

Fall 9-1-2018

COMX 212X.01C: Introduction to Intercultural Communication

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
MISSOULA COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES
FALL SEMESTER, 2018**

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

SEMESTER CREDITS: 3

PREREQUISITES: None

PROFESSOR: Kimberly Reiser

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

It is my preference we schedule face-to-face appointments or discuss minor course issues via email; this is the easiest way to reach me. It is essential you use your university email for this communication. If necessary, you may leave messages for me at 406-243-7839.

OFFICE LOCATION: Rm 421, Missoula College building at 1205 E. Broadway

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 2-3, 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) – 45% of grade

Inquiries – 35% of grade

Final Paper – 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 True/False, Multiple Choice, and Essay Questions.

Inquiries

Students will be asked to complete three typed reflections during the course of the semester. These assignments will be announced in class. They 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.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

It is my belief that what you gain from a course is dependent on what you put into it. Attendance will determine a student's level of success. If you miss a class, you will miss a learning opportunity. Students with fewer than two absences during the semester will see their final grade increased by 5%. Students with more than three absences may lose their privilege for a makeup should an emergency arise.

*Students who sleep, leave early/come late, or work on other assignments during class may not be counted as present.

Test makeup policy:

I believe the classroom setting should be treated like any other professional setting. Employers and coworkers tend to be forgiving of a person's absence for an important meeting or engagement if that person has proven to be dependable in the past. My policy follows this principle.

If the following conditions are met, you may be given an opportunity to make up a test:

1. You must be in good standing in the class. This means fewer than four absences, no late assignments and passing grades on all completed assignments.
2. You must notify me prior to missing the test that you will be unable to attend that class period, and provide an explanation for your absence. Personal illness, family emergencies and unexpected events are acceptable reasons for rescheduling a test. You may be asked for documentation of verification of your excuse.
3. Within 24 hours of missing the test, you must schedule an appointment with me to make up your test.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY IN MOODLE BY MIDNIGHT ON THE DAY THAT THEY ARE DUE. ASSIGNMENTS SUBMITTED A CLASS DAY LATE WILL BE GRADED OUT OF HALF CREDIT. BEYOND THIS DATE, ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Please conduct yourself in a way that promotes learning for all students in the classroom (i.e. do not use language that might offend others, use laptops for note taking only, avoid disclosing too much personal information, turn off cell phones, absolutely no text messaging, and avoid monopolizing class discussion).

*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. Our DSS Students Director, Amy Capolupo, will be on the Missoula College Campus, from 9:00-4:00 on Tuesdays and Fridays. Her office is on the River Level (room MC 032). Appointments can be made with her by calling 406-243-2243.

For students planning to request testing accommodations, be sure to bring the DSS testing form to me in advance of the two-day deadline for scheduling in our Learning Center.

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 the University of Montana Bookstore. The electronic version of this text (an ebook) can be purchased on CourseSmart's site:

<https://www.vitalsource.com/products/understanding-intercultural-communication-california-state-university-at-v9780199739790>

*A Moodle supplement will be utilized for this course.

COURSE OUTLINE:

The following readings, papers, and exams are due on the day they are listed. If two class dates are devoted to a chapter, make sure you have read that chapter by the first class date for which it is scheduled.

August

- 27 Class Introductions
- 29 Chapter 1, Why Study Intercultural Communication?
- 31 Chapter 1 Continued

September

- 5 Chapter 2, What Is Intercultural Communication Flexibility
- 7 Chapter 2 Continued
- 10 Introduction to Sources for Cultural Research
- 12 Chapter 3, What Are the Essential Cultural Value Patterns
- 14 Chapter 3 Continued
- 17 Chapter 3 Continued
- 19 Chapter 4, What Are the Keys to Understanding Cultural and Ethnic Identities?
- 21 TBA
- 24 Chapter 4 Continued
- 26 **INQUIRY #1 DUE**

28 **EXAM #1**

October

- 1 Chapter 5, What Is Culture Shock?
- 3 Chapter 5 Continued
- 5 Chapter 7, What Are the Different Ways to Communicate Nonverbally Across Cultures?
- 8 Chapter 7 Continued
- 10 VIDEO
- 12 VIDEO
- 15 VIDEO
- 17 Chapter 7 Continued
- 19 **INQUIRY #2 DUE**
TBA
- 22 Chapter 6, What Is the Connection Between Verbal Communication and Culture?
- 24 Chapter 6 Continued
- 26 Chapter 6 Continued
- 29 Chapter 8, What Causes Us to Hold Biases Against Outgroups
- 31 Chapter 8 Continued

November

- 2 Chapter 8 Continued
- 5 **EXAM #2**
- 7 Chapter 9, How Can We Manage Intercultural Conflict Flexibly
INQUIRY #3 DUE
- 9 Chapter 9 Continued
- 12 **NO CLASSES-VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY**
- 14 Chapter 9 Continued
- 16 Chapter 10, What Are the Challenges in Developing an Intercultural-Intimate Relationship?
- 19 Chapter 10 Continued
- 21-23 **NO CLASSES-THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**
- 26 Chapter 11, What Are the Communication Issues Facing a Global Identity?
FINAL PAPER DUE
- 28 Chapter 11 Continued

30 Chapter 11 Continued

December

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

5 Chapter 12 Continued

7 Chapter 12 Continued

EXAM #3 will be held during our prescribed final time, Monday, December 10th from 8-10.