

Developing Intercultural Competence

Using the Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity

AES 270, Spring 2021

Are you interested in a Fulbright scholarship, joining the Peace Corps, or State Department work? Perhaps you're considering teaching abroad or working in an intercultural setting... this course is designed to increase your intercultural competence.



Intercultural competency is a continuous learning process to develop knowledge, appreciation, acceptance, and skills to be able to discern cultural patterns in your own and other cultures and be able to effectively incorporate several different worldviews into problem solving, decision making, and conflict resolution. It is also the capability to shift cultural perspective and adapt behavior to cultural commonality and difference in order to successfully accomplish cross-cultural goals. Such capability is developmental and it is learned; this course is intended to support such capability with opportunities for cognitive growth and reflection.

Throughout this course, we will explore the Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity, a theoretical model designed to explain developmental progression of worldview and experience of cultural difference. We will utilize the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) tool, review your own IDI Individual Profile Report to gain insight into how you make sense of cultural differences and commonalities, and examine ways to systematically increase your intercultural competence —from where you are to where you want to be—by designing and beginning to implement your own Intercultural Development Plan. In this course, you will gain exposure to cultural difference through working with classmates from different cultures and local organizations which serve immigrant and refugee populations. There will be opportunities for remote volunteer activities, such as helping children with schoolwork or practicing English with adults through tutoring or conversation groups.

Spring 2021: M 2:10-4:10 pm, counts as credit towards Global Perspectives general education requirement

For more information contact Brittney Peake, peakeb@lclark.edu