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COMX 212X.50C: Introduction to Intercultural Communication

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
MISSOULA COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES
SPRING SEMESTER, 2016**

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: COMX 212X, Introduction to Intercultural Communication, Online

SEMESTER CREDITS: 3

PREREQUISITES: None

PROFESSOR: Kimberly Reiser

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Kim.Reiser@umontana.edu

Please communicate with me via email. You are welcome to request a telephone call or Skype call via email or on my voice mail at 243-7839. If you do so, be sure to include your contact information as well as a variety of times that you are available. I will arrange a time with you that matches up with my schedule. If your questions or concerns pertain to Moodle, please call UMOOnline Tech Support at 243-4999.

Business Building

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 11:15-12:15, Wednesday 1-2, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to key theories and practical applications relating to intercultural communication. We will investigate the influence of our own culture on view of self and others. In addition, the following topics will be explored: international conflict, social networking, migrancy, and the effect of technology and mass media in the globalization of communication.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the role of history and identity in intercultural communication and the influence these have on our communication interactions with others.
2. Identify intercultural communication barriers that lead to interpersonal conflict.
3. Critically evaluate your own intercultural competence.
4. Understand how verbal and nonverbal communication is shaped by culture.

GRADING:

Exams (3) – 35% of grade

Inquiries – 25% of grade

Final Paper – 20% of grade

Substantive Discussions (4) – 20% of grade

GRADING SCALE: 100-90 (A), 89-80 (B), 79-70 (C), 69-60 (D), 59 and Below (F)

Exams

There will be three exams given over the course of the semester. They will consist of five essay questions worth 20 points each. The questions will require you to provide illustrations and explanations of various theories or concepts from our reading.

Inquiries

Students will be asked to complete three typed reflections during the course of the semester. These will pertain to your own cultural identity, our course readings, or out of class intercultural activities. They will require you to integrate the theories learned in the course into your personal positions or reflections.

Final Paper

The goal of the final paper is to help you critically evaluate your own culture while contemplating the concepts we have studied over the course of the semester. This final, reflective paper will require you to integrate outside research as well as course material into your writing.

Substantive Discussions

We will have four substantive graded discussions during the course of the semester. These will require you to integrate the reading into your thoughts and reflections on specific prompts that pertain to our intercultural encounters. These will be graded on quantity and quality of prompts. The specific grading criteria for these as well as a sample, excellent discussion is posted in the Week 1 folder.

ASSIGNMENT AND TEST MAKEUP POLICY:

No assignment or test make-ups will be allowed. Please plan ahead. All of the due dates for readings, assignments, and tests are listed in the course calendar. In addition, the week before assignments or tests are due, reminders will be posted in a weekly announcement. It is your responsibility to keep track of the course calendar and check announcements regularly.

If you encounter “technical difficulties” with a test, please notify me by email or phone the day of the test. I will verify the status of this issue in Moodle. It is important we reschedule the test within 48 hours of the test date.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Please conduct yourself in a way that promotes learning for all students in the class (i.e. do not use language that might offend others, avoid disclosing too much personal information, etc.).

*COURSE POLICIES ARE APPLIED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

DISABILITY STUDENT SERVICES:

Eligible students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course when requested in a timely way. Please speak with me after class or in my office. Please be prepared to provide a letter from your DSS Coordinator.

DROP POLICY:

“Beginning the 46th day of the semester through the last regular class day (i.e. Friday) before Finals Week, “students may drop courses only by petition. Note that not all petitions are approved and documentation is required. Some examples of documented circumstances that may merit approval are accident or illness, family emergency, or other circumstances beyond the student’s control. Instructors and advisors have the right to indicate that they do not recommend the drop”- the UM’s Academic Policies and Procedures (see <http://www.umt.edu/catalog/acad/acadpolicy/default-print.html>).

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Ting-Toomey, S. and Chung, L. C. (2012). *Understanding intercultural communication* (2nd ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

The print version of this text can be purchased at our Missoula College Bookstore. The electronic version of this text (an ebook) can be purchased on CourseSmart's site:

<http://www.coursesmart.com/understanding-intercultural-communication/stella-ting-toomey-california-state-university/dp/9780199739790>

COURSE OUTLINE:

The following readings, tests, and assignments are due on the day they are listed.

*When there are discussion forums, the deadline for posting initial responses to questions will be by Tuesday at midnight of that week. Replies must be posted by Sunday of that same week. On weeks when tests or assignments are due, they will be turned in on Monday.

January

- 25 Introductions
Be sure to respond to the discussion.

February

- 1 Chapter 1, Why Study Intercultural Communication?
- 8 Chapter 2, What Is Intercultural Communication Flexibility
Introduction to Sources for Cultural Research
GRADED DISCUSSION FORUM #1 (As will be the case every time a discussion forum is posted, initial responses must be posted by Tuesday (midnight) of this week; the discussion will end Sunday at midnight.)
- 16 Chapter 3, What Are the Essential Cultural Value Patterns (Announcements for this week will be posted on Tuesday the 16th, rather than Monday, as Monday is a Presidents' Day holiday.
- 22 Chapter 4, What Are the Keys to Understanding Cultural and Ethnic Identities?
GRADED DISCUSSION FORUM #2
INQUIRY 1 DUE
- 29 **EXAM 1 (Ch 1-4)**

March

- 7 Chapter 5, What Is Culture Shock?
- 14 Chapter 7, What Are the Different Ways to Communicate Nonverbally Across Cultures?
GRADED DISCUSSION FORUM #3
- 21 Chapter 6, What Is the Connection Between Verbal Communication and Culture?
- 28 Chapter 8, What Causes Us to Hold Biases Against Outgroups
INQUIRY 2 DUE

April 4-8 SPRING BREAK

- 11 **EXAM 2**
- 18 Chapter 9, How Can We Manage Intercultural Conflict Flexibly
GRADED DISCUSSION FORUM #4
- 25 Chapter 10, What Are the Challenges in Developing an Intercultural-Intimate Relationship?
FINAL PAPER DUE

May

2 Chapter 11, What Are the Communication Issues Facing a Global Identity?
INQUIRY 3 DUE

9 Chapter 12, How Can We Become Ethical Intercultural Communicators?
EXAM 3