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COMX 415.50: Intercultural Communications - Online

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Ngai, Phyllis B., "COMX 415.50: Intercultural Communications - Online" (2020). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 11245.

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The University of Montana-Missoula

COMX 415.50 Online Fall 2020 Intercultural Communication

Instructor: Dr. Phyllis Ngai

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Course Description

This course aims to guide students through a journey of understanding the multiple dimensions of intercultural communication. The primary focus is intercultural interactions with and among US Americans. Diversity within the United States offers a rich learning ground. Examples set in other countries are also used in exploring communication across cultures. The unit of analysis in this course involves interpersonal, face-to-face conversations and interactions among people from different ethnic, racial, linguistic, and/or cultural backgrounds. The overarching questions that guide this expedition are: (1) What do we need to know about communication and culture in order to fulfill the goals set forth for specific intercultural contexts? (2) How can we develop intercultural and transnational competence? The required text by Stella Ting-Toomey and Leeva Chung includes thorough discussions regarding key communication concepts, useful cultural taxonomies, suggested communication strategies, and important research findings about intercultural communication. The second recommended text by Donal Carbaugh takes us one step further into the heart of intercultural communication—that is cultures in conversation. In addition, students will be introduced to a wide array of multidisciplinary materials that capture different perspectives, including those of immigrants, training consultants, political scientists, linguists, international educators, and lawyers. To connect theory to practice, students will have the opportunity to apply what they have learned from course materials in their daily lives over the semester through an intercultural partnership.

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will have achieved the following competencies:

- Knowledge of the concepts about culture, intercultural communication, cultural identity, interculturality, intercultural competence, and related concepts;
- Awareness of the rich diversity of communication styles within and beyond the United States;
- Understanding of how culture shapes communication behaviors;
- Sensitivity to both the verbal and nonverbal dimensions of intercultural communication;
- Abilities to apply cultural taxonomies in the analysis of intercultural interactions;
- Abilities to apply the ethnographic approach to learn *in situ* during intercultural interactions;
- Skills for adjusting and adapting communication strategies and approaches *in situ* to achieve effective intercultural communication;
- Skills for avoiding and removing barriers (e.g., cultural biases) that hinder intercultural communication;
- Knowledge for continuing to develop intercultural competence.

Texts

- ***Understanding Intercultural Communication*** by Stella Ting-Toomey and Leeva C. Chung, 2nd edition, 2012. Oxford University Press. [REQUIRED]
- ***Cultures in Conversation*** by Donal Carbaugh, 2005. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. [Recommended]

- *Transnational Competence: Empowering Curricula for Horizon-Rising Challenges* by Peter H. Koehn and James N. Rosenau, 2010. Paradigm. [Optional]
- *Readings for Diversity and Social Justice* (3rd ed.) edited by Maurianne Adams, et al., 2013. Routledge. [Optional]
- *Intercultural Communication: A Discourse Approach* (3rd ed.) by Ron Scollon, Suzanne Wong Scollon, and Rodney Jones, 2012. Wiley-Blackwell. [Optional]
- *Dancing with a Ghost: Exploring Indian Reality* by Rupert Ross, 1992. Reed Books Canada. [Optional]

Assignments and Assessments

- Online Discussion, Assignments, and Activities = 30 points x 9 = 270 points
- Group Discussion Facilitation = 40 points
- Reading Journals = 30 points x10 = 300
- Mid-term Exam and Final Exam = 160 points (80 points x 2)
- Final Paper = 230 points
- Total = 1,000 points

Grade Distribution Scale

933 – 1000 = A 900 – 932 = A-
 866 – 899 = B+ 833 – 865 = B 800 – 832 = B-
 766 – 799 = C+ 733 – 765 = C 700 – 732 = C-
 666 – 699 = D+ 633 – 665 = D 600 – 632 = D- < 600=F

Course Schedule

August 19 – 21: Course Introduction

- Assignments
 - Cyber Café
 - Virtual Scavenger

August 24 – 28: Imperatives for Intercultural Competence

- Required readings
 - Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 1
 - Koehn & Rosenau: The Case for Transnational Competence (Moodle)
- Assignments
 - Reading journal
 - Virtual debate

August 31 – September 4: Intercultural Communication Process

- Required readings
 - Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 2
 - Carbaugh: Chapter 2 (Moodle)
- Assignments
 - Reading journal
 - Facilitated discussion (check facilitation schedule to see if you are facilitating this week)

September 8 – 11: Intercultural Communicators as Ethnographers

- Required readings
 - Scollon, Scollon & Jones: Chapter 1 (pp. 19-22 only) and Chapter 2 (Moodle)

- Carbaugh: Chapter 1(Moodle)
- Assignments
 - Reading journal
 - Mini observation report

September 14 – 18: Cultural Patterns and Communication

- Required readings
 - Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 3
 - Carbaugh: Chapter 6 (Moodle)
 - Essential Understandings (Moodle)
- Assignments
 - Reading journal
 - Facilitated discussion (check facilitation schedule to see if you are facilitating this week)

September 21 – 25: Verbal Intercultural Communication

- Required readings
 - Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 6
 - Carbaugh: Chapter 4 (Moodle)
- Assignments
 - Reading journal
 - Fun activity

September 28 – October 2: Nonverbal Intercultural Communication

- Required readings
 - Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 7
 - Carbaugh: Chapters 3 (Moodle)
- Assignments
 - Reading journal
 - Facilitated discussion (check facilitation schedule to see if you are facilitating this week)

October 5 - 9 Mid-term Assessment

October 12 – 16: Cultural and Ethnic Identities

- Required readings
 - Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 4
 - Selected short essays from Diversity and Social Justice Essays # 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, & 21 ONLY (Moodle)
- Assignments:
 - Reading journal
 - Conversation

October 19 – 23: Intercultural Conflict Management

- Required readings
 - Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 9
 - Coleman & Raider: Chapter 24 (Moodle)
- Assignments:
 - Reading journal
 - Facilitated discussion (check facilitation schedule to see if you are facilitating this week)

October 26 – 30: Intercultural Communication and Ethics

- Required readings
 - Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 12
 - Ross: Chapters 2 & 3 (Moodle)
- Assignments
 - Reading journal
 - Ethical Dilemmas

November 2 – 6: Cultural Biases and Intercultural Contact

- Required readings
 - Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 8
 - Documentary: The New Americans (Moodle)
- Assignments:
 - Reading journal
 - Facilitated discussion (check facilitation schedule to see if you are facilitating this week)

November 9 - 13: Crossing Cultural and Communication Boundaries

- Required readings
 - Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 5
 - Documentary: The New Americans (Moodle)
- Assignment:
 - Final paper draft

November 16 – 18: Applying Intercultural Competence

- Required readings
 - Koehn & Rosenau: Select one of the following chapters: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 (Moodle)
 - Storti: Chapter 15 (Moodle)
- Assignment:
 - Final paper draft

November 20: Final Assessment

November 25: Final Paper due

Course Policies

- You are responsible for submitting all assignments by the due dates. Late work receives a 5-percent deduction each day (up to 40 percent) from the total points earned. Late submission is accepted without grade deduction only for reasons of illness, injury, family emergency, religious observance, cultural or ceremonial events, military service, and mandatory public service. If late submission is caused by illness, please provide a note from your healthcare provider indicating that you were unable to complete the assignment because of sickness. If late submission is caused by other acceptable reasons stated above, please submit a formal written explanation to the instructor along with supporting documentation.
- Missed test cannot be made up unless you provide a note from your healthcare provider indicating that you were not able to complete the assignment because of sickness.
- Deadlines: When managing your time to complete assignments, please be prepared that you may experience unpredictable technical difficulties. For example, your computer may freeze up or your Internet provider might not work properly at times. Technical problems are not acceptable excuses for late submission of assignments. You need to plan extra time to complete and submit assignments online in case of technical difficulties. In addition, you need to have a back-up plan for taking online

tests and submitting homework online. Is there another computer you can use? Is there another place you can get online?

- Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. You can find detailed information on this website <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.
- You should be aware that as a student at the University of Montana, you must practice academic honesty and are bound by the following Code of Academic Conduct:
<https://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php>
As the code explains, academic misconduct includes plagiarism, cheating, and deliberate interference with the work of others. It is the intellectual equivalent of fraud—a crime against the codes of the academy. *As an academic crime, plagiarism merits academic punishment, ranging from an F on the assignment or for the course, to suspension or expulsion from the University.*
- The deadlines for adding/dropping and changing your grading option are posted on the Registrar’s Office website: <http://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/dropadd.php>. The instructor will deny late-drop petitions (after the 31st day of instruction) except for medical reasons.

Graduate Credits

If you register for this course as a graduate student, you need to complete an extra paper to earn graduate credits for this course. Contact the instructor for the guidelines. This paper is due on the last day of finals week. You should consult with the instructor regarding a focus before writing the paper.