

Apor Vilmos Catholic College – Erasmus+ Course

Course title: Psychological and Pedagogical Challenges of an Inclusive Society

Credit: 3 ECTS

Course description:

Inclusion in a broader sense means that communities – the school, communities of children or adults outside the school, institutions or entire societies – accept and appreciate individual differences and recognize the values deriving from diversity. The philosophy of inclusion is based on the belief that students with challenges or specific needs cannot live in separate or isolated environments during their education and adult years, which necessitates that individuals of both the majority society and the group with specific needs acquire the ability to cooperate with each other. At the same time, inclusive pedagogy is also the most efficient tool of promoting the equality of opportunities.

The course will discuss the topics related to inclusion and inclusive pedagogy in frames of lectures and in-class discussions. Since members of the course themselves represent a multicultural environment, personal experiences and views will also be used to reflect on the pedagogical and psychological challenges of an inclusive society.

Topics discussed in the course:

- Stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination; their characteristics, occurrences, causes and the psychological mechanisms that maintain them
- The social consequences of stereotypical and prejudiced thinking; the psychological experiences of minorities and majorities; major group phenomena
- The targets of inclusive pedagogy: physically and mentally challenged people and individuals with specific needs and from multiply disadvantaged backgrounds; groups of disadvantaged economic or social backgrounds and of different cultures
- Forms and levels of integration and inclusion and their advantages and disadvantages; the limitations of their applicability: local and social integration, functional integration and inclusion
- Integration in wider practice and the paradigmatic change brought by inclusive pedagogy: new vision, new training, new methodology and tools, new systems of evaluation and the necessity to cooperate with other experts
- Hungary and the international stage: challenges and responses; good and less successful practices at home and abroad