

COMM 263
FUNDAMENTALS OF COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE

Section 003: Tues/Thurs 9:35-10:55, FAC 137
Section 004: Tues/Thurs 11:10-12:30, FAC 137
Spring 2007

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Office Hours: Tues & Thurs: 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.
12:30 -3:00 p.m.
and by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to prepare students to adapt to a contemporary diverse society effectively. It provides an overview of intercultural communication – communication with individuals from different cultural backgrounds. An analysis of verbal and nonverbal communication, cultural values, and other factors that influence intercultural communication will be covered.

Course Objectives

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

- increase awareness of the scope of cultural influence on daily interactions
- apply major theories and fundamental concepts of intercultural communication to the real world.
- develop intercultural communication skills.

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

Required Resources:

1) Textbook

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

2) Frequent access to Blackboard. You will see two separate sites for this course.

-Instructions for assignments, additional materials of this course, and important announcements will be posted on **COMM263 Comm and Culture (Main)**.

-Your course grades will be posted on **Fund/SComm & Culture**.

-Students who do not own personal computers have ample access to computers at the numerous computer laboratories on campus.

3) Three half-size scantron sheet for exams (available at WKU bookstore).

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 – 89.9% |
| | | C = 70 – 79.9% |
| ESL Project | 10% | D = 60 – 69.9% |
| Film Analysis | 5% | F = 59% and below |
| Interaction Project w/ Presentation | 20% | |
| Participation | 5% | |
| *Attendance is required. | | |

Total 100%

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 pulled from the textbook, lecture, and class activities. The format will be multiple choices, True/False, matching, and short answers. Make-up exams are allowed only for excused absences with official documentation.

ESL Project – This is a group project. With your group members, you will give a 10-min presentation about American culture to the students who are enrolled in the English as the Second Language course on campus. This project will enhance your understanding of your own culture, and, at the same time, you will help the adaptation of international students to American culture. The details will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

Due: March 8

Film Analysis – This is an application exercise to assist your final paper. With your group members, 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 and posted on Blackboard. If you miss the class sessions when the movie is shown, you will automatically lose the points. No make-up. Watch the schedule.

Due: April 10

Interaction Project –The purpose of this assignment is to encourage students interact someone from a different country face-to-face, apply important concepts discussed in class to the actual interaction, and type up a 4-5 page paper. The detailed instructions will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

Paper Due: On Your Presentation Day

Project Presentation & Discussion Participation- Students will give a 5 minute presentation about own final project. The purpose of this presentation is to share the knowledge gained through their own project with their classmates. Because PowerPoint is becoming more important in the workplace, 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 and posted on Blackboard.

Presentation: April 24 through May 3

Class Participation & Homework Assignments:

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

Late Assignments:

- All assignments must be turned in class on each due date. Because this is a face-to-face class, e-mail submission will not be accepted for credit. Further, 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 -- Attendance is required & class participation is expected.

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning and/or in the middle of each class session. Students are expected to be present without delay and early departure. It is your responsibility to ask the instructor to change your absence mark to late attendance, in case that you come late for some reason. 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 come late or leave early every time. Thus, three late arrivals/early departure will be counted as one absence.
- Absences will be excused only with written documentation/proof for university approved absences, which include illness that requires a doctor's attention, serious illness or death in the immediate family, and required travel on university business. If you miss a class with a documented reason: (1) Notify me on or before the class meeting by email, voice mail, or in person. (2) Provide me with the documentation within 2 weeks of the absence. Please note that your absence mark will not be changed to "excused" until your documentation is approved. In case of an emergency where you cannot provide any written verification, two unexcused absences are permitted during the semester. Students are advised to save these absences for days when they have important reasons to miss class that are not university approved absences. **Please also note that absences in the "Work Zone" (final project presentations from April 24 to May 3) count double.** For each additional unexcused absence, 2% will be deducted from the final course grade.
- In class, active participation in group discussions as well as class activities is expected from all students. Such active participation, insightful comments, and spontaneous knowledge of the readings will directly contribute to students' borderline grades.
- Because we are learning the significance of diversity, please show your respect to all your class members all the time. This includes paying attention to others, participating in group/class activities, showing your support, and avoiding disruptive behaviors (e.g., ringing cell phone, text messaging, reading newspapers and magazines, doing work for other classes, etc.). In particular, your disruptive behaviors may lower your participation points. Please turn off your cell phone before class starts.

Cheating and Plagiarism Policy

All work should be a reflection of one's 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, (a) provide the names of the authors of all ideas that are not one's own (b) carefully summarize another's works and ideas in one's own words with proper citations.

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 professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

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 and Blackboard.
- The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus during the semester, if necessary.

Tentative Course Schedule

* Readings are due prior to the class meeting.

| Week | Dates | Topics | Assignments |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Week 1 | 1/23 (T) 1/25 (R) | Course Orientation Ch 1 Communication and Culture Ch 1 Cont'd | |
| Week 2 | 1/30 (T) 2/1 (R) | Development of the Field Ch 5 Cultural Values Ch 5 Cont'd | |
| Week 3 | 2/6 (T) 2/8 (R) | Ch 5 Cont'd Ch 2 The Deep Structure of Culture Form Groups for ESL Project | |
| Week 4 | 2/13 (T) 2/15 (R) | Ch 3 Worldview: Cultural Explanations of Life and Death Ch 3 Cont'd | |
| Week 5 | 2/20 (T) 2/22 (R) | Exam 1 (Ch 1, 2, 3, 5 & Class Discussions) Ch 4 Cultural Identity | Bring #2 pencils and 3 Scranton sheets. |
| Week 6 | 2/27 (T) 3/1 (R) | Ch 6 Language and Culture Ch 6 Cont'd | |
| Week 7 | 3/6 (T) 3/8 (R) | Ch 7 Nonverbal Communication ESL Visit | ESL Project Due |
| Week 8 | 3/13 (T) 3/15 (R) | Spring Break (No Class) | |
| Week 9 | 3/20 (T) 3/22 (R) | Ch 7 Cont'd Exam 2 (Ch 4, 6, 7 & Class Discussions) | |
| Week 10 | 3/27 (T) 3/29 (R) | Ch 8 The Business Setting Ch 8 Cont'd | |
| Week 11 | 4/3 (T) 4/5 (R) | Film Analysis Film Analysis (cont'd) | |
| Week 12 | 4/10 (T) 4/12 (R) | Ch 9 The Educational Setting Ch 10 The Health Care Setting | Film Analysis Due |
| Week 12 | 4/17 (T) 4/19 (R) | Ch 11 Becoming Competent Ch 11 Cont'd | |
| Week 14 (Work Zone) | 4/24 (T) 4/26 (R) | Project Presentation Project Presentation (cont'd) | Interaction Project Paper Due on your presentation day |
| Week 15 (Work Zone) | 5/1 (T) 5/3 (R) | Project Presentation (cont'd) Project Presentation (cont'd) | |

Final Exam (Ch 8, 9, 10, 11 & Class Discussions):

Section 003 (9:35-) - Tuesday, May 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Section 004 (11:10 -) - Monday, May 7 at 8:00 a.m.