Description

Spa 198 will be a course oriented towards developing your intercultural competence skills and helping you become a global citizen. The course will consist on written reflection assignments, interviews, blogs, conversation exchange, meetings and tasks to help you understand a foreign culture, interact with it, function efficiently, value and enjoy it.

What do we understand by intercultural competence?

AAC&U defines Intercultural Knowledge and Competence is "a set of cognitive, affective, and behavioral skills and characteristics that support effective and appropriate interaction in a variety of cultural contexts.” (Bennett, J. M. 2008)

Intercultural competences goals

1- Increasing cultural and personal self awareness through reflecting on our own experiences, past and present;

2- Increasing awareness of others within their own cultural and personal contexts;

3- Managing emotions & thoughts in the face of ambiguity, change, and challenging circumstances & people; and

4- Bridging cultural gaps: that is, shifting frames, attuning emotions and adapting behavior to other cultural contexts (Mick Vande Berg)

ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1
Write a reflection essay addressing these three points and upload it in SmartSite

- 1- Identify two personal goals for this abroad experience
- 2- Identify two skills that will help you interact efficiently with locals
- 3- Identify two challenges that you foresee for this abroad experience

Blog entry
Write your impressions, reactions, feelings, about the bullfighting show that you attended. If you did not attend the show explain the feelings, values that led you to make this decision
Coffee hour discuss our intercultural experiences

WEEK 2
Interview a Spaniard and discuss with him/her the idea that he/she has about Americans, America and the American culture. Exchange with this person your ideas about Spain, Spaniards, and Spanish culture. Put a touch of humor in the interview to make sure that you don’t not offend unintentionally the person that your are interviewing and that you don’t get offended by him/her.

Blog entry
Discuss the most rewarding experience and the most frustrating one since you arrived in Burgos. Explain how you handled both

Coffee hour discuss our intercultural experiences

WEEK 3
Go for a coffee, tapas, shopping or for a walk with a Spaniard and write a summary of the conversation that you had with him/her

Blog entry
What image do you have of Spaniards? Include the positive and the negative.

Coffee hour discuss our intercultural experiences

WEEK 4
Write a reflection essay addressing these four points and upload it in SmartSite

1- Review your personal goals (non-academic) for this off-campus experience. Did you achieve them? Why or why not?
2- Did the two skills that you identified help you interact efficiently with your new cultural environment? If so, why and how? If not, why not?
3- Did you indeed face the challenges that you anticipated prior to the experience? Explain. What other challenges did you find?
4- What strategies did you use to deal with those challenges (and perhaps others)?
5- What other skills or strategies were most useful?

Blog entry
What interaction with a Spaniard has been more rewarding since you arrived in Spain and why?

Coffee hour discuss our intercultural experiences