IPS 305 Global Awareness and Intercultural Competence

**Course Description**

This course focuses on developing a critical framework for understanding culture and its influence on daily interactions with other people. Emphasis is placed on recognizing the needs of oppressed and marginalized groups, including issues of race and gender equity. Students will examine their interconnections with groups who have a history of oppression. Students will be encouraged to show active respect toward differences in perspectives, experiences, values, and individual histories of others and will be guided to develop effective change strategies to promote social justice in their personal and work environments. This course integrates IPS 306 Self-Awareness.

**SLOs**

1. Examine multiple dimensions of diversity, culture, and identity from a critical perspective.
2. Describe and analyze significant global issues.
3. Compare and contrast ethical perspectives and the relationship to human rights and justice.
4. Apply key strategies for engaging in intercultural interactions.
5. Construct effective arguments with a thesis statement, supporting evidence, and proper grammar.
6. Write in genres appropriate to the discipline of the primary subject matter of the course.

**Major Assignments**

**Team Research Paper**

Complete a research essay in a series of phases. Phase I: Choose a region of the world and a specific topic about that region on which to focus. Phase II: Develop an outline that includes at least 6-8 potential references for the final paper. Phase III: Deliver a detailed discussion of some of the following issues: strengths and limitations of this regional community; evidence and dimensions of structural oppression; and forms of power, privilege, and marginalization. Identify viable ideas for potential change, development, and community action. Phase IV: Evaluate your teammates.

**Individual Plan for Continued Growth**

Outline a plan for change in the future. Do you see any changes now in your approach to addressing cultural issues? What have you noticed in terms of cultural differences, worldview, social construction that have caused you to question what you thought about diversity? Do you think what you’ve learned will impact your future actions and growth? Are there ways you can see yourself being engaged in global change processes? What would be your first steps and what skills might you enhance?

**Group Movie Review**

Each group will review and critically analyze a movie, reflecting on issues of structural oppression, personal strengths, community, and change.

**Reading List**


**The Student Experience**

“This course helps open our eyes to our own prejudices that we didn’t even know were there and helps us exercise empathy for others who are different from us.”