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### COMX 415.01: Intercultural Communication

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# COMX 415.01 Intercultural Communication

The University of Montana-Missoula

Thursday 2:10 – 5:00 p.m. Fall 2015

- **Instructor:** Dr. Phyllis Ngai
- **Office:** LA237
- **Office Hours:** 1:00 - 2:00 PM, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and by appointment
- **E-mail:** [phyllis.ngai@umontana.edu](mailto:phyllis.ngai@umontana.edu)

## Course Description

This course aims to guide students through a journey of understanding the multiple dimensions of intercultural communication. 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 articles and documentaries 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:

- Understanding the concepts culture, communication, cultural identity, intercultural and transnational competence, and related concepts;
- Awareness of the rich diversity of communication styles within and beyond the United States;
- Understanding of cultural influences in one's life and one's own cultural identity;
- Sensitivity to different dimensions of intercultural communication;
- Understanding of the distinctive roles of verbal and nonverbal communication in intercultural contexts;
- Abilities to apply cultural taxonomies in the analysis of intercultural interactions;
- Understanding of the effects of code usage in intercultural communication;
- Skills for avoiding and removing barriers (e.g., cultural biases) that hinder intercultural communication;
- Competence in applying effective intercultural communication strategies in selected contexts;
- Abilities to learn *in situ* as an ethnographer;
- Knowledge for continuing to develop intercultural and transnational competence.

## Texts

- *Understanding Intercultural Communication* by Stella Ting-Toomey and Leeva C. Chung, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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]
- *The Sage Handbook of Intercultural Competence* edited by Darla K. Deardoff. 2009. Sage. [Optional]

- *Readings for Diversity and Social Justice* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) edited by Maurianne Adams, et al., 2013. Routledge. [Optional]
- *Intercultural Communication: A Discourse Approach* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) by Ron Scollon, Suzanne Wong Scollon, and Rodney Jones, 2012. Wiley-Blackwell. [Optional]
- *Cross-cultural Management* edited by Jean-Francois Chanlat, Eduardo Davel, and Jean Pierre Dupuis, 2013. Routledge. [Optional]
- *The Sage Handbook of Conflict Communication* edited by John G. Oetzel and Stella Ting-Toomey, 2013. Sage. [Optional]

## Assessment

Assignments/Assessments	Points Earned
Reading Club Preparation and Participation (each week)	150 points (15 points each)
Reading Club Facilitation (twice)	40 points (20 points each)
In-class Participation (each week)	120 points (10 points each)
Four Quizzes (on required readings and materials presented in class)	200 points (50 points each)
Mid-term Field Research Report/Oral Exam	180 points
Final Field Research Paper/Take Home Exam	270 points
Final Paper Presentation	40 points
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,000 points</b>

## Grade Distribution

Points	Letter Grade
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

## Tentative Schedule

\*The reading list is subject to change. The instructor will inform you of any changes in class and/or via Moodle.

Date	Weekly Topic	Required Reading (Whole-class Discussion)	Required Reading (Reading-Club Discussion)	Assignment & Quiz Schedule
September 3	Course Introduction			
September 10	Imperatives for Intercultural Competence <i>National Coalition Building Institute</i> workshop	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 1	Koehn & Rosenau: The Case for Transnational Competence (Moodle)	Reading Club 1
September 17	Intercultural Communication Process	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 2	Carbaugh: Chapter 2	Reading Club 2
September 24	Intercultural Communicators as Ethnographers	Scollon, Scollon & Jones: Chapter 1 (pp. 19-22 only) and Chapter 2 (Moodle)	Carbaugh: Chapter 1	Reading Club 3 <b>Quiz 1</b>
October 1	Cultural Patterns and Communication	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 3	Carbaugh: Chapter 6	Reading Club 4
October 8	Verbal Intercultural Communication	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 6	Carbaugh: Chapter 4	Reading Club 5
October 15	Nonverbal Intercultural Communication	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 7	Carbaugh: Chapters 3	Reading Club 6 <b>Quiz 2</b>
October 22	Seminar on Field Research			Mid-Term Research Report
October 29	Crossing Cultural and Communication Boundaries	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 5	Documentary: The New Americans (Moodle)	Reading Club 7
November 5	Cultural Biases and Intercultural Contact	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 8	Documentary: The New Americans (Moodle)	Reading Club 8
November 12	Intercultural Conflict Management	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 9	Coleman & Raider: Chapter 24 (Moodle)	Reading Club 9 <b>Quiz 3</b>
November 19	Cultural and Ethnic Identities	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 4	Selected short essays from Diversity and Social Justice (Moodle)	Reading Club 10
November 26	Thanksgiving Break			Final paper
December 3	Intercultural Communication and Ethics	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 12	Ross: Chapters 2 & 3 (Moodle)	Reading Club 11
December 10	Applying Intercultural Competence	Koehn & Rosenau: Select one of the following chapters: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 (Moodle)	Storti: Chapter 15 (Moodle)	Reading Club 12 <b>Quiz 4</b>
December 7 - 11 (Optional)	-Meet with instructor individually about a draft of your paper. -Sign up for a time in class.			
<b>December 14 Monday</b> (Finals Week)	<b>Field research paper due 5 PM</b>			
<b>December 17 Thursday</b> (Finals Week)	<b>Paper Presentations 3:20 – 5:20 PM</b>			