ME 290 Guest Lecture: Cultural Openness and Perception

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Our Plan for Today

• **Whole class activities and discussion to**
  • Learn some new concepts
  • Become more open
  • Recognize the impact of culture on perception

• **A Pair/Share activity to**
  • Practice applying new skills

• **Announcements about out-of-class learning opportunities**
D.I.E. Activity

Take a look at the following picture.

In a few seconds I am going to ask you to describe it.
D.I.E. Activity

Now I need some volunteers to tell me what you saw.

We’ll take notes on your descriptions here on the projector.
How are these different?

D. – Description  
I. – Interpretation  
E. – Evaluation
When I asked you to describe the picture, what did you actually do?

D. – Description?
I. – Interpretation?
E. – Evaluation?

Why are they so hard to separate?
Let’s try again!

Take another look at the picture.

This time, try ONLY to **describe**.
More Thoughts to Ponder

• What does this have to do with CULTURE?

• "Neural signals are related less to a stimulus per se than to its congruence with internal goals and predictions, calculated on the basis of previous input to the system." Karsten Rauss, Cognitive Scientist

• How do people from different cultures interpret and evaluate this picture?
Common interpretations in various cultures...What do you think?

A. Concentration camp
B. Political prisoners working
C. People praying
D. A foot race about to begin
E. Something else entirely – be prepared to explain
Learning to Frame-Shift

Look closely at each of the following pictures.

Each can be seen two different ways.
What do you see?

A. Young woman
B. Old woman
C. Both
D. Something else
What do you see?

A. An image
B. A word
C. Both
D. Something else
What do you see?

A. One face
B. Two faces
C. Three faces
D. Something else
What have we learned through optical illusions?

• Everyone does not naturally experience events in the same way: We frame in different ways.

• Our frame is influenced by what we notice, and what we know/recognize.

• We can “catch” ourselves framing and learn to shift our frame of reference.

• Other people can help us experience other ways of framing.
**Frame-Shifting**

Ask yourself:

What *assumption* am I making,
That I’m not aware I’m making,
That gives me what I see?

And when you answer that, ask yourself:

What might I now invent,
That I haven’t yet invented,
That would give me other *choices*?

Plus/Minus/Null Activity

1. What’s your gut reaction interpretation of what is happening?
2. Does that interpretation lead to positive, negative, or neutral evaluation?
3. What are two plausible alternate interpretations with different evaluations (so if your first idea was negative, think of neutral and positive explanations of that is happening)?
What are your Plus/Minus/Null D.I.E.s?
Use your iClickers:

1. Is your first reaction (evaluation)
   A. Positive
   B. Negative
   C. Neutral

2. What do you see (interpretation)
   A. A woman being kidnapped
   B. People catching a woman falling
   C. A woman dancing
   D. Something else entirely

3. What are other possible interpretations?

4. Does context matter? What if we play music while you look at the picture?
Pair/Share D.I.E. Activity

Now it’s time to see what you have learned.

Working with a partner, look at the next picture and then answer the following questions.
Take Notes with your Partner:

1. Describe what you saw. Be sure to separate description from interpretation and evaluation.

2. Now move on to interpretation and evaluation. Is your first reaction a positive, negative, or neutral evaluation?

3. Follow through with Plus/Minus/Neutral – What are other possible interpretations?
Time to Share:

1. Describe what you saw.
2. Is your first reaction a positive, negative, or neutral evaluation?
3. What are other possible interpretations?
4. Do you want to know the truth?
5. What “insider cultural knowledge” would you need to interpret this picture accurately?
6. Is it possible to come to different evaluations for one interpretation?
More Opportunities for Intercultural Learning

10/13 Cesar Conde Lunch & Learn
11:30 am - 1:00 pm, PAO Gallery

10/13 Clarifying Misconceptions of Día de los muertos and Halloween
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm, LCC

10/19 Australia’s Issue with Race and the Struggle with International Movements and Aboriginal Australian Politics
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Honors Hall

10/19 The Latinos of Asia: How Filipino Americans Break the Rules of Race
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm, WALC 1018

10/20-22 LGBTQ+ Film Festival (Free Admission)
7 pm - 9:00 pm, Matthews 210

10/20 Brown and Gay in the USA Discussion with Anthony Ocampo
11:30am, LGBTQ Center (SCHL230) 1018

10/23 Blasian Narratives “Docu-theater” exploring mixed race Asian/ Black experiences
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm, MTHW, 210

11/02 Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, PMU, North Ballroom
Intercultural Teamwork Certificate

- [OpenPassport.org](#)
- Upload reflections even if you are not sure you want to finish the certificate outside of class (to leave options open).
- A digital badge for each new skill you learn
- An intercultural certificate from CILMAR if you complete all six sessions
- Multiple workshops offered each semester: TBD
- You will be doing at least half of the certificate as part of coursework