our trip to Kenting, in case you decide to go and find them helpful:

We'll walk to the MRT (some of you may need to add to your EZ card--we can do that there), then take the brown/Wenhu line up to ZF and get the blue line toward Yonging. We'll get out at Taipei Main Station, and then follow the signs to HSR (high speed rail).

You can take food/eat on the train (just not the MRT). We should have time to buy something maybe on the way, but I'm not sure what there is in that station. Anything you would need to get before we enter the HSR section (so it's probably easier if you buy here and take with you).

Our train leaves 9ish, and we get in around 11am. Then we'll take a bus (2 hours) or taxi (1 hour--taxi is about $2-3 more--I vote for that and saving an hour and hot bus ride, but we can decide as a group). Plus, with a taxi, we can go straight to the hotel instead of having to find it from a bus stop and walk a bit. So hopefully we'll get to kenting around 12:30. You can't check in to the hotel until around 2, so be prepared to carry your luggage (hopefully just a backpack) around with you. Same on Sunday-we check out at 11, then may have to keep the luggage with us until we leave around 5pm.

Bring--your passport, your IA DL (if you want to try to rent a scooter), sunscreen, a beach towel if you have it, swimsuit, change of clothes, and cash. Oh, and rain gear. It tends to be chilly on the HSR, so bring something for that if you want. You might want to bring your student ID from here in case you go in anywhere with a discount. Your transport and hotel are already paid for. You'll need money for activities (snorkeling, jet skiing, renting a beach umbrella, whatever) and food. It's a little more expensive there than here I think b/c it's a tourist town. Main things to do: beach stuff during day, national park (hiking and such), night market, beach town stuff.

I can give you more info on where you want to stay and what to do if you decide to go.