

IELI 2470 and IELI 2475, Cross-Cultural Perspectives and Cross-Cultural Explorations

Catalog Description: This course brings together students from a variety of ethnic backgrounds for the purpose of cultural exploration. Students examine the influence of culture on beliefs, behaviors, and values.

Course Goals:

1. Students learn about various definitions of culture and how cultures influence behavior, beliefs, and values.
2. Students increase their awareness of cross-cultural similarities and differences in areas such as communication, life-styles, business practices and institutional settings.
3. Students gain an understanding of the stages and symptoms of culture shock.
4. Students gain an understanding of fundamental value systems that inform and determine all cultural practices.
5. Students explore the value systems of the culture of the United States and the cultures of the international students enrolled in class.

Expected Learner Outcomes:

1. Students can provide a written definition of culture.
2. Students can analyze the multiple influences that have contributed to their own cultural makeup.
3. Students can identify the different stages and symptoms of culture shock and coping strategies for this condition.
4. Students can compare and contrast cultural differences in areas such as educational systems, gender roles, business practices, or the areas of the students' interests.
5. Given a cultural interaction, students can identify the underlying values of the participants. Film will provide episodes for students to analyze.
6. Students will be able to understand ethnocentrism and to recognize stereotypical characterizations.

Typical Classroom Activities:

Tests: Multiple Choice, Short Answer, Essay

Papers: Two short papers (1-2 pages) requiring students to react to the content of the unit studied and/or to give an opinion based upon discussion and readings.

Interview: Students will conduct one interview relating to cultural adjustment and summarize the findings.

Cultural Capsules and Role Plays: Students will write and discuss these, which will be based on cultural practices.

Cross-Cultural Interactions: Students will work in pairs for discussions, papers, interviews, and the assignments related to the films. (Students will select the films they wish to watch outside of class and then summarize the cultural points observed. The viewing of two films will be required.)