

ENGL 7538/8538 —Cultural Issues in English as a Second Language (3)

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Text: TBA

Aims and Organization: This course explores the growing diversity of student populations and the implications for teaching English as a Second/Foreign Language. The course gives teachers a perspective on how language and culture interact, with a focus on the impact of culture on students' perceptions, learning styles, needs, expectations, and rate of second language acquisition.

Discussion will center on:

- language minority students in multicultural classrooms,
- sociocultural factors in teaching
- sociocultural contexts of language development,
- adapting materials and developing lessons plans, and
- the acculturation process

Students will look at representative research in these areas, evaluate texts, and develop strategies for working with multi-cultural classes.

Assignments and Written Work:

Readings: Chapters in the text as well as outside readings linked to the web page.

- Post reactions to the readings as messages on Discussion Board. These postings will not only summarize the readings, but will give a personal reaction to the content. What in the chapter is particularly useful to the ESL teacher? How does the theoretical framework translate into classroom implementation? Does the chapter throw light on any personal experiences the student has had, in or out of the classroom?

-Take the quiz on each module.

- Develop a set of questions and conduct an interview with either someone from another country who has been in the U.S. for at least 6 months, or someone from the U.S. who has lived in another country for at least a year. The questions should focus on cross-cultural experiences and draw on the theoretical framework from the text. The interview should be written up and submitted as a message on the Discussion Board. You may not use your own experience for this assignment, but may draw on that experience for the journal entries.

Non k-12 teachers can conduct their interviews with anyone who has significant experience living in the U.S. and in another culture.

- Participate in online discussions on the class website and answer questions posted by the instructor.
- Conduct an "anthropological" visit and post your observations on the Discussion Board. See the assignment description under Contents.
- Take a final exam.

Students with Disabilities

Any student who may need class or test accommodations based on the impact of a disability is encouraged to speak privately with the instructor to discuss your specific needs. Students with disabilities should also contact Student Disability Services (SDS) at 110 Wilder Tower, 678-2880. SDS coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.