

Introduction to Intercultural Management (Blockseminar) 2009-2010

For students of MiG, PEESE, and BSPH

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This seminar is designed for (public health) students who want to explore the implications of cultural differences in their professional interactions and personal lives.

The **objective** of the course is to introduce the students to the key concepts in the literature on intercultural management and to enable them to reflect on how their cultural backgrounds affect their perception and behavior in intercultural interactions, with the intention of helping them engage productively in such situations

Intercultural competence requires an understanding of culture at multiple levels (societal, organizational, professional, etc) and the ability to reflect on how cultural assumptions and values influence perception and behavior. The course entails grappling with concepts and theories in the literature then applying them to real interactions. A high level of **participation** is therefore required.

The course will be structured in blocks to enable intense work. After an introductory session (2hrs) at the beginning of the semester, the students will have several weeks to read the **required literature** (a reader is provided) and will then meet for a 2.5-day block to discuss the readings in depth. Then they will **write a paper** linking theory to practical experience. That paper will serve as the basis for the work in a second 2.5-day block towards the end of the semester.

The **grade** will be based on class participation (50%) and the quality of the written personal case.

DATES WS 2009-2010:

- Introduction: 27 October, 16:00-18:00 at the TU (room to be announced)
- Block 1: Discussion of literature December 3-5 at the WZB (B004-005)
- Block 2: Work on cases January 28-30, 2010 at the WZB (004-005)

Times for the Block seminars: 14:00-19:00 on Thursday and Friday, 9:00-16:00 on Saturday.

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