Course Description

In this era of globalization, increased contact with a variety of cultures is omnipresent, providing both a rich canvas for interpersonal and intergroup relationships, but also the potential for conflict and tension. Understanding the role culture plays in how we communicate with others is vital and will be the focus of this course. This course will provide an overview of the field of intercultural communication. We will focus on understanding how context, power, and history influence our intercultural interactions.

Instructor Information

Instructor: Nicole Allen, PhD
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Required Materials

Hall, Covarrubias, Kirschbaum - Among Cultures: The Challenge of Communication.
Supplemental readings will be provided via Canvas.

Course Objectives

1. Learn the fundamental perspectives, theories and principles of intercultural communication as a field and as a practice in everyday life.
2. Obtain a robust understanding and appreciation of different cultural perspectives, approaches, and world views.
3. Further improve students’ ability to think critically about and evaluate different points of view and arguments.
Course Policies

Student Accommodations

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, 435–797–2444, drc@usu.edu). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Late Work

All unexcused late work must be turned within one week of it being due. I will not accept work later than a week. The assignment will be deducted 12% of the assignment total for each day that it is late. Unless otherwise discussed, all work stemming from an excused absence will be expected within a week of the absence. For excused absences, when possible, exams should be scheduled prior to the missed class.

Technology

School-related use of technology is at the discretion of students. I have seen students help and hurt themselves with the use of laptops in the classroom. By and large, I will optimistically assume all tech use is class related, however, if it becomes apparent a student is inappropriately using technology in the classroom, I reserve the right to reduce participation points.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

All work for the class should be original and submitted just for this course. This means presenting others work (even small excerpts) as your own OR attempting to use a paper you did for another class will result in a 0 for the assignment on the first offense and expulsion from the class on the second offense. If you have interest in a particular topic that you explored in another class, please let me know so we can find a way to balance plagiarism and your continued interest in a specific topic.

Grading Scale

A 100% - 94% A- 93.9% - 90% B+ 89.9% - 86% B 85.9% - 83% B- 82.9% - 80% C+ 79.9% - 76% C 75.9% - 73% C- 72.9% - 70% D+ 69.9% - 66% D 65.9% - 63% D- 62.9% - 60% E 59.9% and below
Assignment Descriptions

Weekly Objectives (100):

This class requires in class participation from all of us to be successful. This means keeping up on assigned readings and participating in class discussions. I will use quizzes, discussion circles, and out of class essay questions to reward students who participate. These points are subject to fluctuation as the course develops.

Class Glossary (2*50 = 100)

Each week we will be covering concepts and making last connections that will follow and build throughout the semester. To help ensure that class time is not lost to the fogginess of our memories, students will sign up to record notes and add them to our class glossary (a shared Google doc). This will be a resource for the entire class during and after the semester. Glossary entries will be evaluated based on their level of description, adherence to the guidelines, and promptness.

Dialectical Prompts (200):

Four times throughout the semester students will complete a 750-900 mini-paper analyzing a given prompt using course concepts and, if called for, outside research. Each prompt will be graded on its correct use and identification of relevant vocabulary as well as the application of that vocabulary to the details given in each prompts. The goal is for students to dig deeper into everyday problems and occurrences with the new skills and vocabulary developed in the classroom. All dialectical prompts will be turned in via BB by the specified date.

Theory/Concept Tests (100*2 = 200):

You will be tested on your knowledge of the foundational concepts and theories we have covered throughout the semester prior to the test date. A review guide sheet will be provided no later than nine days prior to the test.

Group Pamphlet Assignment and Presentation (150 Pamphlet + 100 Class Presentation):

Using course concepts and tools, each team will be responsible for producing a pamphlet intended to help travelers communicate in a foreign country/culture. Groups will conduct in depth scholarly research as well as interview members of the target country/culture. This will require groups to give practical tips and guides to a US traveler. Country assignments will be assigned and negotiated at the beginning of the semester. Groups will share their findings during our final class meeting. More specific assignment instructions will be given during the semester. Please note that in order to earn group grades you will need to complete the project with your assigned group. If you are having issues within your group, you need to let me know early and often. It is not an option to complete this assignment individually. We are learning how to communicate in this class responsibly and ethically. These skills should immediately be put to use with your group mates and your classmates. All students are expected to comport to norms of group work. No form of physical, emotional, or verbal violence, outbreaks, or inappropriate language will be tolerated. Few people enjoy group work, but is a fact of life outside of, as well as inside of school, so these skills need to be developed.
Fall 2019 Schedule

Week 1 (08/26-08/30): Syllabus and Foundations

HCK, Chapter One
Nakyama & Martin, “The History and Study of Intercultural Communication”

Week 2 (09/02-09/06): Defining and Investigating Intercultural Communication

*Monday: Labor Day*

HCK, Chapter Two

Week 3 (09/09-09/13): Verbal Communication

HCK, Chapter Three
HCK, Chapter Five
*Dialectical Prompt Due 1*

Week 4 (09/16-09/20): Nonverbal Communication

HCK, Chapter Six

Week 5 (09/23-09/27): Identity

HCK, Chapter Four
*Dialectical Prompt Due 2*

Week 6: (09/30-10/04) Exam One

Monday-Wed Review

Friday Exam

Week 7 (10/07-10/11): Conflict

HCK, Chapter Eight
*(In Class) Dialectical Prompt Due 3*
## Week 8 (10/14-10/18) Dark Side of Intercultural Communication

### Friday Fall Break

- HCK, Chapter Seven
- Friday: Submit Interview Questions

## Week 9 (10/21-10/25): Travelers, Assimilation, Migration

- Twombly, "Piropos and Friendships: Gender and Culture Clash in Study Abroad"
- HCK, Chapter Nine

## Week 10 (10/28-11/01): Travelers, Assimilation, Migration II

- Hall & Raymond, "The Development of Cross-Cultural (Mis)Understanding Through Volunteer Tourism,"
- Wearing & Grabowski-Faulkner, "Volunteer Tourism and Intercultural Exchange: Exploring the ‘other’ in this experience;"
- Dialectical Prompt Due 4

## Week 11 (11/04-11/08): Media & Cultural Appreciation and Cultural Appropriation

- Nakyama, "Intercultural Communication and Popular Culture,"
- Rogers (2006), "From Cultural Exchange to Transculturation: A Review and Reconceptualization of Cultural Appropriation"

## Week 12 (11/11-11/15): Amreeka & Non-voluntary Migrants

  - Watch: Amreeka (+dialectical prompt)
  - Hebanni (2010), "Intercultural Communication Challenges Confronting Female Sudanese Former Refugees in Australia"

### Friday: Submit Interview Notes

## Week 13: Exam II

- Monday and Wednesday: Review
- Friday: Exam

## Week 14
11/25-11/29  Thanksgiving Weds & Friday

Week 15

12/02-12/06  No Test Week- Friday Last Day of Class

Week 16

12/09-12/13  Finals Week