Intercultural competences in communication and organizational processes (LM-50 and LM-87) - Academic Year2011/2012

Course Year: 2nd Master in Innovation in Forschung und Praxis der Sozialen Arbeit
Semester: 1st (26.09.2011 – 21.01.2012)
Exam Code 53007 (Sociology of inclusion)

Scientific Area: SPS/08
Lecturer: Prof. Zinn Dorothy Louise

Module: Yes in total 2
Lecturer other module: Prof. Stiehler Steve

Credit Points: 6
Total Lecture Hours: 30
Total Hours of availability for students and tutoring: 20

Attendance: According to the regulations
Teaching Language: English
Propaedeutic Course: none

Course Description: The course will introduce anthropological concepts dealing with culture and social analysis in order to address the theme of intercultural competences with a critical epistemological approach, adopting a constructionist position of social reality to explore different interpretations of given intercultural situations. Specific topics to be covered will include: the culture concept and the risk of reifying cultures; social constructionism; cultural difference and essentialism; ethnocentrism, orientalism and othering; critical cosmopolitanism; identity. Students will be invited to consider the socio-political contexts and positionings in which intercultural communication takes place. The course will also consider how literature and film constitute sources for reflection on intercultural communication.

Educational Objectives: The course aims to develop the students' familiarity with the complexities of intercultural communication and offer the bases of a perspective that seeks to avoid the pitfalls of cultural reification and essentialism. In-class discussion and activities will cultivate a reflexive self-awareness as well as the assumption of a decentered stance that is ethically and pratically important in intercultural settings.

Teaching Methods: Lecture, in-class discussion; short exercises.

Teaching Format: Lecture

Assessment: final written exercise and oral exam

Required Readings:
- A. Holliday (2011) *Intercultural Communication and Ideology*. London: Sage. [selected parts]

- Reading material on Library Reserve.

Supplementary Readings:
- P. Berger and T. Luckmann (1966) *The Social Construction of Reality*. New York: Anchor Books.
- A. Fadiman (1997) *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux.
- C. Geertz (1973) *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books.
- E. Said (1978) *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage Books.
- S. Hall (1997) "Old and New Identities, Old and New Ethnicities." *Culture, Globalisation and the World-System: Contemporary Conditions for the Representation of Identity*. Anthony King, ed. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota Press: 31-68.
- G. Baumann (1996) *Contesting Culture: Discourses of identity in multi-ethnic London*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.