

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE: LEARNING AND LIVING IN ANOTHER CULTURE

SEMINAR 199: 1 UNIT P/NP

MADRID SPRING QUARTER ABROAD

PROFESSOR:

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The purpose of this seminar is to **maximize your experience abroad** by facilitating your **immersion** in the Spanish culture and by developing your **cross-cultural competence**. We will meet one hour per week and you will receive one unit P/NP. In order to reach our goal we will combine activities/tasks inside the classroom and outside the classroom:

A- Activities/tasks inside the classroom:

- a. Analyze and debate Spanish cultural identity
- b. Help you deal with the cultural shock (Cultural Adjustment Curve)
- c. Debate positive and negative experiences in our group and learn from our own experiences
- d. Interact with Spaniards
- e. Integrate your experience in your professional plans (job or graduate school)
- f. Facilitate your adaptation to Spanish culture:
 - i. how to adjust to a new environment (host family, apartment, school)
 - ii. how to relate to Spaniards,
 - iii. how to understand the variations in communication styles
 - iv. how to develop an intercultural sensitivity
 - v. how to respond to stereotypes,
 - vi. how to manage safety (physical and emotional). Local laws, medical services, emergencies

B- Activities/tasks outside the classroom

- a. Conversation exchanges with Spaniards
- b. Interviews to Spaniards
- c. Navigating and discovering Madrid
- d. Attend events in Madrid (soccer game, bullfight –optional-, fiestas de Madrid, exhibitions, visits to different neighborhoods, tapas, dinners...)
- e. Develop activities aiming to connect you with Madrid and the “madrileños

SYLLABUS

WEEK 2

The meaning of culture.

Adjusting to a new environment (host family, apartment, school)

Reflection: Positive and negative experiences in our group

WEEK 3

Managing safety in a foreign country (physical and emotional). Risks and benefits of leaving abroad. Understanding local laws, medical services, emergencies, police...

Reflection: Positive and negative experiences in our group

WEEK 4

Analyzing cultural shock (Cultural Adjustment Curve) How to manage the ups and downs of our experience?

Reflection: Positive and negative experiences in our group

WEEK 5

Developing intercultural sensitivity. How do we go from respecting to understanding, accepting and embracing Spanish culture? How do we read other cultures within the context of Spanish culture?

Reflection: Positive and negative experiences in our group

WEEK 6

Understanding Madrid and the “madrileños”. Urban map: entertainment, social structure, cultural spaces, business, immigrant’s areas

Reflection: Positive and negative experiences in our group

WEEK 7

Barcelona field trip. Catalonia cultural identity. Dialectics with the rest of Spain

WEEK 8

Responding to stereotypes. What do Spaniards expect from Americans? What do Americans expect from Spaniards?

Reflection: Positive and negative experiences in our group

WEEK 9

Analyzing different communication styles in Spain. Personal space, social context, formal situations, public employees, tone
Reflection: Positive and negative experiences in our group

WEEK 8

Integrating our experience abroad into our career or into our graduate school interests. How do we capitalize our experience abroad in our professional or academic interests? What does it mean being a global citizen? Reflection day. Debating our initial goals for the seminar. Did we achieve our goals?

Where did we succeed and/or fail?