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9-2015

### COMX 415.50: Intercultural Communication - Online

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Ngai, Phyllis B., "COMX 415.50: Intercultural Communication - Online" (2015). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 2447.

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# The University of Montana-Missoula

## COMX 415.50 online Fall 2015 Intercultural Communication

- **Instructor:** Dr. Phyllis Ngai
- **Office:** LA237
- **Office Hours:** Posted on course homepage
- **E-mail:** phyllis.ngai@umontana.edu

### 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 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]

## Assignments and Assessments

Assignment/Exam	Points Earned
Reading Journal	20 points x 12 =240
Virtual Reading Club Facilitation	20 points
Virtual Reading Club Participation	10 points x 11 =110 points
Four Quizzes	50 points x 4 =200 points
Mid-term Report	150 points
Final Paper	260 points
Presentation	20 points
	Total: 1,000 points

## 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 (Please check weekly updates on Moodle.)

Date	Weekly Topic	Required Reading #1	Required Reading #2	Assignment & Quiz Schedule
Aug 30 – Sep 5	Course Introduction			Cyber Café Virtual Scavenger Hunt
Sep 6 – 12	Imperatives for Intercultural Competence	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 1 (Textbook)	Koehn & Rosenau: The Case for Transnational Competence (Moodle)	Reading Journal Virtual Reading Club
Sep 13 – 19	Intercultural Communication Process	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 2 (Textbook)	Carbaugh: Chapter 2 (Moodle)	Reading Journal Virtual Reading Club
Sep 20 – 26	Intercultural Communicators as Ethnographers	Scollon, Scollon & Jones: Chapter 1 (pp. 19-22 only) and Chapter 2 (Moodle)	Carbaugh: Chapter 1 (Moodle)	Reading Journal Virtual Reading Club <b>Quiz 1</b>
Sep 27 – Oct 3	Cultural Patterns and Communication	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 3 (Textbook)	Carbaugh: Chapter 6 (Moodle)	Reading Journal Virtual Reading Club
Oct 4 – 10	Verbal Intercultural Communication	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 6 (Textbook)	Carbaugh: Chapter 4 (Moodle)	Reading Journal Virtual Reading Club
Oct 11 - 17	Nonverbal Intercultural Communication	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 7 (Textbook)	Carbaugh: Chapters 3 (Moodle)	Reading Journal Virtual Reading Club <b>Quiz 2</b>
Oct 18 – 24	Mid-term Assessment			Mid-term Field Research Report due midnight Friday
Oct 25 - 31	Crossing Cultural and Communication Boundaries	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 5 (Textbook)	Documentary: The New Americans (Moodle)	Reading Journal Virtual Reading Club
Nov 1 – 7	Cultural Biases and Intercultural Contact	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 8 (Textbook)	Documentary: The New Americans (Moodle)	Reading Journal Virtual Reading Club
Nov 8 – 14	Intercultural Conflict Issues	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 9 (Textbook)	Coleman & Raider: Chapter 24 (Moodle)	Reading Journal Virtual Reading Club <b>Quiz 3</b>
Nov 15 – 21	Cultural and Ethnic Identities	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 4 (Textbook)	Selected short essays from Diversity and Social Justice (Moodle)	Reading Journal Virtual Reading Club
Nov 22 - 28	Thanksgiving Break	Continue intercultural partnership/field research	Final paper Due Dec 19	Extra-credit reflection Due Dec 18 (optional)
Nov 29 – Dec 5	Intercultural Communication and Ethics	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 12 (Textbook)	Ross: Chapters 2 & 3 (Moodle)	Reading Journal Virtual Reading Club
Dec 6 - 12	Applying Intercultural Competence	Koehn & Rosenau: Select one of the following chapters: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, <u>or</u> 10 (Moodle)	Storti: Chapter 15 (Moodle)	Reading Journal <b>Quiz 4</b>
Dec 17 & 18 Finals Week	Final paper due midnight Thursday and comments on peers' presentations due mid-night Friday			