

Communication

Communication ~~ Reedley College ~~ Spring 2023
Communication 10: Intercultural Communication

Instructor: Dr. Linda Carvalho Cooley

Check Canvas for Office hours and Zoom Office link

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*There is NO textbook for this course. Instead, I will lecture on content, share videos, and stories to help you engage the content. This course is being taught online via Canvas. The course is set up with modules for every week. Make sure you log in regularly and often to make sure you do not miss any of the assignments. **Huge TIP:** take notes when you watch my lectures – you will thank me during the mid-term & final*

Course Description

Intercultural Communication introduces students to the cultural variables and factors in the communication process. Emphasis is given to communicating effectively in diverse social and professional environments. Focus will also be given to the analysis and comparisons of message perception, verbal and nonverbal communication, communication climates and language interpretation in interactions between people from different cultures. Activities are designed to develop communication skills that improve competence in intercultural situations. C-id designation Comm 150.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply theories of intercultural communication to real life encounters.
2. Analyze diverse communication systems and perspectives employed when communicating within & across cultures.
3. Identify and explain differences in language, perception, listening and conflict resolution as they pertain to intercultural communication skills.
4. Identify and explain the basic creation of culture(s) including the recognition of how patterns of behavior, values, and beliefs are shared/transmitted via verbal and non-verbal communication.

(SLO's will be assessed via Discussion Boards, Group Island and the Intercultural Communication Country Report)

Specific Objectives

In the process of completing this course, students will:

1. Recognize and articulate how core values, worldview, and communication patterns shape cultural and individual identity.
2. Identify the components of culture and communication and their interrelationship.
3. Explain how culture influences verbal and nonverbal communication.
4. Comprehend the social and psychological variables of culture and its expression.
5. Discuss the diverse ways of thinking, perceptions, and interpretations.
6. Compare and contrast cultural communication strategies in various contexts.
7. Recognize barriers to effective intercultural competencies such as stereotyping, prejudice, and ethnocentrism.
8. Identify elements of common ground among diverse cultures.

Student Rights

Students are encouraged to become familiar with the “Campus Policies” section of the Schedule of Courses. This material includes information regarding cheating and plagiarism, disruptive classroom behavior, and other instructional issues. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing in my class will receive a zero on the assignment and any assignment connected to that assignment (e.g. cheating or plagiarism on a speech will result in a zero on the speech, the outline, the reference page, the reflection and on all audience evaluations). Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will also forfeit all participation points and will not be allowed any extra credit points. **Turn it in** will be used via Canvas and students need to address and resubmit any assignment with a score above 35% match prior to the due date or they will receive a zero on the assignment.

Students with disabilities who have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

My Teaching Philosophy

Teaching for me, has always been about helping students. If you are having an issue – talk to me. I’m not near as scary as I may look or sound. Please reach out to me and I promise I will listen to you and together we will come up with a solution. In an online environment all I can do is be here, but I can’t help if you don’t ask. I will meet you day or night – but I need advanced planning. ALWAYS keep in mind my intention is to help you. I care and want you to succeed. Meet me halfway – check in regularly and pay attention to the announcements! Since there is no textbook, please watch the lectures and TAKE NOTES just like you would in a face-to-face class – everything on the mid-term and final are covered in my lectures. I believe that all students are capable of learning in ANY modality. Courses offered online are not for everyone, but some students thrive in online options. Online classes have been a huge asset for busy students. As a certified online instructor, I know that online education does work. You know yourself best so if online is not good for you consider taking a f2f class instead. Please give it your best effort and trust that I am here to help you through the course.

No one wants you to succeed more than I do!

Assignments

Graded Item	Points Possible
DB Intro: What's in a name?	30
Intercultural Survey	10
Coat of Arms Photo – 10 Presentation - 50	60
Group Island **SA DB Group Island – interaction 10 pts Zoom Consult – 15 pts Reference page – 15 pts Flag photo – 10 pts Overall final product – 150 pts (NOTE: the only “group” graded element will be the cohesiveness of the final product = 25 of these points are group connection/unity. All other points are individually earned)	200
Intercultural Communication Report OR Speech **SA Outline & References – Rough Draft 20 pts, Final Version 50 pts Final Paper or Final Speech – 170 pts	240
Discussion Boards (DB 1-12 @ 10 pts each) **SA (2 DB's are designated as signature assignments)	120
Participation & Engagement in course content	140
Mid-Term	100
Final	100
Total Points Possible	1000

Mandatory Signature Assignments are indicated with **SA, these assignments are REQUIRED to earn any extra credit OR to take the final exam.

The following numerical guidelines will be used in the assignment of final grades.

900-1000 = A
800-899 = B
700-799 = C
600-699 = D
599- 0 = F

The instructor reserves the right to increase points for students who are *on the margin* (defined by Dr. C as **less than 10 points**); this will be done based on attitude and participation throughout the semester and is solely at the discretion of the instructor.

Students will not qualify for this *on the margin* grade adjustment if they did not submit any outside extra credit, or if they have utilized 3 or more of the 12-hour window options. On the margin grade adjustments are not a *given* they are “solely at the discretion of Dr. C.”

My Personal Sanity

I had to think more about my work/life balance. I will no longer reply to emails or pop into my zoom office after 6 pm on weekdays or on weekends. You are welcome to email me anytime, but I will not guarantee I will reply after 6 pm. The only exception will be for students who request appointments in advance or if there is a major assignment due.

Classroom Advisory, Requirements and Department

Since this is an online course, it is recommended that students have good basic computer skills. If students are intimidated to utilize computer programs and do not want to conquer the fear, this is not the class for you. Students should have access to a computer and an internet connection. A DSL/broadband line is preferred since you will need to upload documents and watch videos. Students should have access to a webcam and microphone (cellphones often come with these as standard features – if not the library has laptops that can be borrowed).

Additionally, an online course requires a high degree of independent learning. Students must have self-discipline to stay on top of their work without reminders from me or anyone else or you will fail this class. Although you do not physically attend the course you must log in and engage in the material on a weekly basis. Successful students are those who log in and engage in the material on a regular basis at least two to three times a week. Students should listen to the lectures AND take notes! Trust me this will make the Mid-Term and Final much easier.

Students must respect the other students in the class. Comments and posts should be respectful and appropriate. I reserve the right to block any student whose comments are out of bounds. If necessary, students can be reported to the dean of student services or removed from the course. As a communication course, part of the content is to recognize that our messages should be created for a specific audience. The audience for this course is: “educated adults” and I will expect the discussions and posts to be appropriate for an educated adult audience. Under no circumstances will flaming (online name-calling, hate speech, etc.) be allowed. We are allowed to disagree, and I hope that everyone sees that our perceptions are different – that is how it should be. But we can disagree by not commenting or commenting respectfully. Please also know that due to the nature of this course (with students having freedom of choice in some discussion board and project topics), it is possible that some of the subjects and language in this class could delve into the PG-13 or R-rated area. Students can use adult material if it truly fits the assignment.

This course is purely online and as such it is the students' responsibility to stay connected via Canvas. Due dates are firm and late assignments will not be accepted.

Canvas - Canvas will be our primary method of instruction. Students should be familiar or become familiar with Canvas. Please seek additional help during an office hour or attend the tutorial center for extra assistance. Keep in mind when reviewing grades in Canvas the point total is the ONLY thing that matters, percentages do not reflect true grade. Technical difficulties are **NOT** a valid excuse. All deadlines are final – plan ahead and submit assignments early. Assignments will be due at 10 pm. Students will have the ability to “purchase” a 12-hour window to upload assignments the cost is a 5-point penalty assessed on that assignment. This penalty will be given even if the assignment is one minute into the 12-hour window. The 12-hour window eliminates all technology excuses, high turn in score, or lack of submission. The 12-hour window is implemented to allow students to figure those issues out. I will NOT excuse any assignment that did not get into the drop box beyond the 12-hour window under ANY CIRCUMSTANCE – DO NOT ASK.

Group Island: Students will be assigned one group project. Students will work together to create the culture and rituals for their own island. More information will be shared in the course. ***This is a signature assignment*** and cannot be made up. All signature assignments are required to earn taking the final exam or to submit extra credit.

Intercultural Communication Country Paper OR Speech: Students will select either a formal paper or a speech. The paper (4 to 5 pages) or the speech (6 to 8 minutes) on a culture in which the student is not an active participant. Details will be shared in Canvas, but the paper must be at a collegial level, with proper grammar, and properly cited in APA format. The speech must include a power point and be delivered extemporaneously in a recorded format. Both options will include an outline and a reference page that will be submitted as separate preliminary work. ***This is a signature assignment***, students who do not submit the paper or the speech will not earn the right to take the final exam and do not qualify for extra credit. Course content must be cited.

Participation/Engagement Points: This class is only good if it is interactive; therefore, participation is vital to the classroom environment. Each student is expected to read the explained tab in the modules every week, watch all lecture content along with accompanying videos and activities. Students should participate in all the discussion boards and interact with each other. Finally, students **MUST** be respectful during all discussions - students who do not display respect to cultural differences will be asked to leave the course. Keep in mind discussion boards weigh heavily on participation grading.

Additional Point Assignments (Extra Credit): Limited extra credit assignments will be posted in Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to look them up and turn them in. Extra credit assignments submitted by students who have missed a signature assignment (see list of assignments for **SA designation) will NOT be accepted. In addition, students who have missed 3 or more discussion boards will not be allowed to earn extra credit. Lastly students who take advantage of the 12-hour late window three or more times do not qualify for extra credit. The sole purpose of extra credit is to enhance learning not to take the place of assignments.

Mid-Terms & Finals: Students will take their mid-terms and finals in Canvas. Each exam is comprised of two portions; one will be a multiple-choice portion and students will have two timed attempts to take that portion. The second portion is a short answer essay portion, students will have one timed attempt to take that portion of the exam. Final exams are earned in this course. Students who did not complete the signature assignments will not earn the right to take the final exam. Both exams will open on the Monday during their assigned week and will remain open until Wednesday night allowing students three days to complete both portions of each exam.

“Per Title V Regulation 58170(e), students must be referred to academic support services by counselors or instructors. With this statement on my course syllabus, I am referring any students in my class in need of academic support to tutorial services. Tutorial services may include: the tutorial center, writing center or the communication lab. Referral reason: Mastering the content, study skills, and basic skills of this course is aided by the use of trained peer tutors.”