

Freshman Seminar

Human mind: An International Perspective
Winter 1995

Assignment

Each group of 2-3 students will take one country

**Spain
Russia
Argentina
Japan
India
Israel
Malawi
U.K.
Canada
Italy**

The first session of the seminar will be delayed until Jan 10th due to the Rose Bowl holiday. Each group of two students should select one of the countries. The first session will be Spain on Jan 10th they will proceed in order one per week except that U.K and Canada will be in the same week.

Before the session

Review the history of the country at the level of encyclopedia article

Go to the U.O. map library (Condon Hall). Review Geography of country including population, neighbors, languages, largest cities and other factors related to geography

Prepare an interview schedule for our guests.

Factors in keep in mind in preparing your interview

- a. Many of the guests have native languages other than English
- b. Try to avoid questions with yes or no answers ask questions that will lead the guest to tell their story.
- c. Things to cover

Personal

Background..place of birth, where lived, education, family

Relation to Eugene, University and Dept. of Psychology and/or Institute.

National

Places where research is conducted in their country

What is the nature of the educational system

How many students study psychology or issues related to the human mind.

How is research and education supported in their country

Research

What kinds of research are they involved with?

What is the long term importance of this work?

How does it relate to the institute

What are some of the differences between research in the US and in their country?

What are some of the important themes for research in their country on the nature of the human mind?

Who are important historical figures in this general area within their country

What are current developments related to research in their country? in neighboring countries?

During the session

Present background information

Conduct the interview

Help other students to get into the discussion with the guest

Get ideas from the guest on possible sources for additional information on research and education in their country.

After the session

Develop a theme for your own paper about the country that you have studied? The theme will be a framework for your research paper. Although you can work closely with your partner and other students your theme should be individual.

During the session or following it try to get the guests slant on the theme you have chosen.

With theme as a center piece write a research paper of about 5,000 words, reflecting on the theme within the country that you have chosen.

What is meant by a theme?

Here are some examples:

Spanish psychology reflects the entrance of Spain into the European community. Changes in Europe are likely to influence the directions of Spanish psychology.

Spain has a rich history in physiology and anatomy this influence has or has not been felt in Spanish psychology.

There are special aspects of India as a developing country that influences on the kind of psychology develop there.

The relation of India to Britain has been more important in the direction of Indian psychology than has the uniquely Indian philosophy and religion.

The social situation in Japan has influenced the role the women play in Japanese psychology.