

COM 263, Elements of Intercultural Communication

Instructor:
Office:
Email:
Office Hours:

Overview of the Course:

This course is designed as an introduction to the basic concepts, principles, and skills for improving communication between persons from different minority, racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Various dimensions of intercultural communication related to both domestic and international contexts will be discussed from multiple perspectives including social scientific, interpretive, and critical.

Benefits of the Course:

Upon successfully completing this course students should:

- Be better able to recognize social and cultural differences and communicate effectively across them.
- Be able to examine the complex relationship between communication and culture generally, and how it is present in their own lives specifically.
- Be able to examine the unique relationship between history, culture, and identity as it functions for diverse groups of people.

Required Materials:

- 1) Martin, J. N., & Nakayama, T. K. (2010). *Intercultural communication in contexts*. (5th ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.
- 2) Additional course readings will be announced in class and posted on BlackBoard.

Communication during the Course:

Most information you will need for the course will be announced in class. However, BlackBoard will be used to post announcements and any other relevant information. Therefore, please be sure to check BlackBoard frequently and use the site as a tool to help you with the class. If you have any questions, I will be available during office hours in person and via email. If emailing me, please be sure to include COM263 in the subject line and allow 2 business days for me to respond. If you have not heard from me after 2 business days, please resend your email. This is YOUR responsibility. Not receiving a response from me is not an excuse, especially when you have your classmates and BlackBoard as your resources.

Disability Resource Center:

If you are registered with the disability resource center please notify me so that I may make accommodations as needed.

Expectations:

From me, as your instructor:

- To help and guide you through the semester by teaching you material that will impact your college career and your everyday interactions.
- To create a safe, positive classroom environment in which we can share ideas and learn from each another.
- To make this course a creative, practical, interesting experience. It is up to you how much you will take from this class.
- If you have questions or find that you are having trouble with the material or assignments, please never hesitate to contact me and bring it to my attention.

From you, as students and participants:

- To arrive to class on time.
- To be alert, respectful, motivated to learn, and ready to participate in class discussions and activities.
- To extend the same courtesy and sense of responsibility you would to an employer:
 - (1) Should you miss a class or an appointment, notify me by email or in person.
 - (2) Professionalism includes coming to class prepared to get involved, respecting others’ opinions, not interrupting in class, being respectful to those who are speaking, and working together in a spirit of cooperation and a desire to get the most out of this learning experience.

Attendance:

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

- Religious holidays
- University-sponsored event (e.g. university-sponsored athletic events, etc.)
- Extreme illness or emergency (car accident, death in the family, etc.)

In all three cases, for an absence to be excused, you will need to provide me with appropriate documentation. If you are going to miss class for religious holidays or university-sponsored events, please notify me at least two weeks in advance so that appropriate accommodations can be made. ***I will not offer make-up exams/quizzes or accept late work unless an absence is excused. You cannot make up an activity if you are not in class.***

I understand that things do come up and there may be a time you cannot attend. Thus, ***you are allowed a total of four unexcused absences. Late arrivals or early departures may be counted as an absence. For every unexcused absence over the 4 allowed per semester, your grade will be reduced by 25 points (5% of your total grade). If you are present in class everyday, you will be awarded 20 extra credit points.***

If you have missed class, it is your responsibility to visit BlackBoard or contact your classmates to obtain missing materials. Do not rely on the instructor to provide you with class lecture notes or assignments if you are unable to attend class. Therefore, I strongly encourage informal networks in class. It is a good idea to exchange phone numbers or email addresses...

<i>Classmate’s Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>

Classroom Climate:

- Throughout the semester, both the instructor and students will be working together to create a safe environment where everyone can engage in the sharing of ideas, dialogue with one another about issues pertinent to their lives and close to their hearts, and freely express opinions without any fears.
- We present our own opinions, values, and beliefs in ways that are tactful and not offensive (including refraining from using denigrating or potentially offensive language).
- To create such an environment, you must demonstrate respect for your instructor and classmates at all times. While others are speaking (including the instructor), do NOT read the paper, do other homework, chat with your neighbor, etc.
- Lastly, all students are responsible for knowing and conducting ourselves according to the AZ Board of Regents Student Code of Conduct which can be found at:
<http://students.asu.edu/srr>

Cell Phones, Laptops, Ipods, and Other Technology:

- Your cell phone, ipods, and laptops should be for your convenience, not my or your fellow classmates' inconvenience. When you are in class, it is not convenient for you to be using cell phones or ipods (THIS INCLUDES TEXTING. SO TURN IT OFF!) It is extremely disruptive and shows a complete lack of common courtesy. If your phone goes off in the middle of the class, I may ask you to leave, and not assign you participation points for that day. If there is an emergency situation and it requires that you check your phone please let me know. If you want to use your laptop, you must sit in the first few rows 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.

Academic Integrity:

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, presenting someone else's work as your own, using the same paper for more than one class, and fabricating or inventing data. All cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Hugh Downs of School of Human Communication and will become a part of the student's record (e.g., transcript). It can result in a zero on the assignment and a failing grade ("E") in the course.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication strongly believe in academic integrity; thus, instructors in the College and School do not tolerate cheating and plagiarism. Instructors who find compelling evidence of academic dishonesty will actively pursue one or more of the following actions: assigning a grade of XE ("failure through academic dishonesty") to the student, advocating the suspension or expulsion of the student from the College, and /or referring the student to Student Judicial Affairs. If a student who is charged with academic dishonesty is found to be in violation then one or more of these disciplinary actions will be taken. For further information, please read the Student Academic Integrity policy and the code of conduct for the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at:
<http://humancommunication.clas.asu.edu/undergraduate/major-information> (or
<http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity/policy>)

Please be advised, for this class we will be using SafeAssign, a plagiarism-detecting tool. All papers (along with bibliographies) will be submitted via the SafeAssign drop box.

Course Assignments:

Generally, all assignments are ***due at the beginning*** of class. They must be submitted as a printed, paper copy as well as electronically via *SafeAssign* on BlackBoard to be considered complete and on time. Written assignments must be typed in black ink on white paper, stapled, double-spaced, 10-12 pt. Times New Roman, 1-inch margins all the way around, your name in the header of the page, with page numbers on all pages.

If an assignment is ***not submitted*** as a printed, paper copy as well as electronically via *SafeAssign* on BlackBoard at the beginning of class, I will automatically reduce your grade by 20%. Additionally, I will reduce your grade by another 20% for every 24-hour period after the due date. Consequently, no late work will be accepted 5 days after the due date.

Current Events (20 points):

At the start of the semester, each student will sign up for one current events presentation slot. On the class day BEFORE your day of presentation, you will post a link to your chosen article (from a credible news source) on Blackboard and also list 3-5 discussion questions. On the day of your presentation, you will briefly discuss your article, relate it to what we have been learning/reading in class, and lead a discussion (for about 10 min.) using your discussion questions. More details about this assignment will be provided on BlackBoard.

Personal Identity Narrative (30 points):

You will write a 2-3 page personal identity narrative paper to examine how you (or a group you closely identify with) have been molded by past events and experiences. You should take a self-reflexive look at how your own cultural background has influenced and molded who you are today (as an individual) and how you interact with other cultures (and culturally-different individuals). More details about this assignment will be provided on BlackBoard.

Fieldwork Assignment (50 points):

For this assignment, you must “experience” something new/different by observing or participating in a group/cultural activity or event that is previously unfamiliar/unknown to you. You will then spend at least 1 hour experiencing and observing the activity or event. You will take fieldnotes describing and capturing what you “see” and “feel.” You will then analyze what you observed and experienced (in a 2-3 page paper). More details about this assignment will be provided on BlackBoard.

Cultural Identity Team Project (total of 150 points)

Working in teams of 4 students, you will gain an in-depth understanding of a specific cultural identity. Each team will write a description of the cultural identity as it relates to each of the following: history and development, portrayal in the news, portrayal in popular culture, and perspective of an insider. Each 2-page description will be worth 25 points. Each team will give a 15 minute presentation (45 pts.) of their research to the class. Finally, all students will briefly evaluate their team members’ contributions (5 pts.). More details about this assignment will be provided on BlackBoard.

Exams (total of 150 points):

There will be two exams (a midterm and a final exam each worth 75 points). There will be multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and/or short essay-type questions. They will cover textbook readings, articles, and in-class lectures.

Quizzes: (total of 40 points)

There will be four quizzes (each worth 10 points).

Participation (60 points):

Participation is essential for success in this class! Participation starts as a function of attendance, but extends to a demonstration of having read the material, asking questions that expand the thinking of the class and instructor, contributing relevant examples, and demonstrating respect for the contributions of classmates. Participation is more than just being in class. Frequent tardiness or inconsiderate behavior (texting during class, sleeping, being disruptive, etc.) will lower your participation grade.

You are expected to come to class having completed assigned readings and to contribute in meaningful and insightful ways to class discussions and activities. This may include providing examples of cultural phenomena and/or examples from your life and should reflect your understanding of course concepts and readings. It might also include contributing something to the current events discussion time of the course.

Grading Scale:

Points Earned	Percentage	Grade Earned
485-500	97-100	A+
465-499.5	93-96.9	A
450-464.5	90-92.9	A-
435-449.5	87-89.9	B+
415-434.5	83-86.9	B
400-414.5	80-82.9	B-
385-399.5	77-79.9	C+
350-384.5	70-76.9	C
300-349.5	60-69.9	D
0-299.5	0-59.9	E

Grade Reviews (“24/7”):

If you would like to discuss a grade with me, I ask that 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.
- Write it down. If you have a question about the grade, just come and talk with me. If you feel the grade was unfair and would like me to review it again, you need to make a logical written argument as to why you feel I have graded you unfairly.
- I am not permitted to talk about grades over the phone or give out grades through e-mail.