**Intercultural Competence**

**Course guide**

Dear students, this guide will help you to understand course structure, assignments in virtual learning environment and link to the learning content. It will explain to you how to study and how your personal achievements will be assessed.

**Teacher:**

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**Course summary:**

Developing Intercultural Competence is becoming increasingly important in today’s globalized world. With this online course, you will have the chance to know some key concepts related to culture (definitions, understanding of how cultures differ, the relation between culture and identity and stereotypes), reflect on what Intercultural Competence is and how it can be developed and also learn some strategies to overcome barriers to cross-cultural communication in face-to-face and online modes.

**Learning outcomes of the course:**

* To learn some key concepts related to culture (definitions, understanding of how cultures differ, the relation between culture and identity and stereotypes)
* To understand what Intercultural Competence is and how it can be developed
* To learn some strategies to overcome barriers to cross-cultural communication in face-to-face and online modes

**Learning material** consists of:

* literature;
* presentations;
* practical tasks;
* discussion forums;
* videos;
* individual and collective reflections.

**The main course topics and assignments are:**

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| **Module** | **Units** | **Study week** | **Assignments** |
| Introduction  | Introductory information and instructions | 1 | 1. Information and instructions 2. Icebreaker activity |
| Module 1 – Culture | Unit 1 – Definitions of culture | 1 | 1. Contextualization 1: brainstorming about culture with visual board2. Contextualization 2: warm-up forum discussion3. Conceptualization with ppts4. Experimentation 1: drag & drop exercise with Iceberg of Culture5. Experimentation 2: quizz about characteristics of culture6. Collective wrap-up forum reflection |
| Unit 2 – How cultures differ | 2 | 1. Contextualization: forum discussion based on a newspaper article2. Conceptualization with ppts3. Experimentation: country comparison in Hofstede‘s tool and delivery of group report4. Collective wrap-up forum reflection |
| Unit 3 – Culture and Identity | 3 | 1. Contextualization: forum discussion 2. Conceptualization with ppts3. Experimentation 1 and 2: quizzes about cultural layers4. Collective wrap-up forum reflection: draw an onion exercise  |
| Unit 4 – Stereotypes | 4 | 1. Contextualization: forum discussion based on a video about stereotypes2. Conceptualization with ppts3. Experimentation: heeling wheel cycle (group work)4. Collective wrap-up forum reflection |
| Module 2 – Intercultural Competence | Unit 1 – Intercultural Competence models | 5 | 1. Contextualization: forum discussion 2. Conceptualization with ppts3. Experimentation: quizz about IC models4. Collective wrap-up forum reflection |
| Unit 2 – Becoming Interculturally Competent | 6 | 1. Contextualization: forum discussion based on a newspaper article2. Conceptualization with ppts3. Experimentation: quizz about IC models Intercultural Sensitivity Model4. Collective wrap-up forum reflection |
| Module 3 – Intercultural Challenges | Unit 1 – Barriers to Cross-cultural Communication | 7 | 1. Contextualization: forum discussion based on a video 2. Conceptualization with ppts3. Experimentation: analysis of incidents4. Collective wrap-up forum reflection |
| Unit 2 – Intercultural Virtual Teams | 8 | 1. Contextualization: forum discussion based on a video 2. Conceptualization with ppts3. Experimentation: assginment: students have to list strategies for intercultural virtual teams4. Collective wrap-up forum reflection |
| Conclusion | Course wrap-up | 9 | 1. Summary of concepts from the course 2. Collective wrap-up forum reflection 3. Experimentation: students have to write an individual reflection with a diagnostic about their own level of IC and also establishing at least 3 strategies to develop it in the future |

**Assessment strategy and evaluation criteria:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment** |  | **Criteria** | **Total of the final mark** |
| **Introduction** |  | Icebreaker activity – 5 points | **5** |
| **Module 1** | **U1** | Contextualization 1 – 3 pointsContextualization 2 – 2 pointsExperimentation – 3 pointsWrap-up reflection – 2 points | **10** |
| **U2** | Contextualization: 3 pointsExperimentation: 10 pointsWrap-up reflection: 2 points | **15** |
| **U3** | Contextualization: 2 pointsExperimentation 1: 2,5 pointsExperimentation 2: 2,5 pointsWrap-up reflection: 3 points | **10** |
| **U4** | Contextualization: 2 pointsExperimentation: 6 pointsWrap-up reflection: 2 points | **1o** |
| **Module 2** | **U1** | Contextualization: 3 pointsExperimentation: 4 pointsWrap-up reflection: 3 points | **10** |
| **U2** | Contextualization: 3 pointsExperimentation: 4 pointsWrap-up reflection: 3 points | **10** |
| **Module 3** | **U1** | Contextualization: 2 pointsExperimentation: 6 pointsWrap-up reflection: 2 points | **10** |
| **U2** | Contextualization: 3 pointsExperimentation: 5 pointsWrap-up reflection: 2 points | **10** |
| **Conclusion** |  | Collective forum reflection: 5 points Experimentation: 5 points  | **10** |
| **Total** | **100** |