

TENTATIVE COURSE SYLLABUS**COMM 263 – Fundamentals of Culture & Communication**

Mon/Wed/Fri

9:10am ~ 10:05am

FAC 137

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|-------------|--|---------------|---------------------------|
| Instructor: | Dr. Jieyoung Kong | Office: | FAC 141 |
| Email: | Jieyoung.Kong@wku.edu | Office Hours: | Mon/Wed 8 ~ 9am, 3 ~ 4 pm |
| Phone: | (270) 745-6578 | | & by appointment |

Required Materials:

1. Liu, S., Volčič, Z., & Gallois, C. (2014). *Introducing intercultural communication: Global cultures and contexts* (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
2. Frequent access to Blackboard
 - ✓ Additional course readings, exams and assignment instructions, submissions, and feedback will occur via BB.

Overview of the Course:

COMM 263 introduces concepts and principles from the communication discipline for examining, analyzing, and evaluating challenges and opportunities of engaging cultural differences in people's face-to-face and mediated communication interactions in today's increasingly interdependent and interconnected world. Students will examine on the one hand, how people from different ethnic/racial, national, and co-cultural backgrounds shape and are shaped by values, norms, institutions, and practices of societies they are brought up in, and on the other, how history, religion, language, technology, political and economic institutions influence their intercultural encounters. By analyzing how and why tensions and dissonance often attend interactions between people who are culturally different, students will utilize communication to embrace difference and evaluate communication processes and approaches for addressing challenges posed by diversity, multiculturalism, and intercultural encounters in domestic and international contexts. Ultimately, the aim of the course is to help students develop their intercultural communication competence critical for ameliorating tensions, working through conflicts, and fostering productive relationships in exercising their shared responsibility as global citizens.

Course Learning Objectives:

Upon successfully completing this course students should be able to:

- Articulate the connection between communication and culture
- Analyze the development of self in relation to others through culture and communication
- Critically analyze individual and cultural similarities and differences
- Utilize communication to be culturally sensitive and self-aware
- Cultivate skills to become a competent communicator across contexts and diverse communities
- Conduct reflective analysis of discourse to analyze complex issues using evidence-based argument

Course Communication

Most information you need for the course will be announced in class and via the course Blackboard. Check Blackboard daily for latest announcements and information. I will be available during office hours. If you need to contact me at other times, email me. Be sure to include COMM263 in the subject line and allow 48 hours for me to respond. If you have not heard from me after 2 business days, please resend your email. This is YOUR responsibility.

Disability Resource Center:

If you are registered with the Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center (Tel: (270) 745- 5004), please notify me so that I can accommodate your needs.

Classroom Climate:

Throughout the semester, all of us will be working together to create a classroom climate conducive for open discussion, lively participation, and group learning. This includes attending class, being prompt, showing courtesy and respect, paying attention, and being tactful in expressing opinions and thoughts so as not to polarize (including refraining from using denigrating or potentially offensive language).

Attendance:

Attendance is required for you to succeed in this course. The only “excused” absences are,

- a) religious holidays,
- b) university-sponsored events (athletic teams, debate and forensics, etc.), and
- c) a documented illness or emergency.

In all three cases, for an absence to be excused, you will need to provide me with a written documentation. If you are going to miss class for religious holidays or university-sponsored events, please notify me at least one week in advance so that appropriate accommodations can be made. I will NOT accept late work or offer make-up exams unless the absence is excused.

I understand that things do come up and there may be a time you cannot attend. Thus, you have a total of THREE unexcused absences. *Three late arrivals, three early departures, or any combination of three late arrivals and early departures will be counted as an absence.* Any absence thereafter will result in a loss of your entire participation points.

If you have missed class, it is YOUR responsibility to contact classmates for lecture notes and visit the course BB to obtain missing content. Do not rely on the instructor to provide you with the missing material or content if you are unable to attend class. I, therefore, strongly encourage you to get phone numbers or email addresses from one or more of your classmates.

| Classmate's Name | Email | Phone number |
|------------------|-------|--------------|
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Cell Phones, Laptops, iPods, and Other Technology:

This is a side note to disruptive behavior that warrants its own category. Your cell phone, iPods, and laptops should be for your convenience, not my or your fellow classmates' inconvenience. If you want to use your laptop you must sit in the first row of the classroom. If I catch you using your laptop for something other than related to this class, I will ask you not to bring your laptop to class anymore. When you are in class, it is not convenient for you to be using cell phones or iPods. It is extremely disruptive and shows a complete lack of common courtesy. If I find you texting during class or your phone goes off in the middle of the class, I will keep your phone until the class is over. Exception is, you have an emergency situation requiring you to check your phone, let me know before class starts.

Academic Integrity:

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated: please read the WKU Student Handbook, (<http://www.wku.edu/handbook/>). It includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, presenting someone else's ideas as your own, using the same paper for more than one class, and fabricating or inventing data. A student who engages in unethical behavior will receive ZERO for that assignment

and/or failing grade for the entire course. Please be advised, a plagiarism-detecting tool, SafeAssignment, will be used for this class.

Avoiding plagiarism is EASY: (1) provide the names of the authors of all ideas that are not your own, and (2) paraphrase another's work and idea in your own words with proper citation (refer to APA style). For an online tutorial on plagiarism, visit <http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=paraphrasing>

Academic Assistance on Campus

The Learning Center (located in the Downing University Center, A330), a.k.a. TLC@DUC, provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. TLC@DUC offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects by appointment, walk in, or online. For detailed information call (270) 745-6254 or visit the webpage at www.wku.edu/tlc

Safe Campus

Western Kentucky University is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. WKU is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at

<https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf>

and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at

https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

Grading

To achieve a "C" or better on your coursework, you must write at a level appropriate for a university student (for example, good grammar, punctuation, and spelling). A "B" represents really good work. An "A" represents excellent work. If you have specific difficulties with either written or oral communication, let me know before you turn in your first assignment.

Grading Scale

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------|
| A | = 90% and up | = 414 – 460 points |
| B | = 80-89.9% | = 368 – 413.5 points |
| C | = 70-79.9% | = 322 – 367.5 points |
| D | = 60-69.9% | = 276 – 321.5 points |
| E | = 0-59.9% | = 275.5 points and below |

If you are disappointed by a grade, I have a "24/7" grade review policy. I would be happy to discuss the grade and your work, if you:

- Wait at least 24 hours after receiving your assignment back before approaching me.
- Make sure to contact me WITHIN 7 days of receiving your assignment.

- If you feel the grade was unfair and would like me to review your grade or assignment again, you need to write out the reasons why you feel I have graded unfairly.
- I am not permitted to talk about grades over the phone or to give out grades through e-mail.

Course Assignments:

The following is a general list of the course assignments. Specific instructions will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. As a general rule, the assignments you undertake for this course should be about cultures other than your own.

All written assignments must conform to the APA style. If you are not familiar with the style, goto the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL), <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

All assignments are due by MIDNIGHT (the night) of the due date unless announced otherwise. All assignments must be submitted electronically via SafeAssignment on Blackboard unless explained otherwise. Due to issues of compatibility with Blackboard and certain hardware and software, your assignment file must be saved in “.doc” or “.docx” suffix. *If I cannot open your file or it cannot be read by SafeAssignment, you will receive a ZERO on that work.*

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|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Stumbling Blocks | 30 points | points earned _____ |
| Cultural Identity | 30 points | points earned _____ |

Cultural Learning via Pop Culture

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| Reaction Notes | 15 points | points earned _____ |
| Pop Culture Analysis Paper | 40 points | points earned _____ |

Intercultural Case Study

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|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Case Description | 25 points | points earned _____ |
| Case Analysis Paper | 60 points | points earned _____ |
| Case Study Presentation | 10 points | points earned _____ |

Interview

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| Interview Guide | 10 points | points earned _____ |
| Interview Report | 60 points | points earned _____ |

Intercultural Competence

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|----------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| ICC Paper | 30 points | points earned _____ |
| Group ICC Evaluation Paper | 60 points | points earned _____ |
| Group ICC Presentation | 10 points | points earned _____ |

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| Participation | 80 points | points earned _____ |
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| TOTAL | 460 points | |
|--------------|-------------------|--|

Tentative Class Schedule:

(*Please bring this syllabus to class every day. Changes may be made occasionally.)

| Week | Dates | Readings | Assignment Due |
|--------------------|---------|--|--|
| 1 | 1/22 M | Introduction & Ch. 1 | |
| | 1/24 W | | |
| | 1/26 F | | |
| 2 | 1/29 M | Ch. 3 – Culture | Stumbling Blocks |
| | 1/31 W | | |
| | 2/02 F | | |
| 3 | 2/05 M | Ch. 6 – Identity | |
| | 2/07 W | | |
| | 2/09 F | | |
| 4 | 2/12 M | Ch. 5 – Value Orientations | Cultural Identity |
| | 2/14 W | | |
| | 2/16 F | | |
| 5 | 2/19 M | Ch. 4 – Perception | |
| | 2/21 W | | |
| | 2/23 F | | |
| 6 | 2/26 M | Ch. 12 – Media & Cultural Change | |
| | 2/28 W | | |
| | 3/02 F | | |
| 7 | 3/05 M | Ch. 2 – Communication | Pop Culture Reflection Paper |
| | 3/07 W | | |
| | 3/09 F | | |
| 8 | 3/12~16 | <i>Spring Break</i> | <i>No Class</i> |
| 9 | 3/19 M | Ch.7 – Verbal Communication | |
| | 3/21 W | | |
| | 3/23 F | | |
| 10 | 3/26 M | Ch. 8 – Nonverbal Communication | Case Description |
| | 3/28 W | | |
| | 3/30 F | | |
| 11 | 4/02 M | Ch.13 – Effective Intercultural Communicator | |
| | 4/04 W | | |
| | 4/06 F | | |
| 12 | 4/09 M | Ch. 9 – Immigration & Acculturation | |
| | 4/11 W | | |
| | 4/13 F | | |
| 13 | 4/16 M | Ch. 10 – Relationships | ICC Paper |
| | 4/18 W | | |
| | 4/20 F | | |
| 14 | 4/23 M | Ch. 11 – Conflict | |
| | 4/25 W | | |
| | 4/27 F | | |
| 15 | 4/30 M | (In-class Group Work) | |
| | 5/02 W | | |
| | 5/04 F | | |
| Finals Week | 5/08 Tu | (8:00 ~ 10:00am) Group ICC Presentation | Group ICC Paper due before the meeting |

I have read the course syllabus in its entirety and agree to abide by all of the rules and guidelines outlined. I understand that ignorance of a rule or policy is no excuse for not following them and will not be accepted as a legitimate reason.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Turn this in by the following class period.