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COMX 251X.00: International and Development Communication

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COMM 251X International and Development Communication

The University of Montana-Missoula

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Course Description

COMM 251 introduces students to the concepts of International and Development Communication. International Communication deals with information exchange and cultural flow across nations and societies. Development Communication focuses on assessing the role of transnational communication in social change, including its impacts on first peoples. The course surveys communication issues related to globalization, cultural and linguistic imperialism, the Internet, the media, English as a global language, indigenous voices, transnational advertising, multicultural/transnational organizations, and participatory development. Through case studies, students will apply mass communication and organizational communication concepts in understanding the relations between the local and the global and in analyzing complex interdependencies among social groups, organizations, and nation states. The course aims to engage students in discussing communication issues of global significance with people from different countries. This course is designed to incorporate contextualized and cooperative learning. A comparative approach is used to expose students to diverse perspectives and to stimulate students to reflect on their own roles as citizens in the 21st century. It is a core course of the International Development Studies minor.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will

- Understand important concepts in international and development communication;
- Demonstrate an awareness of key communication issues resulting from globalization and informatization over time;
- Understand the impacts of information and communication technologies (ICT) on social change;
- Take a position based on analysis of evidence and arguments for and against the presence of cultural and linguistic imperialism brought about by ICT;
- Consider the pros and cons of using the Internet and the media to facilitate communication within and across cultural groups, transnational organizations, and nation states;
- Demonstrate an awareness of the implications of using English as the global language in different linguistic and cultural contexts over time;
- Consider the value of indigenous languages and first peoples' perspectives in the global context;
- Be able to suggest relevant participatory approaches to communication and development;
- Focus on communication processes when analyzing interdependence involving international and multicultural organizations; and
- Compare the convergence and divergence of perspectives held by members of their communities, U.S. citizenships, and people in other countries, particularly non-Western and developing countries.

Assessment

Assignment		Points Earned			
Reading Quizzes		100 points (25 points each quiz)			
Participation in Whole-class Discussion and In-class Activities		120 points (10 points each class)			
In-class Reading Club		120 points (10 points each meeting)			
Position Paper 1		220 points			
Position Paper 2		240 points			
Group debate and Annotated Bibliography		200 points			
		Total: 1,000 points possible			
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		