Communication Studies 310
Intercultural Communication
Spring 2011, T/Th 3:40-5:00 p.m., Carver 282

Instructor: Dr. Todd Jenks
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Catalogue Description: This course examines theories, principles and research on intercultural communication, with the intent of enhancing cultural sensitivity and ability to recognize, accept and adapt to cultural diversity. The course uses interactive assignments to accomplish this goal.

Course Objectives: Upon satisfactory completion of this course the student will demonstrate:
1.) an understanding of the history of the study of intercultural communication;
2.) a working knowledge of key theories & methods in intercultural communication research;
3.) an awareness of current research occurring in intercultural communication;
4.) an increased knowledge of one’s own cultural frame & its influence on one’s communication;
5.) a better understanding of the way in which other’s cultural patterns of thinking, values, assumptions, beliefs, and norms influence the communication process;
6.) an ability to recognize and analyze the ways in which mass media represent, and misrepresent, culture and intercultural issues;
7.) enhanced competence as an intercultural communicator who is able to adapt to our increasingly global communication context; and
8.) sensitivity and empathy for people of various cultures.


Attendance: Class attendance and participation is expected and appreciated. As an upper level course for communication majors, this class utilizes numerous in-class activities to help you process and apply textbook terminology and content. It is imperative that you be in class; in addition, it is critical that you actively participate in all class discussions and activities.

Absences: Your instructor recognizes that there may be rare occasions when you must miss a class due to illness or other serious matters. This is understandable. However, equally understandable are the facts that class attendance is very important and also that each class period is extremely valuable, since we meet only two times a week. In light of these factors, the following scale will be applied to a student’s cumulative absences at the end of the semester.

0 total absences … +2% to final course average
1-2 total absences … +1% to final course average
3 total absences…no penalty
4 or more absences … -1% from final course average for each absence from 4th one on.

This scale will be utilized for all absences due to any reason. Choose wisely. You may not want to “burn” an absence skipping class early in the term, as you may become ill later in the term. The foremost step you can take to ensure success in this class is to attend class all the time.
**Tardiness:** Roll will be taken at the start of class each day. If you arrive to class late, it is your responsibility to speak with the instructor to ensure that your attendance has been recorded. Please be punctual. If you arrive late you may miss a quiz, important notes, a learning activity, or other significant information. Quizzes generally are given at the start of class, so if you are late, you may miss the opportunity to take the quiz and earn the points. Arriving more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early will be recorded as an absence.

**Due Dates:** All assignments are due on the date assigned on the syllabus. Specific details will be discussed in class regarding which students will submit reports and presentations on each of the dates listed on the syllabus. Any assignment turned in late will automatically be docked one complete letter grade (e.g., from A- to B-), and if it is not turned in by the next class period it will be docked another complete letter grade per class until it is submitted.

**Readings:** It is important that you read assignments noted on the syllabus for a specific class session prior to coming to class for that session. The assigned readings will serve as the foundation for in-class discussions and activities. There also will be a quiz on the readings many days to assess reading completion and comprehension. Since this is an upper level course, there will be little of the traditional “lecturing” on assigned readings. You are expected to acquire the information from your reading to be ready to engage in activities & discussions on the reading.

**Other Course Policies:** Please note these class policies so you are aware of proper procedures.

1.) **Academic Integrity** — The instructor will not tolerate even the slightest amount of plagiarism on papers or assignments, nor any element of cheating on tests or quizzes (please keep your eyes on your own quiz or test). Plagiarism or cheating will result in a grade of 0 (zero) for the assignment and any other ramifications the university requires.

2.) **Grade of “Incomplete”** — It is the instructor’s policy not to assign a grade of incomplete. Each student will receive a letter grade based on the grading scale on this syllabus. Please do your work during the term you are enrolled for the course.

3.) **Availability of Instructor** — The instructor will do his best to work with any student who has an issue pertaining to this course which needs addressing. Please feel free to approach the instructor before or after class, or to call or email. I have taught communication courses for 17 years—from state universities to state prisons, from the central states to the Sunshine State, from public speaking to popular film studies. I have seen and heard it all (or at least a great deal). No problem is too small. No question is unimportant. Please seek the help you need. If you have a problem, please speak with the instructor and together we will work to try and resolve it. I want to work with you to make this course useful, meaningful and memorable.

4.) **Academic Environment** — The instructor will do his very best to make the class interesting as well as informative. Students are expected to participate fully in all discussions/activities and to extend their utmost efforts. Apply yourself and enjoy yourself, for although learning does take work, it can and should be fun.

5.) **Electronic Devices** – To ensure a positive distraction-free learning environment, please turn off all cell phones, text messengers & other electronic devices (if you need to have one on for an emergency, speak with the instructor). Laptop computers should only be used for taking notes for this class, not for working on other classes or email.
Special Needs: If a student needs special accommodations due to learning/physical conditions or due to extracurricular university commitments such as a university athletic team, you must speak with the instructor the first week of the semester to make arrangements. Thank you.

Course Grades: A student’s final course grade will be based on these assignments and values:
Test 1 = 20% (200 points)
Test 2 = 20% (200 points)
Test 3 = 20% (200 points)
Quizzes on Reading Assignments = 20% (200 points)
Intercultural Communication Research Report = 15% (150 points)
Culture and Identity Inventory = 5% (50 points)

Grading Scale:
97-100% = A+  
93-96% = A  
90-92% = A-  
87-89% = B+  
83-86% = B  
80-82% = B-  
77-79% = C+  
73-76% = C  
70-72% = C-  
67-69% = D+  
63-66% = D  
60-62% = D-  
59% or less = F

Examinations: Exam questions will come from the text and from content covered in class lectures, discussions and activities. Tests will include both objective questions that require retention and comprehension of information as well as analytical questions that require synthesis and application of information. You are responsible for reading and understanding all chapters in the text. You also are responsible for taking notes on material covered in class. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to consult a fellow student to obtain notes from material you missed.

Intercultural Communication Research Project: Students will work in groups to conduct research on the communication practices of a particular country. Groups will share their findings in an oral presentation. Groups will prepare a 1-2 page written overview and provide a copy for everyone in class. Further details on this research project will be shared on a separate page.

Culture and Identity Inventory: The instructor will provide a list of questions about one’s personal cultural identity. The student will discover the answers by talking with family members to learn more about her or his personal cultural identity. The student will record the answers on the inventory form and write a one page summary.

Quizzes: There is the potential for a quiz each day a reading assignment is due. Readings quizzes on assigned readings are designed to assess the student’s reading completion and comprehension. These quizzes will consist of objective questions that may include true and false, multiple choice, matching, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, or any combination of these. There will be no make-up quizzes given. You must be present to take a quiz.

Online Readings for Communication Studies 310 – Spring 2011
Ladegaard, H.J. (1998). National stereotypes and language attitudes: The perception of British, American and Australian language and culture in Denmark. Language and Communication, 18, 251-274. This reading is due on February 17.

**Tentative Course Outline:** Here is the tentative outline of topics & assignments for the term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>Introduction to course &amp; Why study intercultural communication?</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 13</td>
<td>Culture and its connection with communication</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>January 18</td>
<td>History of the study of intercultural communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>Overview of research in intercultural communication</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td>January 25</td>
<td>History and intercultural communication</td>
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<td>January 27</td>
<td>Communication patterns of American cultural groups</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Communication patterns of American cultural groups</td>
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<td>February 3</td>
<td>Special topics: Worldviews and culture</td>
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<td>Feb. 8 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Research Days to work on culture and identity inventory project</td>
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<td>February 15</td>
<td>Identity and Culture (Culture &amp; Identity Inventories due)</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 17</td>
<td>Special topic: Stereotypes</td>
<td>Online article</td>
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<td>February 22</td>
<td>EXAMINATION</td>
<td>TEST 1</td>
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<td>February 24</td>
<td>Language/verbal communication &amp; culture</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>Language/verbal communication &amp; culture</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
<td>Special topics: Love and romance in other cultures</td>
<td>Online article</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>Nonverbal communication and culture</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Nonverbal communication and culture</td>
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<td>March 15 &amp; 17</td>
<td>No Class – Spring Break (Enjoy your break from your studies!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Culture and transitions</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<td>March 24</td>
<td>Folk culture, popular culture, media and culture</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>EXAMINATION</td>
<td>TEST 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>Research Day to work on research on communication in other cultures</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Intercultural communication research reports</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>Intercultural communication research reports</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
<td>Intercultural communication research reports</td>
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<td>April 14</td>
<td>Intercultural communication research reports</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Conflict and intercultural communication</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<td>April 21</td>
<td>Intercultural communication and relationships</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Intercultural communication competency</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<td>April 28</td>
<td>The future of intercultural communication</td>
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**Final Exam (Test 3):** As scheduled by ISU. Tentatively Friday, May 6, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Intercultural Communication Research Reports

You will work in a team to conduct research and prepare a presentation on the communication practices and customs of a particular cultural group. No two groups may select the same culture. (The instructor will lead the class in assigning the specific due date for each team, as well as which culture will be covered by each group.)

As you conduct your research, your team is looking for concrete information on the communication practices of people from your culture. These practices could be general communication procedures which are followed. These practices also could include specific verbal elements (such as slang, direct/indirect, elaborate/understated/exact, etc.) and specific nonverbal elements (such as gestures, facial expressions, etc.).

At the time of your presentation, you will be required to submit a written hand-out “brief” on communication practices in the country/culture. You will need to provide a copy for everyone in the class, including your instructor. At the top of this page please print: 1.) the name of your culture, 2.) the date of your report, 3.) course information, and 4.) the names of the people in your group. Your 1-2 page hand-out should provide the details on the communication practices you will cover. At the bottom of your hand-out, please cite the sources you have used.

One of the key components of your presentation must be to keep it interesting! Creativity and originality are highly valued. Feel free to use visual aids, food samples, customary attire from your culture, or any of many other ways to make your material come to life.

Take note: Please do not bombard us with a PowerPoint presentation. Often the technology doesn’t work. In addition, we want you to speak to us, rather than read to us or overwhelm us with words on slides. (You may use pictorial slides as visual aids, or “key point” slides to highlight your main points; however, do not put your whole presentation on “slides.” And be prepared for the possibility that the technology may not function for you!)

Grading criteria will include both content and delivery. Content items include: a.) organization, b.) preparation, c.) creativity and originality, d.) clarity of points, e.) thoroughness of coverage, f.) specific examples and details, and g.) keeping our interest. Communication (delivery) items include: a.) eye contact, b.) speaking (not reading), c.) vocal fluency (including no fillers), and d.) timing (staying within the time limit).

At the close of your presentation, your instructor and your classmates will have the opportunity to ask questions about your research on the communication practices of the culture on which you are reporting.

IMPORTANT: Please practice and ensure that your report is within the time limit.

Length of presentation should be ______________________________

Your due date and partner(s) ______________________________