***Readings in the Target Language/Culture - 1***

 **Course Code #: 299 NJD**

 **Level**: **4**

 **Credit hours: 2**

 **Contact hours:** **2**

**Course Description:**

**This course aims at acquainting students with some of the important elements in the culture of the foreign language by means of investigation and analysis of authentic texts dealing with the following aspects: landmarks in the foreign nation’s history and civilization, exploration of various cultural and social patterns of behavior (such as the traditions of marriage, celebration, food, dress, habitat etc.), identification of distinctive features, proverbs and superstitions, habits and the investigation of non-linguistic means of communication prevalent in the foreign culture.**

**It will introduce them to different aspects of the target language culture through an assortment of cultural elements that reflect social behaviour, traditions, ways of life, linguistic development and social contributions which have in some way or another affected other societies and communities either positively or negatively.**

**As a backdrop to the course, a brief historical base is given which is used to put into perspective the various facets of cultural development introduced in the classroom.**

**Emphasis will be placed on the problems triggered by these aspects in translation and on finding strategies for dealing with them. The close inter-relationship of language, culture and social life will also be emphasized.**

**Students are encouraged to be vocal and to express their opinions and points of view on the topics studied. Special attention is given to cultural aspects that can be compared to our own culture.**

**Course Objectives:**

***General Objectives***

* **Introduce students to different cultures**
* **Familiarize them with differences and misunderstandings that are culturally related**
* **Compare cultural elements that exist in both their own and the foreign culture**
* **Teach students to dialogue in an effective and convincing manner**
* **Use the acquired cultural knowledge to avoid problems in translation**
* **Teach students to respect differences, avoid stereotyping and being judgmental**

***Specific Objectives***

* **Introduce students to different cultures, societies, religions and political governance**
* **The effect of globalization**
* **Show the relationship between language and culture and its effect on society**
* **Underline the reasoning behind the concept of “an important people = an important language”**
* **Teach students that differences are not wrong but enriching**
* **Eliminate negativity by explaining and abolishing stereotyping, disrespect and miscommunication that are the result of close-minded ignorance**
* **Effective communication skills**