

Advanced English: Crossing Cultures, Constructing Selves: Mapping Your Rhizomic Identity in a Globalized World

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This course is meant for students of the advanced C1 and C2 levels. Theme-based language classes aim at developing written and oral skills through the study of a specific topic.

Background

In an increasingly interconnected world shaped by migration, multilingualism, and digital communication, cultural identity is no longer fixed or singular. Instead, it is layered, evolving, and often fragmented. This course introduces the concept of rhizomic identity—a model of the self that is non-linear, rooted in multiple cultural, linguistic, and experiential contexts.

Understanding how language and culture intersect is essential for navigating cross-cultural environments, both personally and professionally. This course equips students with critical and creative tools to make sense of their own complex identities and develop intercultural awareness through visual and linguistic interpretations.

Course Objectives

This is a 12-week course which aims to help students:

- Reflect on and articulate their rhizomic cultural and linguistic identities
- Analyse the role of language, visual media, and culture in shaping identity and perception
- Recognize and interpret cultural gaps and misunderstandings using real-world examples
- Strengthen their English language proficiency through creative and analytical expression
- Create a multimodal portfolio that synthesizes theory, experience, and creative representation.

Course Description

This project-based course invites students to explore how their cultural and linguistic identities are shaped by diverse influences across borders. Through the analysis of visual artifacts (e.g. images, advertisements ...) and language narratives (e.g. code-switching, multilingual expressions), students will uncover how culture is embedded in both words and images.

Emphasis is placed on personal reflection, intercultural interpretation, and linguistic self-awareness. Students will gain insights into how communication breaks down or flourishes across cultural boundaries and how to become more effective cultural interpreters.

The course culminates in a personal creative project titled: Mapping Your Rhizomic Identity: A Cross-Cultural Narrative Portfolio.

Organization

The course follows a 12-week structure with:

- Weekly analysis of visual and linguistic materials
- In-class workshops and reflective writing
- Discussions on language, power, and meaning
- Peer exchange and guided group activities
- Development of a final creative portfolio and oral presentations.

The final deliverable is a Personal Cultural Rhizome—a creative, analytical portfolio consisting of:

- A visual representation of the student's rhizomic identity
- A linguistic self-narrative
- A short oral presentation in English.