

## **Winter University**

# **Cross-Cultural Communication**

**(Lecturer: Verena Brenner)**

The accelerating pace of globalization has made cross-cultural competence an indispensable qualification for today's university graduates. This seminar introduces students to different approaches of comparing cultures and their value systems as well as to the principles of intercultural communication. It familiarizes them with the concepts and methods developed by intercultural anthropologists for analyzing cross-cultural misunderstandings and therefore look for a deeper understanding of different cultures.

### **The class contains three components:**

- I. A culture-general section giving a global overview of the major areas where cultures differ with special focus on the cultures of the participants as well as the German culture. Case studies, simulation games, role plays and short films provide concrete illustrations and make students aware of their own cultural moorings. Topics include: stereotypes and prejudices, ethnocentrism, individualism/collectivism, status, gender roles, concept of time and space, verbal and non-verbal communication styles as well as conflict resolution.
- II. The participants will also explore cultural differences between their own cultures and the German culture by doing their own case studies in specific areas of interest through interviews, observation of selected situations, and a photo excursion.
- III. The student will go on guided excursions in the Stuttgart area visiting museums and other places which are either important to Germany in general and to Baden-Württemberg in particular or which are related to intercultural issues, respectively.

### **Methods:**

- Lectures
- Discussions
- Group work
- Excursions
- Portfolio
- Interviews
- Films

# Winter University 2020

## Cross-Cultural Communication (Verena Brenner)

45 contact hours/4 ECTS

Topic
Introduction to class & cross cultural competence
Culture and values & simulation
Cultural differences, part I
Excursion: Lindenmuseum
Cultural differences, part II
Cultural differences, part III
Excursion: „Haus der Geschichte“
One country – various cultures
German Film
Migration and Cultural Change
Excursion: “Welthaus”
Photo Excursion
Cross-Cultural Conflict Resolution
Presentation of results of Photo Excursion

Course Grading is based on two parts:

(1) Participation in class and during excursions: 50%

(2) Portfolio work (including presentation in class): 50%

Over the duration of the class, the portfolio method is used as a tool to deepen reflection, allow discussion, and connect the topics discussed with personal experience. During or after each of our classes students will receive tasks or handouts to be completed, including multiple choice, creative writing and other exercises, case studies, excursion reports, creative writing, mind maps, ..., thus allowing for a continuous assessment of cross cultural competence and personal development.