PS 410 CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES IN PSYCHOLOGY
IES Abroad Barcelona

DESCRIPTION: The primary aim of this course is to provide the student, who has a strong background in psychology, the possibility to explore current issues in psychology from a cultural perspective. Two specific topics are viewed through cultural lenses: firstly, the issues surrounding counselling and therapy in an increasingly multicultural society, and secondly, the role of culture in intimate partner violence (IPV) internationally. These topics have been selected as relevant and pertinent issues to reflect on in the Catalan and Spanish cultural contexts.

The third section of the course deals with cultural transitions. The students are provided with the tools to understand the psychological aspects of the study abroad experience in the context of current research in the field of cultural transitions. This course focuses on both the psychological aspects of cultural transitions and the methodological approaches employed to gain understanding of study abroad students in cultural transition. This topic has been selected as it permits the students to critically appraise the research in their capacity as a study abroad psychology student experiencing cultural transition.

The unique approach taken in this course should both complement and enrich the students’ experience as sojourners and cultural learners, 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: Psychology major or minor.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- **Guest Speakers:** Students have the opportunity to hear first-hand from practitioners in the field.
- **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.
- **Reader:** The reader is compiled 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 focusing on the most relevant information.
- **Student presentations:** Students are asked to present the outlines of their proposed academic papers. Presentations provide the student presenting with the opportunity to develop oral presentation skills and to receive constructive feedback from their peers and professor.
- **Film viewing:** Watching a film with a film guide and questions to answer provides specific, although subjective, material to examine the complexities of the topic.
- **Case studies:** Case studies are used to illustrate both the role of culture in therapy and the complexities of IPV, in order to stimulate discussion.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

Class participation (15%: 7.5% pre midterm and 7.5% post midterm); academic paper (25%); oral presentation (10%); mid-term exam (25%); final exam (25%).

- **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 and be well prepared to answer questions.
- **Exams:** There will be two exams, a mid term exam and a final exam.
- **Presentation:** Each student will present the outline of their academic paper on their chosen area of the course material.
• **Academic paper**: An academic paper which deals with a specific area of the course material, chosen by the student, must be submitted.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
By the end of the course students will be able to:

- demonstrate a clear understanding issues in counselling and therapy of a range of culturally diverse clients;
- identify barriers to successful multicultural counselling and therapy;
- analyse case studies of culturally diverse clients;
- analyse the role culture plays in intimate partner violence (IPV) and compare and contrast this role in various cultural contexts, including the Spanish context.
- critically assess approaches used in researching cultural transitions, specifically study abroad students.

**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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**Perspectives on Study Abroad Students**


### Session 22
**Perspectives on Study Abroad Students**


### Session 23
**Perspectives on Study Abroad Students**


### Session 24
**Review of course**
Final Exam

REQUIRED READINGS:


RECOMMENDED READINGS:

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION: www.apa.org
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
www.psybox.com/web_dictionary/dictionaryWebindex.htm
www.alleydog.com/glossary/psychology-glossary.php