Contemporary French Studies Program, Paris, France

Course number and name: ANTH 3001 PCFS/FRST 3003 PCFS
Intercultural Communication

Language of Instruction: English. French will also be used on occasion.

Course Meeting times and place: Wednesday, 2:00-5:00, CIEE-Paris.

Professor: Hannah Taieb (CIEE) and Jérémy Arki (Université de Paris).

Contact Hours: 45

Recommended Credit: 3 units

NB The final version of the syllabus will be provided in class.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to basic concepts of intercultural communication, including cultural values and beliefs; verbal and non-verbal communication; and stereotypes, focusing on the Franco-American context. It is also an introduction to the practice of intercultural dialogue, as it brings together CIEE students and students from the Université de Paris-Diderot. Selected themes, explored through regular work in Franco-American groups, include cultural differences in conceptions of the home, of non-verbal norms and practices, of food and drink, of humor in the context of popular culture, of the use of new technologies, and of love and relationships. Recommended credit: 3 semester / 4.5 quarter hours.

Learning Objectives

Objectives for intercultural competence:
By the end of the semester:

1) Students should be able to analyze intercultural encounters and misunderstandings, and have practical strategies to respond to them.

2) Students should be able to identify key differences in French and American university cultures, and to have practical strategies for working together with French people in this context.

3) Students should be able to define stereotypes, generalizations, and stigmatization, should be able to identify these phenomena when they occur in conversation and should have strategies to respond to them.

4) Students should be able to launch debates on intercultural issues in ways that avoid stereotypes.

5) Students should be able to identify and critically analyse the discourses evoked in France and the United States concerning the home, food and gastronomy, humor, and other themes developed in their group activities.
6) Students should have an understanding of French popular-culture norms and how they differ from their American equivalents.

**Course Prerequisites**

None.

**Course Requirements**

Readings must be done prior to each class.

A significant part of the grade is based on participation, which includes attendance, alert attention, and active engagement in all class activities, group work with French students, debates, and photo and video projects.

Students will be required to lead and co-lead class activities.

**Methods of Instruction**

The class will meet once a week for fourteen weeks for the CIEE students. Eleven classes will be held in common with students from the Université de Paris and will be co-taught by Prof. Arki. The first and last class, and one other class, will be only for CIEE students, and the first one-half hour of each joint class will also be only for CIEE students. Pedagogical strategies include co-teaching itself, and the extensive use of group work in Franco-American groups and student-led activities, and guided reflection on the intercultural issues emerging from this.

**Assessment and Final Grade**

Attendance & active participation, including student-led debates and other group activities 25%

Midterm Exam 25%

Final exam 25%

Video project 25%

NB: If you have a disability that necessitates special arrangements please contact the professor during the first week of class.

**WEEK-BY-WEEK**

Week I Wednesday September 16. *Introductions.*

Introduction to the CIEE class and to each other.

& Cultural conceptions of the home, of public and private.
& The French and American University systems.

**Reading:** Carroll, the Home (pp13-21).
Polly Platt, Six Codes.
Sections from Beyond the BAC: Higher Education in France and Abroad.
(These readings will be made available during ILP so you can have read them by the first class.)

**Week II**  Wednesday September 23. *Paris-Diderot and the French students.*

With Prof. Taïeb, CIEE students will take the metro to the Université de Paris-Diderot, where we will be met by Professor Arki and the French students. Visit to the campus, discussions with French students.

**Reading:** Reading: Maalouf, Amin. Section from “In the Name of Identity.”
Said, Edward. Section from “Out of Place.”

**Assignments** for next week: Obvious-curious and “A Day in the Life”.

**Week III.**  Wednesday September 30. *Obvious-curious.*

An introduction to discussing cultural differences.

Starting from this week, class will be held at CIEE-Paris. The first half-hour will be a discussion among CIEE students. At 2:30 the French students will join the class, with Prof. Arki.

**Reading:** Carroll, Introduction.
Dyer, The Role of Stereotypes.
Lustig and Koester, Cultural Biases.
Rosello, Declining the Stereotype.

**Assignment:** Debates.

**Week IV.**  Wednesday October 7. *Untranslatable words and ways.*

**Reading:** Carroll, Conversation. Baudry, Explicitness. Tracy.

**Week V.**  Wednesday October 14. *Morning Routine.*

**Reading:** tbd.

**Week VI.**  Wednesday October 21. *New Technologies and Transnational Cultures.*

**Video project assignment launched (due Dec. 2).**

**Week VII.**  Wednesday Oct. 28. *Humor.*

**Reading:** tbd.

**Week VIII.**  Wednesday Nov. 4. *Midterm.*
Week IX.  November 11th is a holiday. This class will be made up. The make-up class will be only for CIEE students. Details tbd.

Week X.  Wednesday Nov. 18. **Food.**

**Reading:** Shields, Imagining the Self and Other.

Week XI.  Wednesday Nov. 25. **Love Relationships and Dating.**

**Reading:** Carroll, Friendship and Relationships.

Week XII.  Wednesday Dec. 2. **Final exam.**

**Video project due.**

Week XIII.  Wednesday Dec. 9. **Final class with French students.**

Viewing of video projects.

Discussion of final exam.

Farewell.

Week XIV.  Wednesday Dec. 16. **Final class with CIEE students.**

**Bibliography**

*Texts in the course reader will be selected from this list.*


Shields-Argelès, Christy, "Imagining the Self and the Other: Food and Identity in France and the United States." *Food, Culture and Society* (Journal of the Association for the Study of Food and Society), Fall 2004.