Bismo Funyuns (1398254)

COM 202 FO/Jackie Knowles

**Engagement Exercise- Create and Explain your own Example**

Ambient culture are the things that we take for granted because they are second nature to us, as we assume that “everyone” knows what we are talking about or what we are doing. This, however, is often not the case. Many foreigners travel to America frequently and evidently have unfamiliar habits, assumptions, practices and routines. I experienced this when I traveled to Italy last summer.

 I ate at various types of restaurants throughout the month that I was in Italy and was constantly laughed at, looked at oddly, and even argued with when only ordering one course. When I go to a restaurant in America, it is very normal to order as much or as little as you want. In Italy every menu has an “antipasto” section (similar to appetizers in America), a “primo” section (pastas and soups), a “secondo” section (meat and fish), a “contorno” section (sides) and lastly a “dolce” section (dessert). Much to my disbelief, if you are sitting down for lunch or dinner, you are expected to order at least one antipasto, a first course, a second course and then a desert or coffee. Initially, I was clueless about this unspoken “rule” and was confused and embarrassed when I was laughed at and asked, “this is all you want?” with disdain and puzzlement at every meal. After asking an Italian tour guide what was going on, she explained that it is their “norm” to order from each of these courses, no matter how fancy or casual a restaurant is, out of respect. In her words, “it’s just what we do.”