

## INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

**Course contact hours:** 45

**Number of sessions:** 30

**Recommended credits:** 6 ECTS – 3 US credits

### Introduction to the course

The aim of this course is to increase student understanding and awareness of the impact of our differences on the way we communicate and receive messages.

### Objectives

The main differences the course focuses on are nationality, race, class, gender and religion. We will study and observe how different identities under those categories affect people's perceptions of themselves as individuals, themselves within their groups, themselves within other groups, and how those perceptions affect the way they communicate and interpret messages. In response to the changes in the way we communicate due to communication, the course will also focus on the impact of technology on intercultural communication as well as the ways that different cultures utilize the various forms of social media platforms. In order to do all of this and ensure that the class is dynamic, we will have diverse assignments and incorporate a variety of formats for class including films, power point, Youtube videos, articles, texts and short trips.

**Learning outcomes:** At the end of this course, students will be able to identify different forms of communication and the elements influencing the type of communication used and reception of messages. With that information, students will be able to effectively serve as exceptional cross-cultural communicators.

### Requirements

Fluent in English .

### Contents

1. Theoretical Classes
  - Most classes will consist of presentation of text theory, videos and discussion.
2. Guest Lecturers
  - Professionals from pertinent fields will speak then have discussions with the class.
3. Field Trips
  - We will go to cultural sites and have optional visits to restaurants and museums.
4. Presentations
  - Each student will make a presentation on their own culture

### Weekly Class Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENT
January 16 & 18	Course Introduction and Orientation		
January 23 & 25	What are Communication and Culture?	Niklas 251-259 Schein 311-314	
January 30 & February 1	Different Categories of Cultural Identity	Heather "Exploring Specific Cultural identities"	1 <sup>st</sup> Short Essay/Reaction Video Due Feb 1
February 6 & 8	The Impact of Culture on Perception	Lewis 127-128 Kastanakis 425-433	
February 13 & 15	Cultural Differences in Communication	Stone 75-83	
February 20 & 22	Conflict Resolution, Culture and Communication	Brigg 244-245 Cai 261	
February 27- March 1	Assessment Period Midterm Project Due- February 27		
March 6-8	Food, Culture and Communication	Brummett, 1-4 Stajcic 77	
March 13-15	Verbal Communication and Culture	Caschera 1027-1042	2 <sup>nd</sup> Short Essay/Reaction Video Due March 13
March 20-22	Non-Verbal Communication and Culture	Kirch 416-423	
March 26-April 2	BREAK		
April 3-5	Conventional Media, Culture and Communication	Lull Text	
April 10-12	Social Media, Culture and Communication	Sawyer Text	3 <sup>rd</sup> Short Essay/Reaction Video Due April 12
April 17	Intercultural Class Party		
April 19	Optional Final Presentation Consultation by Appointment		
April 24	Final Presentations		

\*Readings coincide with the week they are listed with and should be completed before the week begins.

#### Assessment

**Participation: 15%**

**3 Short Essays/ Reaction Videos: 10% each**

**Midterm Project: 25%**

**Final Presentation: 30%**

## Bibliography

Luhmann, Niklas. "What is communication?." *Communication theory* 2.3 (1992): 251-259.

Schein, Edgar H. "What is culture." *Sociology of organisations structures and relationships* (2011): 311-314.

Kavan, Heather. "Difference Matters: Communicating Social Identity." *Women in Management Review* (2013).

<http://open.lib.umn.edu/communication/chapter/8-2-exploring-specific-cultural-identities/>

Lewis, Danna-Mechelle. "Book Review: Making Sense of Reality: Culture and Perception in Everyday Life." *Cultural Sociology* 10.1 (2016): 127-128.

Kastanakis, Minas N., and Benjamin G. Voyer. "The effect of culture on perception and cognition: A conceptual framework." *Journal of Business Research* 67.4 (2014): 425-433.

Stone, Hayley, and Christopher Stone. "'Your Time Is Up!': A Case of Cultural Differences in Communication Cues and Perception of Time." *International Management and Intercultural Communication*. Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2015. 75-83.

Brigg, Morgan. "Context and Pretext in Conflict Resolution: Culture, Identity, Power, and Practice." (2014): 244-245.

Cai, Deborah A., and Edward L. Fink. "12 What's past is prologue1: Lessons from conflict, communication, and culture research from half a century ago." *Intercultural Communication* 9 (2017): 261.

Brummett, Barry. "Food and Communication: An Overview." (2014): 1-4.

Stajcic, Nevana. "Understanding culture: food as a means of communication." *Hemispheres* 28 (2013): 77.

Caschera, Maria Chiara, et al. "Multiculturalism and multimodal languages." *Cross-Cultural Interaction: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications*. IGI Global, 2014. 1027-1042.

Kirch, Max S. "Non-Verbal Communication Across Cultures." *The Modern Language Journal* 63.8 (1979): 416-423.

Lull, James. *Media, Communication, Culture: A Global Approach*. John Wiley & Sons, 2013.

Sawyer, Rebecca, and Guo Chen. "The impact of social media on intercultural adaptation." 2012