

Global anglophone culture

Course purpose

China's professionals and scientists of the future will increasingly have to work with foreign colleagues, play management roles in multinational organisations and participate in international joint-working. Many will also spend some part of their career working abroad. This course gives students the global awareness and thinking skills necessary to make the best of these opportunities. It is suitable for all students who will work in an international environment.

Course outline

The standard plan is based on a 7-lecture course (at least one additional week is required for assessments). This can be modified, by dropping or adding exercises, to fit the timeframe available. Assessments are done by attendance, class exercises, an assignment and a short test.

1. **Introduction.** Course introductions and defining terms are done. Students talk about their ambitions. In this context, the reasons for studying cultures are discussed. Students prepare an introduction to a cultural difference for the next class.
2. **Culture.** Cultural differences are explored and the meaning of "culture" is examined. Personal experiences of culture are discussed.
3. **Conformity and conflict.** The social psychology of conformity is discussed. Examples of positive and negative conformity, and social conflict are considered.
4. **Globalisation.** The process of globalisation is discussed, its positive and negative aspects are analysed, as well as positive and negative reactions to it.
5. **Identity.** Issues of identity: gender, race, ethnicity, etc., are examined. The problems of offense and identity politics in global culture are considered.
6. **Individualism.** Social media use is analysed, with particular reference to community and isolation. Issues of personas, truth, morality and responsibility are considered.
7. **The future.** The evolution of global anglophone culture is considered with particular reference to integration, rationality and conflict resolution. Test schedules are arranged and the marking criteria explained.

(Much of the material for this course was developed by Tsunyota Kohet, currently at USTC)

Review

Students report that this course gives them a clearer sense of the native culture, the emergent culture of the English-speaking world and themselves.