

CROSS CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

Fairleigh Dickinson University

Fall, 2017

Course Title: Cross Cultural Perspectives
Section: UNIV 2001
Day & Time:
Building & Room:
Credits: 3

Instructor:
E-Mail:
Office Phone:
Office Hours:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students learn to describe and analyze cultural phenomena in their own lives, to grapple with cultural differences, and to understand cultural conflicts through an interdisciplinary lens. Through a study of examples across cultures, students examine the fluidity and multiplicity of cultural identities and borders. Central to the course are the ways in which cultures change, how cultures shape and are shaped by individuals, how misunderstandings and conflicts arise within and between cultures, and how those differences evolve. Critical thinking and discourse skills are developed in order to become a more informed global citizen.

COURSE STRUCTURE

In examining the role of the individual, the community and the global world, UNIV 2001 covers three units: the meaning of work; the role of faith, spirituality, & social justice; and the meaning of culture along with cultural products such as art, literature, and music. Each of the units will include a discussion of the following themes:

- The impact of money and power
- The contributions of gender and personal identity
- How culture defines space and place
- The differences and similarities among cultures
- The role of cultural institutions and social networks
- How various cultures can be inclusionary or exclusive

The unit on work is mandatory. Your instructor may use the other two units or choose to focus on a specialized theme that addresses the same critical objectives and themes of the course above. Please see the Course Matrix document for detailed descriptions.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to

- Demonstrate an understanding of the influence of cultures and cultural contexts on human behavior through comparing and contrasting similarities and differences among cultures.
- Analyze the role of work, faith, spirituality, justice, and gender within and across cultures
- Understand and explain the embeddedness of cultural products and/or practices within cultures

- Evaluate the personal, community, and global impact of the economy within and across cultures
- Critique and understand the influence of gender on work and other power disparities within and across cultures
- Draw connections about the role institutions and networks in shaping and conferring identity within cultures

All of the course objectives are predicated on the development of information literacy and effective use of technology by integrating the resources of campus libraries. Library staff are always available for consultation and assistance.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Students enrolled at Fairleigh Dickinson University are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. For details, consult the academic integrity policy online. This link offers the complete details of Fairleigh Dickinson University's [Academic Integrity Policy](#). All students are required to read the policy and familiarize themselves with expected sanctions. The information is also available in the University's Undergraduate Bulletin, the FDU Student Handbook or online at the FDU website.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Fairleigh Dickinson University adheres to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any student with documented medical, psychological or learning disabilities who feels he/she may need in-class academic adjustments, reasonable modifications and/or auxiliary aids and services while taking this course, should first contact the Associate Provost at 201-692-2477 (Metropolitan Campus) or 973-443-8079 (Florham Park Campus). Once the academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids and services are approved, make an appointment to see the professor. All materials required for the course are accessible to individuals with sensory disabilities

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Achebe *Things Fall Apart*. New York: Anchor, 1994. 978-0385474542.

Watson, Helen. *Women in the City of the Dead*. Trenton: Africa World Press, 1992. ISBN 978-0865432819.

Coursepack for UNIV 2001