CIEE Global Institute – Berlin

Course name: Intercultural Communication and Leadership
Course number: (GI) COMM 3301 BRGE
Programs offering course: Berlin Open Campus, Berlin Global Architecture and Design, Berlin Global Internship
Open Campus Track: Communications, Journalism, and New Media
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description

In this class, students develop skills, knowledge, and understanding that will help them communicate and engage more appropriately and effectively in their study abroad location as well as in other intercultural contexts. We will explore various topics in intercultural communication in the context of your experience abroad, and will practice intercultural learning processes that you can apply when working across difference in a wide variety of contexts. You will increase your own cultural self-awareness and develop personal leadership skills to help you become more effective in an interdependent world.

Learning Objectives

By participating in this course, you will:

- Increase your own self-awareness, particularly your cultural self-awareness.
- Develop a deeper understanding of the field of intercultural communication and intercultural concepts / theories and their relevance to your own experience in Germany.
- Increase your ability to recognize and bridge cultural gaps.
- Develop an intercultural leadership practice that helps you translate your culture-specific and culture-general knowledge into moment-to-moment competence.

Course Prerequisites

None, apart from an open mind and a sincere interest in exploring things intercultural, which will involve a deep level of self-reflection.

Methods of Instruction

Learning will involve in-class exercises, active reflection, discussion, readings, short lectures, and out-of-class activities that help you engage in the local culture on a deeper level.
Assessment and Final Grade

1. Two reflection papers: 30%
2. Homework (i.e. IDI, readings, Something’s Up, etc.): 10%
3. IDI assessments (pre and post) 10%
4. Final Digital Storytelling Project (including draft of script): 25%
5. Participation: 25%
TOTAL: 100%

Course Requirements

Reflection Papers
You are expected to complete two reflection papers. Due dates for each are listed in the schedule. You will be given a topic / prompt, as well as more detailed instructions, for each paper approximately one week prior to the due date.

The papers should be typed, double-spaced, and between 500-750 words (2-3 pages) each. These papers should be reflective, yet include critical analysis of your personal experience. They may be written in the first person.

Homework
Homework includes assigned readings and activities to complete outside of class. Due dates are listed in the syllabus but subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. You are responsible for completing the homework outlined in the syllabus and asking for clarification when needed. It is important to bring copies of any readings due that day to class with you, as they may be needed in class.

Final Digital Storytelling Project
As a final project for this course, you will be creating a Digital Story. Digital Storytelling involves short (3- to 5-minute) first-person stories combined with still images (and often music). Through this means, you will share your own personal story of the study abroad experience. You will need access to iMovie (for Macs) or Windows Movie Maker (for PCs), both available to download for free. More information will be provided.

Participation
As part of your work in this course, students should demonstrate learning beyond the submission of written assignments or presentations. As such, all students receive grades based upon participation.
Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

**Attendance Policy**

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, unexcused absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Unexcused absences will lead to the following penalties:

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<th>Percentage of Total Course Hours</th>
<th>Equivalent Number of Open Campus</th>
<th>Minimum Penalty</th>
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Missed | Semester classes | Participation graded as per class requirements
---|---|---
Up to 10% | 1 content classes, or up to 2 language classes | Participation graded as per class requirements
10 – 20% | 2 content classes, or 3-4 language classes | Participation graded as per class requirements; **written warning**
More than 20% | 3 content classes, or 5 language classes | Automatic **course failure**, and possible expulsion

**Weekly Schedule**

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to take advantage of current experiential learning opportunities.

**Week 1**

**Introduction**

Class 1:1 What is this class about?

Readings:
- Bennett, ‘Intercultural communication: A current perspective’ (pp. 1-34)

**Week 2**

**Who am I?**

Class 2:1 Perception and Suspending Judgment

Readings:
- Bennett, ‘Intercultural communication: A current perspective’ (pp. 1-34)
- Porter Reading

Class 2:2 Identity in Context
Completed (online) Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)
Readings:
- Yep Reading
- Hammad Reading
- Paige Reading

Class 2:3  What do I value?

Readings:
- Hofstede et al., ‘The rules of the social game’ (pp. 3-26)

Week 3  Understanding Culture

Class 3:1  Cultural Value Patterns

Readings:
- Ting-Toomey & Chung, ‘What is intercultural communication flexibility?’ ‘What are the essential cultural value patterns?’ (pp. 22-37 & 38-63)
- the hofstede centre U.S. profile

Class 3:2  Understanding Germany

Reflection Paper #1 Due

Readings:
- Max Planck Gesellschaft Reading
- the hofstede centre Germany profile

Class 3:3  Culture & Communication

Readings:
- Ting-Toomey & Chung, ‘What is the connection between verbal communication and culture?’ (pp. 110-129)
- Deutscher Reading
- Ting-Toomey & Chung, ‘What are the different ways to communicate nonverbally across cultures?’ (pp. 130-153)

Week 4  Going Deeper
Class 4:1  Developing Intercultural Competence

Readings:
- Trompenaars & Hampden-Turner, ‘Relationships and rules’ and ‘Reconciling cultural dilemmas’ (pp. 29-50 & 200-217)
- Hammer Reading

Class 4:2  Practicing Intercultural Competence

Recognizing Something’s Up’ Activity

Readings:
- Harvard Business Review Case Study

Class 4:3  Stereotypes

Reflection Paper #2 Due

Readings:
- Plous Reading

Week 5  Putting It All Together

Class 5:1  Perceptions of Us

German perspectives on U.S. Americans and / or foreigners more generally (TBD)

Readings:
- Ogden Reading

Class 5:2  Digital Storytelling: Story Circles

Draft of script for final project

Class 5:3  Culture Shock and Intercultural Adjustment

Readings:
- Ting-Toomey & Chung, ‘What is culture shock?’ (pp. 91-109)

Week 6  Wrap-Up

Class 6:1  Re-Entry

Readings:
Class 6:2  
How can we articulate and use what we’ve learned?

Readings:

- British Council et al. Reading
- Matherly Reading

Class 6:3  
Digital Storytelling Viewing Party
Digital Stories!
Completed (online) Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)

Readings


Understanding Intercultural Communication (pp. 22-63). New York: Oxford University Press.


Online Resources


