

SOSGEO4800 – Cultural differences, migration and integration

Course content

The course explores issues related to **cultural differences and cross-cultural interactions, both between and within societies, which result from globalization and international migration**. The course is based on various theoretical approaches and empirical contributions from sociology and related social sciences.

What is culture, where do the cultural differences come from and how is the culture of contemporary societies further evolving alongside changing standards of living and increased cross-cultural interactions? Are large differences in values and identities inevitably leading to culture clashes as some scholars alarm? The answers to these questions are increasingly important for our understanding of the process and outcomes of intensifying interaction between cultures. Societies differ in their attitudes towards immigrants and adapt diverse integration policies to deal with the increasing cultural diversity brought by international migration. The rise of the populist radical right in Western societies is another problem that is related to societal values and attitudes regarding globalization and immigration.

Competences in international migration, relationships within **culturally** heterogeneous communities as well as cultural awareness are becoming increasingly relevant in the labor market, both in the public and private sectors.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

- Explain and provide examples of different frameworks and approaches to understanding **culture, cultural change as well as their importance for migration and integration from the point of view of both the migrants and the larger society**;
- Understand both the need for and challenges to interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to the study of **culture, migration and integration**;
- The course will contribute to a theoretically grounded understanding of **cultural differences, acculturation**, and key processes that affect various aspects of the migration process. The course provides a good foundation for working on a thesis concerning the study of cross-cultural communication and acculturation.

Skills

- Critically read and discuss articles and chapters on the topics of **culture, migration and integration**, recognizing the importance of different discourses and approaches;
- Use different theories when discussing a more concrete empirical phenomenon;
- Develop skills for oral and written presentation of knowledge and competencies;

Competences

- Ability to explain linkages between diverse phenomena related to **culture, migration and integration**
- Capacity to understand complex issues from multiple perspectives
- Improved capacity for self-reflection and self-awareness

- Understanding of how to engage with migration issues from a more knowledge-based perspective