

COM 463
Intercultural Communication Theory/Research

Instructor:
Email:
Office:
Office Hours:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course engages with theoretical concepts and research approaches of intercultural communication. Focusing primarily on international and global setting, this course provides an opportunity for the students to explore and study a variety of communicative issues situated in/ emerge from intercultural contexts. This course also prepares the students to explore research avenues for reflexively understanding and negotiating real-life intercultural interactions.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course seeks to help you:

- Reflexively learn about contemporary theories and researches on intercultural issues;
- Understand the complexity of communicative processes in intercultural contexts;
- Introspectively engage with your own intercultural experiences and perceptions;
- Explore diverse theoretical principles and research approaches of Intercultural Communication;
- Apply intercultural theory and research to address and solve issues we encounter in our increasingly diverse and global existence.

COURSE MATERIALS

- Sorrells, K. (2013). *Intercultural Communication: Globalization & Social Justice*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Additional course readings (and audio-visual materials) will be announced in class and posted on BlackBoard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are a total of 400 points possible in this course. The details regarding each assignment and its requirements, as well as, the full schedule of course assignments and due dates can be accessed via ASU's BlackBoard. It is your responsibility to check BlackBoard frequently, read and understand the instructions given to you.

Online Discussion Forum (80 Points, 10 entries @ 8 points each):

An online discussion forum is created specifically for this course. You are expected to contribute to the forum, using ASU's Blackboard system. Based on the readings, class discussions and class activities, the instructor will post discussion questions and issues. The online platform will allow you to respond to the questions; and you are supposed to contribute to every discussion. In case of late submission, you will lose one point for each day it is late. For each discussion question, you must meaningfully contribute at least 200-250 words.

Participation (includes attendance and activities) (70 points):

In-class participations include group exercises, guided discussions of readings, examination of case studies, and other learning activities. In most of our class meetings, we will have in-class activities. You are expected to be present for the entire class period and participate fully in those activities (such as Quiz). For instance, during the semester, you will be assigned readings/ audio-visual materials to present to your classmates, or you may be asked to perform "fieldwork" activities. These short-assignments will be described in more detail on BlackBoard.

Reflection Papers (50 points):

You will write two short papers (@ 25 points each). Detailed guidelines about the writing assignments will be available via ASU's BlackBoard.

Group Project (100 points):

You will be assigned to a project team, each consisting of 4-5 students. Each team will choose one contemporary intercultural topic/ case. You are expected to analyze the topic/case to design a presentation and write a research paper/report. More details about this assignment will be provided on BlackBoard.

Examinations (100 points, 2 exams @ 50 points each):

There will be two exams (a mid-term and a final exam) that evaluate your understanding and comprehension of the assigned readings, lectures, as well as the on-line and in-class discussions.

Grading Scale

A+ = 100% = 400 points

A = 93-99.9% = 372-399 points

A- = 90-92.9% = 360-371 points

B+ = 87-89.9% = 348-359 points

B = 83-86.9% = 332-347 points

B- = 80-82.9% = 320-331 points

C+ = 77-79.9% = 308-319 points

C = 70-76.9% = 280-307 points

D = 60-69.9% = 240-279 points

E = 0-59.9% = 0-239 points

XE = Academic dishonesty

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Participation Policy

Attendance is expected and required. Your presence during class lectures and in discussions is a crucial step in understanding the course materials. Arriving late and/or leaving early might reduce your attendance points. Attendance will be taken daily. Class preparation and participation are important. Class discussions (such as sharing narratives, experiences), and group works are key learning avenues for this course. You are expected to prepare, attend, and contribute to class and group work sessions.

Attendance and participation points will be calculated as follows:

0=absent,

0.5=present but not engaged/ prepared/ engaged, or texting/ sleeping/social networking,

1=present, prepared, engaged and actively participated.

After five absences, you will lose ten points per absence. Use your absences wisely and come to class prepared to participate.

Excusable absences are:

- Religious holidays
- University sponsored events such as athletics and debate.
- Extreme illness or emergency (e.g., car accident, death in the family etc.)

Please also note that you will be required to provide documentation for these situations.

In addition, if you are absent, for whatever reason, you are still responsible for any material covered and for turning in your works/ assignments on time.

Classroom Conduct

To create and maintain a healthy academic environment, it is crucial that we (1) display respect for the students and instructor; (2) engage and actively participate in all class discussions and activities. You are required to adhere to the behavior standards listed in the Arizona Board of Regents Policy Manual Chapter 5 – Campus and Student Affairs [<http://www.azregents.edu/policymanual/default.aspx>]and the ACD 125 (Computer Internet and Electronic Communications related guidelines)

[<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd125.html>].

Your final grade may be reduced if you engage in unacceptable behaviors. Moreover, students who are physically and/or verbally aggressive toward the instructor, guest lecturers, or other students before, during, or after class will have their final grade substantially lowered if they engage in these sorts of behavior. You might want to study the ASU Policy on disruptive student classroom behavior

[<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/usi/usi201-10.html>].

Communication Policy

Most information you will need for the course will be announced in class. However, BlackBoard will be used to post assignments/ announcements and any other relevant information. Therefore, please be sure to check BlackBoard on a regular basis. If you have any questions, I will be available during office hours in person and via email.

Please use your ASU email account for all course correspondence. While sending an email, please type “COM463” in the subject line and include a short phrase indicating the purpose of your message (e.g., assignment query). Emails sent to me on weekdays will be attended

to the next business day. Emails sent to me on weekends will be attended to within 48 hours. If you do not hear from me after the timings stated above, it is highly likely that I did not receive your mail. Therefore, please send your email again.

Technology Policy

Laptops/ tablets may be used in class ONLY for note-taking purposes. You are liable to grade deductions, if you engage in disruptive/ distracting behaviors when using technology in class (such as watching videos, updating social-network status, checking emails, online chatting, playing online games, etc.). Furthermore, cell phones are to be turned off or on true silent mode while in class.

Late Work Policy

Late submissions will not be accepted. You will receive a zero/ substantial lower grade on those assignments if they are not completed and submitted/ presented by the due dates. For exams, late arrivals/ make-ups require full and official documentation. You will not be able to make-up for an exam if you do not have proper documentation.

In case of incompletes, university policy will be followed, which specifies that incompletes may be given only when a student who is doing otherwise acceptable work is unable to complete a course because of illness or other conditions beyond the student's control. Students requesting an incomplete must download and complete the appropriate request form at <http://students.asu.edu/forms/incomplete-grade-request>.

Disability and Special Accommodation

Disability Accommodations: Qualified students with disabilities who will require disability accommodations in this class are encouraged to make their requests to me at the beginning of the semester either during office hours or by appointment. **Note:** Prior to receiving disability accommodations, verification of eligibility from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is required. Disability information is confidential.

Establishing Eligibility for Disability Accommodations: Students who feel they will need disability accommodations in this class but have not registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) should contact DRC immediately. Their office is located on the first floor of the Matthews Center Building. DRC staff can also be reached at: 480-965-1234 (V), 480-965-9000 (TTY). For additional information, visit:

www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc. Their hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>.

Disclaimer

The information provided in this syllabus constitutes a list of basic class policies. I reserve the right to modify this information when deemed necessary for any reason. You will be notified via email if/when any changes occur.