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COMX 415.51: Intercultural Communication

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The University of Montana-Missoula

COMX 415.50 online Spring 2017 Intercultural Communication

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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 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, 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]
- ***The Sage Handbook of Intercultural Competence*** edited by Darla K. Deardoff. 2009. Sage. [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

Assignment/Exam	Points Earned
Reading Journal	25 points x 11 = 275
Group Discussion Participation	15 points x 7 = 105 points
Discussion Facilitation (When you are the facilitator, you do not receive a group discussion participation grade).	35 points
Four Quizzes	50 points x 4 = 200 points
Mid-term Report	150 points
Final Paper	210 points
Presentation and review	25 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
January 23 - 27	Course Introduction			Cyber Café Virtual Scavenger Hunt
January 30 – February 3	Imperatives for Intercultural Competence	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 1 (Textbook)	Koehn & Rosenau: The Case for Transnational Competence (Moodle)	Reading Journal Group Discussion
February 6 - 10	Intercultural Communication Process	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 2 (Textbook)	Carbaugh: Chapter 2 (Moodle)	Reading Journal Group Discussion
February 13 - 17	Intercultural Communicators as Ethnographers	Scollon, Scollon & Jones: Chapter 1 (pp. 19-22 only) and Chapter 2 (Moodle)	Carbaugh: Chapter 1 (Moodle)	Reading Journal Tutorial Session Quiz 1
February 21 - 24	Cultural Patterns and Communication	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 3 (Textbook)	Carbaugh: Chapter 6 (Moodle)	Reading Journal Group Discussion
February 27 – March 3	Verbal Intercultural Communication	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 6 (Textbook)	Carbaugh: Chapter 4 (Moodle)	Reading Journal Group Discussion
March 6 - 10	Nonverbal Intercultural Communication	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 7 (Textbook)	Carbaugh: Chapters 3 (Moodle)	Reading Journal Mid-term Report Consultation Quiz 2
March 13 - 17	Mid-term Assessment			Mid-term Field Research Report due midnight Friday
March 20 - 24	Spring Break			
March 27 - 31	Crossing Cultural and Communication Boundaries	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 5 (Textbook)	Documentary: The New Americans (Moodle)	Reading Journal Group Discussion
April 3 - 7	Cultural Biases and Intercultural Contact	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 8 (Textbook)	Documentary: The New Americans (Moodle)	Reading Journal Group Discussion
April 10 - 11	Intercultural Conflict Issues	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 9 (Textbook)	Coleman & Raider: Chapter 24 (Moodle)	Reading Journal Project Consultation Quiz 3
April 17 - 21	Cultural and Ethnic Identities	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 4 (Textbook)	Selected short essays from Diversity and Social Justice (Moodle)	Reading Journal Group Discussion
April 24 - 28	Intercultural Communication and Ethics	Ting-Toomy & Chung: Chapter 12 (Textbook)	Ross: Chapters 2 & 3 Black & Morrison: pp. 136 - 141 (Moodle)	Reading Journal Group Discussion
May 1 - 5	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)	Final-report Consultation Quiz 4
May 10	Final paper and presentation due midnight			
May 12	Comments on peers' presentations due mid-night			