



## Courses Highlighting Culture, Race, & Diversity

### **Arabic 1080 - Culture and Commerce in the Arab World (remote) (this is NOT an economics course)**

*Fulfills a Humanities requirement, a Multi-Cultural Non-US Diversity requirement, and can count toward the Intercultural Competency Certificate. It can also count toward one option of the College of Arts and Letters' culture requirement.*

This course builds on the principles of intercultural communication in its theoretical and practical aspects, and provides an introduction to the culture and society of the Arabic speaking world emphasizing business and economics. It introduces you to contemporary Arab culture and its implication to business and commerce. This course will benefit you whether you visit an Arab country for business or leisure, or if you engage in business with people of Arab origin in this country, and/or if you do electronic commerce with partners from the Arab world. Furthermore, this course will help you gain insight and competence to successfully overcome cultural differences. When possible, the course may include field visits to Arab-American local businesses, and will host a number of visiting speakers.

### **Arabic 3980 – Middle East Studies - MES 2400 - Introduction to the contemporary cultures of the Middle East through movies and arts (online)**

This course introduces you to the contemporary cultures of the Middle East and North Africa in both theoretical terms and details of daily life. It provides a general overview of the geography and demography of the Middle East, and engages in discussing the different aspects of the life of the people in the different Middle East countries using movies and art. We will focus on the different constituents of the Middle Eastern cultures as they are reflected in movies, music, artwork, paintings, video clips, literary works, and other creative expressions. This course is web-assisted; Blackboard is used to post course related material, take quizzes and post assignments.

### **Chinese 1090 - Chinese Culture (taught in English) (online)**

*Fulfills a Humanities requirement, a Multi-Cultural Non-US Diversity requirement, and can count toward the Intercultural Competency Certificate. It can also count toward one option of the College of Arts and Letters' culture requirement.*

Chinese Culture is designed for those who are interested in the Chinese way of thinking and behaviors, and who will potentially pursue China-related career or studies. Through the introduction to Chinese, geography, history, traditional values, thoughts, customs, and patterns of behaviors, this course aims to help you build a professional and effective understanding of Chinese people's living experiences. You will have opportunities to participate in discussions, conduct self-reflection, and do collaborative group work to craft your critical thinking skills. Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Recall basic facts about China, such as demographic characteristics, geographic location/scope, brief ancient/modern history, and socio-economic structures;

2. Identify fundamental Chinese values and beliefs, including Chinese classic philosophical thoughts, and essential values extracted from other schools of thoughts;
3. Compare Chinese family traditions, education, medicine, business etiquette and customs with American traditions and customs;
4. Compare Chinese music, art, Language, Literature and other forms of arts with different types of western arts, language and literature;
5. Apply basic Chinese philosophies in daily life and reflect on how they help individuals gain inspiration and wisdom;
6. Discover Contemporary issues in China based on given topics.

**FLAN 2700 – World Cultures through Literature & Cinema in Translation (*taught in English*) (spring semester)**

*Fulfills a Multicultural Non-US Diversity requirement*

This course introduces you to World Cultures through selected translated texts and films from various European, Latin American, African, Asian, and Middle East cultures. Among the themes considered are *race, gender, class, immigration, and colonialism*. Selected texts and films will vary but will be drawn from cultures represented in the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

Questions? Contact: Dr. Ruth Hottell [ruth.hottell@utoledo.edu](mailto:ruth.hottell@utoledo.edu)

**FLAN 3440 - Intercultural Communication: Principles and Practice (*taught in English*) (online)**

*Fulfills a Multicultural Non-US Diversity requirement*

The objective of this course is to introduce you to the fundamentals of intercultural communication. This course will provide a general overview of the basic topics, concepts, theories, and themes that are at the center of intercultural communication. In this course, we read, discuss, and analyze scholarship related to this field of study. The course is web-assisted, using Blackboard to post course related material, take quizzes and post assignments.

**French 1090 – French and Francophone culture in the modern world (*taught in English*) (online) (spring semester)**

*Fulfills a Humanities requirement, a Multi-Cultural Non-US Diversity requirement, and can count toward the Intercultural Competency Certificate. It can also count toward one option of the College of Arts and Letters culture requirement.*

This course discusses the history of France throughout the world, and addresses the racism inherent in colonialism in the Francophone world.

There are readings and discussions of the following books:

- [Houseboy](#) by Ferdinand Oyono who describes the cruelty of colonialism as perpetuated by the French in Cameroon.

- [The Dark Child](#) by Camara Laye about his childhood in French Guinea.

- [Ourika](#), a 19<sup>th</sup> century novella by Claire de Duras about a child “bought” out of slavery and raised as an aristocrat during the French Revolution only to learn that her skin color and the anxiety over intermarriage will leave her forever marginalized.

You will connect these courses to the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court case of Loving v. Virginia that finally declared unconstitutional those laws criminalizing intermarriage between blacks and whites.

## **French 3400 – Cross Cultural Understanding (F2F) (spring semester)**

*This course examines the notions of cultures, multiculturalism, and Francophone Cultures. The course content emphasizes issues of race, class, and gender in U.S. and Francophone contexts. (Non-Western multicultural course).*

Course content and Student Learning Outcomes: The course may be divided roughly into three subdivisions, not presented particularly in order, rather interwoven with each other.

*You will read, view films, and reflect on the following:*

1. What is culture? What are the effects of cultural experience on perception in general? How are culture and cultural roles acquired? How do cultural assumptions affect our perception of other people?
2. What does it mean to be "French"? What does it mean to be "Francophone"?
3. Becoming Multicultural.

### *Coursework Specifics:*

Coursework consists of reading, discussion questions and activities, and film viewings. You will keep a portfolio containing a written transcript of class discussions and group discussions and reading/viewing notes. You will be tested on reading material and discussion questions at mid-term and the final exam period. Emphasis is placed on expressing thoughts (i.e., communication) rather than memorization of facts and figures.

*Reactions papers:* You will write 4 (four) short reactions papers discussing a class reading or film of their choice (2-4 pages). No outside references required.

*Final research project:* You will research a topic concerning the Francophone world and write a paper (5-7 pages) on the topic. The topic will be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

## **German 1090 – Modern German Culture (taught in English) (spring semester)**

WELCOME TO GERMAN 1090! WILLKOMMEN!

*German 1080 meets UT's core curriculum humanities requirement and the College of Arts and Letters culture requirement.*

This course is designed to give you a general understanding of present-day life, culture, and commerce in the German-speaking countries of Central Europe. Are you considering a trip to Germany, Austria, Switzerland, or Liechtenstein? Planning such a trip is one of the assignments in Modern German Culture. Join us to learn more about present-day life and culture in the four German-speaking countries of Central Europe. Major focal points are history, politics, the arts, and education. We will also discuss topics related to these German-speaking countries currently in the news. Your attendance, completion of homework assignments, and active participation in class discussions are vital components to the success of our class. Materials for this course are available online: you do not need to purchase any texts. This course is taught in English, but we will learn a few German words along the way.

Questions? Prof. Walter Josef Denk [walter.denk@utoledo.edu](mailto:walter.denk@utoledo.edu) or 419-530-6036.

### **Japanese 1090 - Introduction to Japanese Culture (taught in English)**

*Fulfills a Humanities requirement, a Multi-Cultural Non-US Diversity requirement, and can count toward the Intercultural Competency Certificate. It can also count toward one option of the College of Arts & Letters culture requirement.*

This course is designed to help students understand how and why Japanese people think and behave differently from our perspectives. Traditionally, American education has been focusing on European cultures and geographies, but somehow studying about Asia is either ignored or limited. Therefore, enormous contributions made to the world by Asian people and their cultures are often identified by vague references. This lack of understanding develops not only a certain stereo type understanding of Asian people, but also numbers of difficulties in dealing with business practices and political relationships as our society faces global challenges today. Unfortunately, Japanese culture remains mysterious to many students. However, one undeniable fact has to be recognized that to conceive the world relationship without Japan is neither realistic nor possible today.

#### **Course Objectives:**

A student will be familiarized with Japanese culture through investigation on three areas through cultural video presentation on each session.

- A cultural investigation: Film industry, Philosophy, Arts, Music, Life style;
- A political investigation: A study comparing political practices in the U.S.;
- A social investigation: Marriage system, the role of youth, women, the class structure, the impact of technology, value system.

### **Spanish 1090 - Culture of Latin America (taught in English) (online)**

*Fulfills a Humanities requirement, a Multi-Cultural Non-US Diversity requirement, and can count toward the Intercultural Competency Certificate. It can also count toward one option of the College of Arts and Letters' culture requirement.*

This distance learning course is an introductory, comprehensive, and detailed overview on the Latin American culture's origins and developments up to the present times, with a strong emphasis in history and social movements. Its main goal is to immerse you in a series of relevant discussion prompts, reflective activities and topics, as well as potential research subjects that will expand and enhance the global aspect of your targeted professions and/or your personal interests and endeavors. The learning outcomes of this interactive, critical thinking based and intercultural class, are the following:

- 1) To learn about both native and present-day Latin American societies;
- 2) To get an accurate and broader sense of the historical backgrounds and the differences among Latin American citizens from various countries;
- 3) To debate, analyze, and interpret the course contents in order to develop an objective, factual-based knowledge on Latin America's geography, politics, economy and culture, among others;
- 4) To critically reflect on the decisive relationships between the United States and Latin America and their interconnected affairs;
- 5) To understand, to a fair extent, the motivations that have triggered the immigration within Latin American territories and also the immigration from Central America to the United States.

### **Spanish 1100 – Culture of Spain (taught in English) (online)**

This course studies the events, people, and movements that have formed Spain.

The purpose of this course is to help you better understand the cultural characteristics of the Spanish society through the ages, as they appear in its social and political history, literature, and various forms of the arts. This study of culture will be taught in the frame of a chronological presentation, starting from the Pre-history to the post-Franco era and present. The electronic lectures and discussions will encourage further thought on those political, economic, religious, and artistic issues which represent the major themes in Spanish cultural history. You will have the opportunity to further explore lighter topics, which may increase your level of general knowledge of modern Spain. The basic aim of the course is to gain a general understanding of a person's weight in the evolution of what we consider the present Spanish social and cultural identity. Since this is a Distance Learning class, a major part of this course is its multidisciplinary and multimedia character, which will be presented with the extensive use of audio and video material to help understand Spanish culture through its art and political and social issues. Group work and the use of Blogs, Wikis, and other interactive tools, will be a major part of this class.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and understand the geography of Spain through the study of its history and people;
2. Gain general knowledge of how Spain's history changed the world;
3. Utilize critical thinking to evaluate various historical periods and events;
4. Demonstrate general knowledge of Spain's art, architecture, music, and cuisine;
5. Analyze major differences and similarities between Spain and its European neighbors;
6. Understand the various regions and its languages, religions, and festivals;
7. Increase their knowledge of current affairs in Spain.

### **Spanish 3410 – Spanish Culture and Civilization (F2F) (spring semester)**

Descripción de los objetivos del curso:

El objetivo del curso es presentar un panorama general de la cultura y civilización de España desde sus comienzos hasta hoy día. Al final del curso el estudiante será capaz de:

- 1) distinguir los momentos históricos más importantes de la historia española
- 2) enumerar las características socio-políticas y culturales de la España contemporánea
- 3) analizar el impacto de la historia y las características socio-políticas y culturales en la formación de la España contemporánea