

Course Summary		
Course Code	Course Title	Recommended Credit Hours
COMM-280	Intercultural Communication	3
Subject	Contact Hours	Prerequisites
Communication Studies	45	None
Department	Type of Instruction	Language of Instruction
Communication	e-learning	English

Course Description

This course presents a theoretical and practical approach to the study of intercultural communication and development. The aim of this course is to increase sensitivity to and understanding of intercultural differences and similarities so that this awareness can lead to more effective communication and interactions. The course is designed to be interactive and practical and will involve students in several projects to meet people of different cultural backgrounds. Students will gain an awareness of the diversity of ideas and practices found in human cultures and understand how such ideas and practices compare.

Purpose of the Course

- É Develop an appreciation for and better understand one’s own culture
- É Develop an appreciation for other cultures
- É Develop intercultural competence skills to live in an increasingly diverse world and to successfully interact with diverse people
- É Develop an understanding of the host country’s historical, political, religious, economic and geographical features

Course Topics

1. Communication Principles
2. Intercultural Communication theory
3. Cultural diversity
4. Cultural identity
5. Cultural awareness
6. Intercultural competencies

Instructor Information

Dr. Sandi Smith is a specialist in international education, engagement and learning, with decades of experience training students, faculty and professionals in intercultural development, competencies, communication, transition adjustment and education abroad pedagogy. Dr. Sandi earned a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Florida State University, specializing in internationalization of higher education. Her dissertation topic explored the meaning and measurement of intercultural development in college students. Dr. Sandi has previously taught COM280: Intercultural Communication in the classroom and as an online e-learning course.

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate the ability to describe the concepts of culture (meaning, cultural identity and cultural diversity) and basic concepts, principles, and skills regarding communication between persons from different cultural backgrounds (e.g., religion, age, race, class, gender, sexuality, region, nationality, generation, disability).
2. Identify key concepts and theories of intercultural communication and competence.
3. Analyze how elements such as culture, ethnicity, and gender influence individuals' communication and interactions with others. Evaluate the relationship between cultural/ethnic identity and intercultural interaction skills.
4. Produce critical reflection on the effects of stereotypes, prejudice, socio-structural forms of power, and ethnocentrism on cultural identity, communications and interactions.
5. Challenge assumptions within the theories, research studies, and debates examined during the course.
6. Demonstrate intercultural communication and interaction skills.
7. Identify and implement ways to improve the intercultural communications in various academic, professional and social settings.

Evaluation and Grading

- 10% 1. Participation in online Discussion Board / Forum Topics with professor and classmates
- 10% 2. Reflection Assignments
Students will be given FIVE (5) assignments to observe and/or interact with others and provide a written (or digital media) reflection of the experience.
- 15% 3. Mid-term Test
Vocabulary, concepts, principles of communication and theories of culture and intercultural competence.
- 10% 4. Cultural Autobiography
Write a 4 - 5-page (typed, double spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font, one inch margins) description of your own cultural background. Be sure to cover the components of culture (i.e. building blocks of culture) discussed in class, such as: economic organization (e.g. socioeconomic influences, education, etc.), social organization (e.g. family, residence, kin group, common interest groups, etc.), political organization, religious organization, arts, language, etc. The beliefs, values, and attitudes (including insider/outsider) that you have been taught as a member of your culture group(s). Also, reflect on how you think these components influence your communication with others and your potential workplace in the future. Students will be evaluated on their written report based on effort in terms of reflecting on and relating to all the building blocks of culture we discuss in class.
- 10% 5. Intercultural Interaction Exercise
Each student will be given a topic to explore with three individuals from the community. Observe and interact with culturally different individuals. Write an 2-page (typed, double spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font, one inch margins) description of the similarities and differences in perspectives. Describe your assumptions of the cultural background of each interviewee and how his/her culture may have influenced his/her perspective.

- 30% 6. Ethnography
Each student will be assigned a cultural group in which to conduct a mini ethnographic study. Instructions included in syllabus.
- 15% 7. Final Exam
The final exam will be a series of short essay questions providing students an opportunity to demonstrate broad cultural concepts they learned and practiced throughout this course.

Forum Topics	100 points
(5) Reflection Assignments	100 points
Cultural Autobiography	100 points
Mid-Term	150 points
Intercultural Interaction	100 points
Ethnography	300 points
Final Exam	<u>150 points</u>
Total	1,000 points

Grading Scale:

A 960- 1000	B- 800- 839	D+ 656- 684
A- 920- 959	C+ 760- 799	D 630- 659
B+ 880- 919	C 720- 759	D- 600- 629
B 840- 879	C- 685- 719	F 0- 599

Required Textbook

Communication Between Cultures, 8th Edition: Samovar, Porter, McDaniel, 2013, Wadsworth Pub.
ISBN: 978-1-1113-4910-3

Other Academic Policies

To qualify for a make-up exam, or assignment, or be given any other dispensation, the student must submit a doctor's certificate or other formal document of equivalent authority.

Completion of all activities to be graded (e.g. exams, quizzes, exercises, assignments, etc) is a serious and important matter, and will be treated as necessary for successful completion of the course. Please note cheating from someone else's work, or allowing someone to cheat from your own work is an academic crime and both are subject to corrective action - even possibly complete failure of the course. Likewise plagiarism is NOT allowed as it is an academic crime. Students will risk complete failure of the course if they plagiarize, or in any other way cheat. Whenever you use other written material (that is not common knowledge) in your assignments, you should reference the sources of that information.

Course Outline

	Topic	READ	Deadline!
Module One	Introduction to course and expectations and assignments Principles of Participant Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kolb learning cycle - Socratic dialogue - Reflective journaling - Active participation - Experimentation 		
Module Two	Why do we study Intercultural Communication Principles of Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identity, perceptions, needs, persuasion - Contextual, dynamic, symbolic, learned, consequential - Messages, encoding, listening Diversity Difference	Chapters 1 & 2	
Module Three	Theories of Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beliefs, Values, Norms - History - Identity - Language - Social - Ethnicity Taxonomies of Cultural Patterns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hall, Hofstede, Kluckhohn Contact Hypothesis	Chapters 3,4,5,6	
Module Four	Ancestry Socialization Identity	Chapter 7	Cultural Autobiography
Module Five	Verbal & Non-Verbal Communication	Chapters 8 & 9	
Module Six	Intercultural Development Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allport - Bennett 	Chapter 10	
Module Seven	Mid-Term Exam		Mid-Term Exam
Module Eight	Cultural Awareness, Ethnography		
Module Nine	Communication & Interaction Exercises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Observation, interpretation, analysis 		Interaction Assignment
Module Ten	Cultural Conflict, misunderstandings, mediation		
Module Eleven	Intercultural Competencies		Mini-Ethnography
Module Twelve	Final Exam		Final Exam