

**Introduction to intercultural awareness –  
30 hours – 10 sessions  
Université de Grenoble, Fall 2012**

**Course Description:**

This course takes an interdisciplinary approach from the social sciences, to explore intercultural issues and cultural theory in the contemporary context of globalization. With the larger goal of dealing with culture and its elusive definitions, this class will introduce students to the study of culture through the work of anthropologists, economists, and contemporary popular culture. It hopes to provide students with an appreciation for the diversity of the human experience, particularly in the French context.

The course aims to develop a deeper understanding of cultural differences in general, and on the French culture in particular. Students will become familiarized with tested models and theories through presentations, discussions and short case studies, in order to examine and analyze the impact of culture in everyday life and the ways in which societal values impact cultural practices.

These materials will also be related to the students' study abroad experience and the acculturation process, and the implications it holds for their own identity and values.

**Course Objectives:**

This course is designed to help students cultivate:

- Awareness of similarities and differences between the home and target culture and other cultures
- Greater self-awareness (emotional & cultural intelligence) through the acculturation process experienced during study abroad
- Analytical tools facilitating cultural dialogue and comparison (cultural models & theory)
- Recognition of cultural variables and universal dimensions of culture, and ability to elaborate and describe the communication norms, rituals, and taboos of other cultures.
- Understanding of how communication processes differ among cultures to identify challenges that arise from these differences in intercultural interactions and learn ways to creatively address them.

**Course evaluation:**

The students will

- make group presentations during class on various reading assignments;
- complete a mini case study (length: 1 hour) at the end of the last session. This exercise is meant to gauge their ability to apply the theoretical models studied in class to a real world situation.