Navigating Cultures: Living & Working Around the Globe in the 21st Century

(Peace and Conflict Studies 119.3 Fall Semester 2010, Four Units)

You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else. Albert Einstein

Today’s game is global and the rules are cultural. Those who understand, think and act effectively across cultures are best placed to play better in careers.

This class provides students the knowledge and skills to be more effective in the global arena. We will learn how culture shapes perceptions, defines relationships and influences outcomes. Led by an international teaching team, the course will focus on how culture influences behavior in the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China). We will also examine the nuanced behaviors of other cultures, including the US, Turkey and the Arab world.

Navigating Cultures incorporates case studies and practical, hands-on simulations from business, diplomacy, politics and everyday life to take students beyond the classroom. These will be supplemented with thought provoking presentations from guest speakers, lively discussions and the occasional YouTube or film clip. By the end of the semester students will have a better understanding of their own cultural compass and tools to assess and interact with other cultures in an insightful and non-judgmental manner.

Einstein cautions: “Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.”

Navigating Cultures is about understanding and is taught at International House.

Class size is strictly limited to facilitate participation. Students are encouraged to register early.

Course Control Number: 66742 (PACS 119 Special Topics 003)

Instructors:
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