Course Overview

Course Description. This course explores the relationship between communication and culture through scholarly readings, discussions, and critiques in three subfields of Intercultural Communication: cultural communication, cross-cultural communication, and intercultural communication.

Course Outcomes. At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to:

- discuss what it means to take a communication approach to studying culture.
- describe the perspectives from which communication and culture have been studied.
- explain current intercultural communication research directions and findings.
- discuss the role of power among cultural groups.
- describe directions for future intercultural communication research.

Course Format. This is a 10-week course that spans Summer I and Summer II. The course is taught 100% online.

Although there are no official meeting times, specific assignments will be due weekly. It is your responsibility to complete them on time. I know that many of you may be vacationing at some point. Please let me know ahead of time and we can modify the schedule accordingly.

Course Materials.

Readings are also available through blackboard under the ‘Course Content’ tab.

Course Policies and Procedures

Late Work. All assignments are due in class on the assigned day. Each calendar day that the assignment is late will generally result in a one-letter-grade reduction. Plan ahead. If you fall behind, please contact me and we can make arrangements.
**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.** In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation academic expectations, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on MLA documentation rules and APA documentation rules is available at Purdue University’s OWL: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/), and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in the reduction of one’s grade and/or immediate failure in the course.

**Classroom/Professional Behavior.** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Disabilities Accommodations.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
Academic Advising. The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Dropping a Class. I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. June 21st is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Statement of Academic Continuity. In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

Grade Appeals. As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at:
http://academicaffairs.tamu.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

Questions and Problems. If you have concerns about the class, please arrange to discuss them with me during my office hours or by appointment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. Discussion Participation. There will be several opportunities to engage in online discussion of content. Good online discussion at the graduate level includes several important components: reading and respecting others’ opinions, sharing ideas and
thoughts, posing questions to classmates, responding to and building off of others’ comments, making connections between disparate thoughts and concepts, and encouraging others to share their ideas.

II. **Online Assignments.** Students will demonstrate critical processing of the material through online assignments.

III. **Intercultural Paper.** You will get to choose between several options for your final paper, which will be the primary assignment of the semester. See the assignment description for more details.

III. **Take home exam.** You will have the opportunity to demonstrate course learning by completing comprehensive essay questions.

**Assignment Summary.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intercultural Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-home exam</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**COURSE EVALUATION**

**Method of Evaluation:** Students’ grades are based on written papers, exams, assignments, and discussion participation.

Grades are based on demonstration of mastery of course material. Work that meets the minimum requirements of an assignment, is done on time, and displays average involvement with the course content is deserving of a ‘C.’ Higher grades are awarded to work that goes above and beyond the minimum standards to produce products that reflect superior intellectual effort, excellence in critical analysis, and overall creativity in the approach to any given assignment.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1**

**June 3-7**

**Topic 1: History & Overview of Intercultural Communication**

*Readings:* 1-1 Rogers, Hart, & Miike (2002)
1-2 Moon (2010)

**Topic 2: What is Culture?**

*Readings* 2-1 Hall (1959)
2-2 Shaules (2007)

**Assignment:** Complete Online Assignment due June 7, 5 pm
| WEEK 2 | **June 10-14** | **Topic 3: Cross-Cultural Approach**  
3-2 Merkin, Taras, & Steel (2014)  
*Assignment:* Complete Online Assignment due June 14, 5 pm |
| WEEK 3 | **June 17-21** | **Topic 4: Communicating Culture & (Intra)Cultural Approach**  
*Readings:* 4-1 Keising (2012)  
4-2 Matsumoto & Hwang (2014)  
4-3 Philipsen (2002)  
*Assignment:* Complete Online Assignment due June 21, 5 pm |
| WEEK 4 | **June 24-28** | **Topic 5. Intercultural Approach**  
5-2 Spitzberg & Changnon (2009)  
5-3 Fantini (2014)  
*Assignment:* Complete Online Assignment due June 28, 5 pm |
| WEEK 5 | **July 1-5** | **Topic 6: Critical Approach**  
*Readings:* 6-1 McKinnon (2009)  
6-2 Vescio et al (2009)  
6-3 Barndt (2007)  
6-4 Foster (2009)  
*Assignment:* Complete Online Assignment due July 5, 5 pm |
| WEEK 6 | **July 8-12** | **Topic 7: Culture & Identity**  
7-2 Newsome (2001)  
7-3 Dong (2009)  
*Assignment:* Complete Online Assignment due July 8, 5 pm |
| WEEK 7 | **July 15-19** | **Topic 8: Cultural Transitions & Adaptation**  
*Readings:* 8-1 Kim (2014)  
8-2 Urban (2008)  
8-3 Semlak (2008)  
*Assignment:* Complete Online Assignment due July 19, 5 pm |
WEEK 8

July 22-26  
**Topic 9: Cultural Antipathy**  
**Readings:**  
9-3 Barndt (2007) pp. 185-217  
**Assignment:** Intercultural Paper due  
Complete Online Assignment due July 26, 5 pm

WEEK 9

July 29-Aug. 2  
**Topic 10: Culture & Relationships**  
**Readings:**  
10-1 Piller (2002)  
10-2 Gross-Loh (2013)  
**Assignment:** Complete Online Assignment due July 29, 5 pm

WEEK 10

August 5-9  
**Assignment:** Take home exam due

### READINGS

(Ordered by reading sequence)

**May 30  Topic 1: History of Intercultural Communication**

**Topic 2: What is Culture?**

**June 1  Topic 3: Cross-Cultural Approach**

**June 8  Topic 4: Communicating Culture & (Intra)Cultural Approach**


June 10 Topic 5: Intercultural Approach


June 13 Topic 6: Critical Approach


June 15 Topic 7: Identity and Culture


June 20 Topic 8: Cultural Transitions & Adaptation


June 22  Topic 9: Cultural Antipathy

June 26  Topic 10: Culture & Relationships