

COMM 463G
Intercultural Communication
Spring 2005
SYLLABUS

Instructor: Cecile Garmon

FAC 104

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Office Hours: M, T, Th 9:30-11 and by appointment

Texts:

Dodd, C. H. (1998). *Dynamics of intercultural communication*. Boston: McGraw Hill.

Samovar, L.A., & Porter, R. E. (2003). *Stanford, CT: Wadsworth*.

Additional readings as assigned by instructor or identified by student.

Course Goals:

This class provides the students and instructor the opportunity to study and apply the concept of culture as it governs cultural members' behaviors, giving special attention to the role of culture and communication behaviors in any society.

Specifically, the class will focus on attaining the following goals:

1. Learning the principles and theories of intercultural communication
2. Broadening views of the world
3. Reading widely and diversely
4. Applying principles and theories to practical activities
5. Writing effectively about intercultural communication
6. Seeking and identifying examples of intercultural communication in media.

We will seek to reach success in these goals by employing the following activities:

1. Reading of texts, academic journals, *New York Times*, specific monographs, on-line materials
2. Discussions in class and on-line about the assigned topics and their implementation
3. Significant analysis of situations and case studies relating to culture and communication
4. Strong writing activities that incorporate significant content with appropriate academic writing style.

We will employ various means to reach these goals, including the Blackboard discussion board, class discussions, reading the New York Times, completing group assignments, seeking media examples of theories and principles, individual research projects, group activities, etc.

Graduate students should learn materials and concepts, understand how to and practice applying them, read widely from academic sources, write effectively with good content on specific research problems, and make appropriate presentations of their information to others. I will ask the graduate students to lead discussions of specific topics they have investigated and to help undergraduate students understand the importance of what they have discovered. In the following text lists of assignments, I will ask the graduate students to read additional selections from Samovar & Porter or other sources and to share this information with the other class members.

Class Dates and Reading Assignments:		Dodd	S&P
1/11	Introduction and Background		
1/18	Culture and Cultural Systems	Chs. 1,2,3	pp. 6-17
1/25,2/1	Microcultures/Cocultures	4	pp. 108-119
2/8-15	Cultural Dimensions	5	pp. 48-56
2/22	Language (verbal & nonverbal)	6,7	pp. 216-222, pp. 239-252
3/1	Mid-term exam		
3/8	Cultural Adaptation/Competency	8,9	pp. 320-338
3/15	Intercultural Communication & Conflict	10	pp.406-411
3/29	Managing Conflict across Cultures		
4/5	Social Influence on IC Communication	11	pp. 433-435
4/12	Media across Cultural Barriers	12	pp. 456-465
4/19	Communication in Cultural Change	13	
4/26	Final Reports		
5/3	Final Exam		

Assignments:

Reading: Text materials as outlined above; *New York Times* beginning 1/18; special readings as announced in class.

Writing Assignments: Short writing assignments due 1/25 and 2/15. Topics announced later. Written term project due 4/12. Topic discussion in class; this project will focus on a research interest of the student as discussed with the instructor.

Discussion Board: Three discussions: 1/19-2/22; 2/23-3/18; 3/20-4/28.

Group Projects: Assigned by groups, due as discussed during semester.

Exams: Final on 5/3.

Class discussions: Managed in different ways as discussed in class.

Grading:

Two short papers (4 page maximum) @ 10 points each	20 %
Group project	15%
Discussion Board Activities, 3 @ 5% each	15%
Final Exam	20%
Term Project	25%
Leading discussion in class	5%

Attendance:

Attendance is NOT optional. Class members depend on each other to develop the assigned topics and to discuss them fully after having read the materials and engaged in some analytical activities. If you have to be absent, you should discuss it with the instructor beforehand. If you become ill, notify the instructor as soon as possible.

This class will usually meet on Tuesday evenings from 5-7:45. Generally, the first hour and a half will focus on the assigned readings while the last part of the class will include activities in which application of the text materials become the focus. Students will have the responsibility of leading the discussions and in maintaining the focus on self-directed learning.

During some class periods graduate students will work with undergraduates; at other times the graduate students will work separately. Some evening classes will fold into on-line activities and not meet for the entire assigned time period.