

Gap Semester Programme DEVELOPING INTERCULTURAL INTELLIGENCE

Course contact hours: 45

Recommended credits: 6 ECTS – 3 US credits

Objectives

This course offers undergraduate students a broad introduction to the study of interculturality in an increasingly globalized world. As multinationals, governments, media groups and sports teams to name just a few examples, aim to learn from and manage cultural diversity in their daily contexts, students wishing to become global citizens also need to develop intercultural competences to enable them to think, act and communicate with people from different cultural backgrounds.

This course explores the concept of self and otherness to lead students to an understanding of how they can capitalize on working in diverse and inclusive teams. By the end of the course, students will be self-aware, confident and competent team players, equipped with skills to help them get ahead in their chosen international careers in any professional field.

Learning objectives

General:

- Develop capacities and strategies for independent learning including becoming actively responsible for the learning process, developing the ability to self-assess progress and manage time.
- Enhance teamwork skills by adopting a collaborative methodology to complete tasks, projects and presentations.
- Adapt to working in an international context, understanding the intercultural make-up of the class / group and developing empathy.
- Use different media to support learning, communication and presentation skills.

Specific:

- Be familiar with the most relevant theories of intercultural intelligence.
- Be able to apply the principles of intercultural intelligence in different contexts.
- Recognize and critique the hidden biases of human statements in a globalized world.
- Promote critical dialogue and respect for diversity.
- Develop strategies and skills for intercultural communication.

Programme

Week 1. - A Basic Toolbox for Interculturality

Week 2. - Dimensions of Culture

Week 3. - Globalization and Ethnocentrism

Week 4. - Belief Systems and understanding the Other

Week 5. - Models of Cultural Difference (Hofstede)

Week 6. - DeBono's 6 Thinking Hats

Week 7. - Communication Skills

Week 8. - Leadership in the Age of Globalization

Week 9. - Popular Culture in the Age of Consumption

Week 10. - Markets, Bias and Otherness

Week 11. - Mainstream and Rising Cultures

Week 12. - Discrimination(s) in the 21st century

Week 13. - FINAL ASSESSMENT

Approach

This course combines theory and educational techniques and technologies with the knowledge and skills of professors, experts and students in a unique multicultural context. The programme includes lectures, discussions, field trips, practical awareness-raising activities, self-reflection and group projects. Participation is valued through collaboration, presentations and activities in which students work together in multicultural teams.

Assessment criteria

25% Mid Term Exam

20% Final Exam

20% Presentation

20% Research Paper

15% Debates and Discussions

Bibliography

Beer, L. A. (2012). Essential Concepts of Cross-Cultural Management : Building on What We All Share (Vol. 1st ed).

Dines, Gail and Jean M. Humez (Eds.) (2011) Gender, Race, and Class in Media: A Critical Reader. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. Third Edition.

Ken Gelder (Ed.) (2005) The Subcultures Reader. New York: Routledge.

Susan M. Shaw and Janet Lee (Eds.) (2015) Women's Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings. New York: McGraw Hill Education.

Maurianne Adams, et. al. (Eds.) (2013) Readings for Diversity and Social Justice. New York: Routledge.

Tjosvold, D., & Leung, K. (2016). Cross-Cultural Management: Foundations and Future. London: Routledge.