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THE COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL COURSES  
IN FOREIGN HIGHER SCHOOLS  
(СРАВНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ ПСИХОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ КУРСОВ  
В ЗАРУБЕЖНЫХ ВЫСШИХ УЧЕБНЫХ ЗАВЕДЕНИЯХ)

В настоящее время все больше налаживаются и укрепляются взаимоотношения между высшими учебными заведениями различных стран мира. Россия также активно участвует в этом процессе. Все чаще российские университеты и институты используют зарубежный опыт. Это относится и к психологическим курсам. Сравнительный анализ таких курсов даст возможность использовать их преимущества для корректировки психологических программ российских вузов. На данный момент ведущими в этом направлении являются американские университеты.

Nowadays the links between the educational institutions in different countries are organized and get consolidated. Russia takes an active part in this process: new agreements on cooperation between the universities and on exchanging students and teachers are being concluded and signed. As a result of these contacts, totally new programs and courses emerge, the existing ones are being revised and changed.

All this requires Russian institutions of higher education to correspond to the world level of education and the standards of this level. It's getting more often that Russian higher schools use a foreign experience in choosing and creating programs, without loss of Russian educational system advantages. That's why this issue is current today and will be current in the nearest future.

The aim of this analysis is comparison different psychological courses in foreign countries that may be used for a wide range of specialities, especially administrative ones such as management. Such comparative analysis gives a chance to reveal both strong and weak sides of these courses, and possibly will be used for correcting existing Russian programs and creating new ones.

Now in the whole world they pay much attention to different psychological aspects in any activity. That's why most of universities in the world introduce suitable psychological courses essential for corresponding specialty. It's necessary to emphasize that American higher schools succeeded much in that. For example Middle Tennessee State University is well known with its psychology department and psychological courses, that are designed for students with different needs, aims and interests, and thus people of different specialities (management, teaching, business, etc.) Following courses are widely used and not only at that university:

**Psychology of Adjustment**- Processes of human adjustment, adaptation, and environmental influences. Development of self-understanding, constructive management of emotion and stress, and healthy interpersonal relationships.

**Psychology of a social behaviour** - systematic study of social behaviour, includes interaction between people, perception of others, interpersonal attraction, aggression, altruism, conformity, attitudes, and group behavior. This course is offered at many universities in Europe, and in America, however programs and its title differ.

**Industrial and Organizational Psychology** - course, which is offered at all universities, which pay attention to psychology. Applications of psychology to business and industry. This direction of psychology is necessary, first of all for people selecting managing specialities. Topics include employee selection., training., leadership, motivation, planning, work stress, safety, job design, performance appraisal. These courses differ only in the way they are taught. Some universities concentrate on the theory, other use a plenty of various researches concerning

management from a psychological point of view. The course **Test and Measures** has become very popular. Survey of tests and measures. Purposes and types of tests. How to choose test. General principles of test administration. However, it is necessary to notice, that the given course is introduced into the American higher schools much more intensively, than in European.

There are also courses, which American higher schools select as a special and pay big attention to. So lately has been observed the tendency of paying more attention to such courses as **Personnel selection and placement** - survey of tests, interview, and other variables relating to applicant evaluation, placement, and upgrading; **wage and salary administration** - analysis of theory and practice in the administration of compensation. Practices and issues related to job analysis, job evaluation, wage and salary administration, incentive plans, and legal considerations.

The functioning of groups, including development of group structure, group conflict, social influence, leadership, group productivity, group decision making, and growth groups attract great attention. This course is almost identical with similar courses of other universities.

There are many other similar psychological courses in American universities as well as in European universities and in Russian ones also. However there are some advantages in European universities, maybe because of geographic and demographic aspects. A wide spread is obtained by so-called cross-cultural psychology that studies cultural, national, linguistic and other distinctions between groups.

It might be because of some certain social, political, historical or cultural peculiarities America and American higher schools pay so much attention to psychology and psychological courses. They surpass in everything: in quantity of courses offered on the whole and in quantity of courses offered on each speciality and often in being taken more profoundly. In Europe there are most similar courses but they are joined into a general course and are considered as sections in it.

Americans take psychology as the main thing, maybe that influenced a wide spread of psychological courses. However it's noticeable as the whole world, including Russia, tends to increase the significance of psychology and psychological courses.