

COMM 263H
FUNDAMENTALS OF COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE
Section 001: Mon/Wed/Fri 10:20-11:15, FAC 140
Spring 2007

Instructor: Dr. Larry Caillouet	Office Hours: Wed/Fri 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Office: FAC 102	Mon/Wed 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Phone: 745-8709	Monday 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
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Course Description

This course examines how communication patterns are influenced by surrounding cultures and how culture is created and sustained through communication. It is designed to prepare students to effectively adapt and succeed in a contemporary world that is becoming more and more culturally diverse.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- understand the scope of cultural influence on daily interactions.
- apply major theories and fundamental concepts of culture and intercultural communication to the real world.
- develop and successfully use intercultural communication skills.

These objectives can be met by reading the textbook, active class participation, students' own research, and actual intercultural interactions.

Textbook

Samovar, L.A., Porter, R. E., & McDaniel, E. R. (2007). *Communicating between cultures* (6th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning

Course Requirements

The course grade will be determined by the performance on the following exams and assignments:

Exam #1	20%	
Exam #2	20%	A = 90% and above
Exam #3	20%	B = 80 – 89%
Worksheet Interview	5%	C = 70 – 79%
Hofstede Reports	5%	D = 60 – 69%
Group Film Analysis	5%	F = 59% and below
Interaction Project	20%	
Class Participation	5%	

Total	100%
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Note: Students must complete all assignments and exams listed. Failure to do so will receive at least one letter grade deduction from the final course grade.

Exams - Three exams will be given in this course. The questions will be taken from the textbook, lecture, and class activities. The format will be multiple choice and short answer questions. Make-up exams are allowed only for excused absences with official documentation.

Worksheet Interview –You will interview a person from a culture significantly different than you own (must be a different country than yours and not English speaking) from campus or from the community but not from this class. A list of questions will be provided. *Due February 12.*

Hofstede Reports – In five groups of 4-5 students each, you will report on applications of Geert Hofstede’s theory of cultural dimensions. *Due March 9.*

Film Analysis – This is an application exercise, which also helps your final paper. You will be asked to describe the scenes of a movie, to which intercultural concepts can be applied. More detailed instructions will be announced in class. If you miss the class sessions when the movie is shown, you will automatically lose the points. No make-up. Watch the schedule.

Papers and Presentations Due: April 4.

Interaction Project Paper –The purpose of this assignment is to encourage students to interact someone from different culture face-to-face and apply important concepts discussed in class in actual interaction. More detailed instructions will be announced in class. *Paper Due: with oral presentation, April 23- May 2.*

Interaction Project Presentation - Students will give a 5-7 minute presentation from their interaction project paper. The purpose of this presentation is to share the knowledge and insights gained through their own project with their classmates. The use of PowerPoint is required. As the audience, all students are expected to get involved in discussions to maximize their understanding from the presentation. The detailed instructions will be announced in class.

Presentation due: April 23- May 2.

About Assignments –

- **All written assignments must conform to APA style (5th edition).**
American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. [APA]
- **Late Work** - All assignments must be turned in class on the due date. E-mail submissions will not be accepted for credit unless an assignment is specifically announced as an e-mail assignment. No late work will be accepted without prior approval from the instructor. Failure to obtain prior approval will result in a 10% grade deduction for the assignment.

Attendance Policy and Class Participation

- According to the University Senate, **“Registration in a course obligates the student to be regular and punctual in class attendance.”** Attendance will be taken at each class session. Students are expected to arrive on time and not leave early. If you are late to class, it is your responsibility to ask the instructor to change your absence mark to late attendance. It must be done after the class on the same day. No late claim will be taken. Lateness may happen occasionally, but it should not become a pattern because in the real world, you may lose a job if you are habitually late. Thus, three late arrivals/early departures will be counted as one absence.

- Absences will be excused only with written documentation/proof for university approved absences, which include illness which requires a doctor's attention, serious illness or death in the immediate family, and required travel on university business. Documentation must be turned in within 2 weeks of the absence.
- In MWF classes, students are allowed three unexcused absences before their course grade is affected. For each unexcused absence over 3, the final grade is reduced by 2 points.
- In TR classes, students are allowed two unexcused absences before their course grade is affected. For each unexcused absence over 2, the final grade is reduced by 3 points.
- Students are advised to save unexcused absences for days when they have important reasons to miss class that are not university approved absences. **Absences in the "Work Zone" (final project presentations) count double.**
- In class, active participation in group discussions as well as class activities is expected from all students. Such active participation, good questions, insightful comments, and spontaneous knowledge of the readings will directly contribute to students' borderline grades.

Class Participation & In-class Assignments

- Active participation in group discussions as well as class activities is expected from all students. Students may also be asked to complete assignments for credit in class on the day.
- In-class activities and assignments cannot be made up. Do not miss class!

Cheating and Plagiarism Policy

All work should be a reflection of your own efforts. A student who cheats or plagiarizes will receive zero for that assignment and/or a failing grade for the course. To avoid any impropriety, protect yourself. In written assignments, (1) provide the names of the authors of all ideas that are not your own, and (2) provide proper citations when you summarize or paraphrase another person's ideas in your own words.

Students Disability Services

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center.

Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Cell Phone Etiquette – Turn OFF cell phones and pagers before class starts. No text messaging in class.

Laptop Computers – Use of laptop computers will not be allowed in class without specific permission of the instructor. Any student seeking permission must make an appointment with the instructor outside of class to discuss the request.

Important Notes

- Students are expected to read this syllabus carefully and follow the rules. In addition, students are responsible for all information, announcements, and changes addressed in class, by e-mail, or on Blackboard.
- The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus during the semester, if necessary.

Honors Fundamentals of Communication and Culture (COMM 263H)
Tentative Course Schedule
Dr. Larry Caillouet
Spring 2007

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments
Week 1	1/22 M 1/24 W 1/26 F	Course Orientation Chapter 1 Communication and Culture Ch 1 Cont'd	<i>Readings should be done prior to the class meeting.</i> Read Ch 1
Week 2	1/29 M 1/31 W 2/2 F	Ch 1 Cont'd Ch 2 The Deep Structure of Culture: Roots of Reality Ch 2 Cont'd	Read Ch 2
Week 3	2/5 M 2/7 W 2/9 F	Ch 2 Cont'd Chapter 3 Worldview: Cultural Explanations of Life and Death Ch 3 Cont'd	Read Ch 3
Week 4	2/12 M 2/14 W 2/16 F	Worksheet Interview Reports Ch 3 Cont'd Exam 1 (Ch 1, 2, 3 & Class Discussions)	Individual presentations and written reports EXAM
Week 5	2/19 M 2/21 W 2/23 F	<i>President's day -- No class meeting</i> Ch 4 Cultural Identity Ch 4 Cont'd	Read Ch 4
Week 6	2/26 M 2/28 W 3/2 F	Ch 5 Cultural Values Ch 5 Cont'd Living in Another World	Read Ch 5 Field trip
Week 7	3/5 M 3/7 W 3/9 F	Ch 5 Cont'd Study Abroad Opportunities Hofstede Reports	5 group reports

Honors Fundamentals of Communication and Culture (COMM 263H)			
	3/12 to 3/16		<i>Spring Break</i>
Week 8	3/19 M 3/21 W 3/23 F	Chapter 6 Language and Culture Ch 6 Cont'd Ch 6 Cont'd	Read Ch 6
Week 9	3/26 M 3/28 W 3/30 F	Exam 2 (Ch 4, 5, 6 & Class Discussions) Film Analysis Film Analysis (cont'd)	EXAM
Week 10	4/2 M 4/4 W 4/6 F	Chapter 7 Nonverbal Communication Group presentations of Film Analysis Ch 7 Cont'd	Read Ch 7 Group Presentations and written papers due
Week 11	4/9 M 4/11 W 4/13 F	Chapter 8 Cultural Influences in the Business Setting Chapter 8 Cont'd Chapter 9 Cultural Influences in the Educational Setting	Read Ch 8 Read Ch 9
Week 12	4/16 M 4/18 W 4/20 F	Chapter 10 Cultural Influences in the Health Care Setting Ch 11 Becoming Competent: Improving Intercultural Communication Ch 11 Cont'd	Read Ch 10 Read Ch 11
Week 13	4/23 M 4/25 W 4/27 F	Project Presentations Project Presentations (cont'd) Project Presentations (cont'd)	Final Paper due / Oral Presentations
Week 14	4/30 M 5/2 W 5/4 F	Project Presentations (cont'd) Project Presentations (cont'd) Study Day (No Class)	Study! Cram! Study!
Final Exam	5/11 F	Ch 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & Class Discussions Exam at 10:30	

