PS/IC 260 CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY
IES Abroad Barcelona

DESCRIPTION: The primary aim of this course is to provide the student with an overview of both established and contemporary knowledge in the area of culture and psychology and to facilitate the student in gaining insight to the ethnocentric nature of western psychology. This course offers a combination of key areas in psychology (culture and mental health, social psychology and human development) each viewed through a cultural lens. Given that the students are here as sojourners (living temporarily outside their own country), the psychological literature in this area is also explored. A further component focuses on an applied area, psychosocial health of immigrants in Spain, and specifically Barcelona, thus providing the opportunity for students to apply the knowledge they have acquired and allow them to gain insight into a current cultural issue in Barcelona. It is hoped that the approach taken in this course will both complement and enrich the students’ experience as sojourners, living and studying in a new culture, on both an academic and personal level.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- **Lectures:** Lectures provide the students with an opportunity to gain an overview of the course content and to clarify issues.
- **Class discussion:** The aim of class discussions is to provide the student with a more holistic view. They offer the student the opportunity to argue their views and hear the perspective of other students on selected topics.
- **Guest Speakers:** Students have the opportunity to hear firsthand from practitioners in the field.
- **Class debate:** The debate provides a lively forum for exchange of views on a prepared topic.
- **Reader:** The reader is composed of a selection of key academic readings, chosen with the aim of providing a general understanding of the subject matter.
- **Reading guides:** These are provided, where appropriate, to aid the student in focussing on the most relevant information.
- **Student presentations:** Students are asked to present their research question for their academic paper. Presentations provide the student presenting with the opportunity to develop oral presentation skills and to receive constructive feedback from their peers and professor on their approach.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
Class participation (15% : 7.5% pre mid term and 7.5% post midterm); academic paper (20%); oral presentation (5%); reflection paper (20%); mid-term exam (20%); final exam (20%).

- **Participation:** Active participation throughout the course is expected of each student. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading, contribute to class discussion, be well prepared to answer questions.
- **Exams:** There will be two exams, a mid term exam and a final exam.
- **Papers:** Students are required to turn in two papers, one academic paper and one reflection paper.
- **Academic paper:** Students prepare a research question based on a topic of their choice covered in the course and present it to the class. This forms the basis of their academic paper.
- **Reflection paper:** Students reflect on their experience of cultural adaptation to Barcelona, using psychological concepts and theories covered in the course. Both papers should be 2000 words in length (7-8 pages), typed, doubled-spaced, font 12 and should be submitted both electronically (via e-mail) and in paper format to the professor in class.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
- outline and discuss psychological concepts and theories of cultural adaptation;
- apply psychological concepts and theories of cultural adaptation to their experience of cultural adaptation and awareness;
- appraise the relevance and applicability of psychological theories (relating to mental health and human development) developed in European and American culture to different cultural contexts;
- debate the relevance and applicability of Western approaches to diagnosis and treatment of mental health problems in other cultural contexts;
- apply their knowledge from the course to a current socio-cultural issue in Barcelona (psychosocial health of immigrant populations).

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad classes, including course-related trips. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. If a student misses more than three classes in any course 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven absences in any course will result in a failing grade.

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| Session 15  | Sojourning in Catalonia  
Class onsite: Visit to Omnium Cultural (Specially prepared handout for course-related trip) |                                                                                                                                  |
| Session 17  | Guest Speaker:                                           |                                                                                                                                  |

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| Session 24 | Review of course | |

**Final Exam**

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

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**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**
- http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~culture/readings.htm
- Maalouf, A. Violence and the need to belong: In the name of Identity. Arcade Publishing
- Storti, C. Figuring foreigners out. A practical guide Intercultural Press
- Storti, C. The art of coming home. Intercultural Press
- Storti, C. The Art of crossing cultures. Intercultural Press

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AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY: www.psychologicalscience.org/
ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY: www.victoria.ac.nz/cacr/aasp-site/aasp
AUSTRALIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY: www.psychology.org.au
BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY: www.bps.org.uk
DISCUSSIONS OF CLASSIC AND IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY: http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/


Online glossary/dictionary of psychological terms:
www.richmond.edu/%7Eallison/glossary.html
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