DM8005W  Culture and Language

Offered: 2017: Intensive – January / February

This unit emphasizes the strong link between culture and language, and the importance of gaining capacity in a community’s language for cross-cultural engagement. The unit will introduce students to the concepts of language and cultural participation outlined in the Growing Participator’s Approach (GPA). The unit will also introduce students to the Six Phase Program, a tool for growing a cross-cultural worker’s ability to understand and speak with people from a different culture and language community. The third tool to be introduced, the Engaging Culture, Worldview Inquiry Program (ECWIP), enables a cross-cultural worker to observe and participate in social situations and move towards understanding them from the host community’s perspective.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Describe the links between culture and language
2. Articulate the principles associated with the Growing Participator’s Approach
3. Demonstrate the activities associated with Phase 1 of the Six Phase Program
4. Identify some of the differences between emic and etic perspectives on social situations
5. Demonstrate an ability to observe and participate in a social situation and inquire about it from an actor in the social situation.
6. Articulate a “thick description” of a social situation and the meanings attached to it by members of the community.
7. Evaluate the multiple perspectives that actors may offer on social situations and the relevance of this cultural complexity for emic description.

Prerequisites: Nil

Class Time: Intensive (5 days)

Assessment:
- GPA Phase 1 & ECWIP Activities Participation
  (approximately 1,500 words) (20%)
- One essay (3,000 words) (40%)
- Three 500 word Thick Descriptions of Social Situations (40%)

Faculty: Ian Dicks

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase