

TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE

COMMERCE CAMPUS

Department of Mass Media, Communication, & Theatre

Spring 2015

Course Instructor: Stephen A. Furlich, Ph.D.

Course Title: Intercultural Communication (On-Line)

SPC 408

Class Time: On-Line

E-Mail: Stephen.furlich@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: (Virtual through e-mail, ECollege).

Office: PAC 120

Prerequisites: None

IMPORTANT, PLEASE READ

*Please take the **Student Orientation Tutorial** before beginning the course. To do so please log into ECollege, then click in the upper left corner 'My Courses' then in the middle of the page under the heading 'my course list' and under 'special courses' click on the link under it labeled 'Student Orientation Tutorial.'

* After signing into ECollege please click on the Help button on the top right side of the page to learn some navigation through the course with the links that to the side.

Course Descriptions: The world is becoming more globalized every day. It is essential to understand intercultural communication to succeed professionally and personally. This course applies intercultural communication concepts, principles, strategies and techniques to your professional and personal life. Intercultural communication is examined with face to face communication and through the use of technology.

Required Textbook: Liu, S., Volcic, Z., & Gallois, C. (2014). *Introducing Intercultural Communication: Global Cultures and Contexts* . ISBN-13: 978-1446285916

Students **MUST** have access to the **INTERNET**.

E-Mails: Label your Name, Class, and Section number, Examples: Smith, 408-01W, in e-mails such as in subject lines.

Course Outcome Competencies

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand intercultural communication in interpersonal, organizational, and technological contexts and how communication can be used productively.
2. Be able to recognize different cultural communicative traits and conflict tactics.
3. Learn concepts and skills for successful intercultural communication.
4. Understand and apply the vocabulary and practice of intercultural communication.
5. Become more aware of other cultures use of communication as well as a better sense of the student's own cultural communication.

Attendance - Punctual attendance is expected such as participation in discussions and completing assignments by the established deadlines.

Assignments will be submitted electronically through ECollege and must be received by 5:00 P.M. Central Friday the week it is assigned. This includes discussion postings. Please note the last week of class for Test 3. **Please do not send an e-mail asking if your paper was received until at least 1 week after it is due.** Answering e-mails about receiving the papers slows down the process of grading speeches. **An e-mail from the Instructor to ALL students will be sent AFTER ALL papers have been graded to notify the class that paper assignment grades have been posted.**

Course Assignments/Assessments: The department of Literature and Languages supports university policies of academic excellence as noted in the student handbook. Interpretation of grades should be considered within the university framework: A=excellent, B=good; C=average; D=inferior; and F=failure. Final grades in this course will be based on:

*** Tests - (70%)**

20% Test 1

25% Test 2

25% Test 3

Test questions will come from the assigned chapters as well as any notes sent out. Students must take the tests without any assistance from other people. They may use their textbooks but the tests will be timed. Academic integrity is described in the student handbook for Texas A&M University-Commerce. Failure to abide by the rules outline may result in failing the class. If a week has both a test and discussion in that week, the discussion will not be part of that test but will be covered on the next test. Due to multiple sections of this class taking similar tests, **test answers will not be given after the test as to correct and incorrect answers.** The students' scores will be the feedback that they receive concerning their test performance. **Students preparing for tests should study how concepts are related to each other, how they differ, and come up with personal examples of the concepts. The test questions are usually not straight forward definitions but often give an example and ask the student which concept the example best represents.**

***Please only submit written assignments as attachments in WORD. Other files such as PDF files are too difficult to grade.**

Discussion- (10%) (each discussion = .84% of total grade)

All discussions are finished by the Friday of the week they are assigned at 5:00 PM Central. A list of questions is given at the end of the syllabus for each section. The first student to post a comment or question for a section should consider addressing one of these questions. Students are required to **post 2 questions and respond to 2 other questions** that are posted each week. **Students need to come up with their own original questions to post and not re-post previous questions from other students or the syllabus. Likewise, students need to refrain from answering the same questions that other students previously fully answered.** Some repetition is acceptable if it helps to develop the ideas and concepts. The objective is to expand and apply the course material. Students cannot post questions or comments for any section except the present one. Hence, you need to stay on top of your participation for each section. **It is helpful for viewing in ECollege if students begin a new post with each of their original questions that they post rather than connected to a previous comment or posting more than one question together.**

Activities (10%)

Chapter Case Study: At the end of each chapter in the book has a case study that can help students better understand their own intercultural communication style. These case studies are designed to help students become more active in the learning process. For each case study assignment, write **1-2 paragraphs** describing how you can apply some of the findings to better communicate intercultural. Your application can be general about a theme that emerged. For example, if a case study addresses intercultural communication of people living in a remote part of a jungle, apply how you can better communicate with others removed from modern society rather than specifically with the group mention who you will most likely never meet. Listed below in the course schedule are the case studies and the weeks they are due. **Please note that a**

case study assignment is not due for every chapter or every week. Please abide by the syllabus schedule below for the appropriate submissions. Please submit the case study activity through ECollege in the Doc Sharing area for the appropriate envelop aligned with each case study.

Theory Corner Assignments (10%)

In each chapter a theory is described that can help students better understand their own intercultural communication style. These theories are designed to help students become more active in the learning process. For each theory corner assignment, write **1-2 paragraphs** describing how you can apply some of the theory to better communicate intercultural. Please be as specific as possible with your application and examples. Listed below in the course schedule are the theory corners and the weeks they are due. Please note that a theory corner assignment is not due for every chapter or every week. Please abide by the syllabus schedule below for the appropriate submissions. Please submit the theory corner activity through ECollege in the Doc Sharing area for the appropriate envelop aligned with each theory corner.

*** Course Behaviors**

Students may lose 10% of their final grade or be dropped from the class for acting disrespectful the first time. This includes but is not limited to offensive comments to another student, etc. Students can receive an 'F' in the class for academic dishonesty. This includes but is not limited to cheating on tests, using previous work from another class for assignments, copying another's work from anywhere, etc.

Course Procedures

Assignments - Assignments must be completed on time. Late work will result in loss of points. Academic integrity is expected on all course assignments and activities. Violations of academic integrity (e.g., plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are serious offenses and will be dealt with according to university policy.

Make-Up Assignments and Examinations - If you miss an exam or assignment it must be for one of the following types of documentable reasons: death in the family, severe personal illness, university sponsored activities, etc. If you have an unexcused absence for take a test or assignment, you cannot make up that assignment or test. Additionally, because of time constraints, the instructor may elect not to grant make-up assignments for any reason. In order to take a make-up examination you must submit verifiable and official documentation to your instructor (e.g., a doctor's note for the specific day missed). If your request is approved, you

may take a make-up test on the appointed day. All make-up exams must be given for qualified persons within 2 weeks of the missed test.

Observance of a Religious Holy Day – Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for time necessary to travel. An institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. No prior notification of the instructor is required.

ADA Statement

Disability statement: Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Intercultural Communication Course Schedule – Spring, 2015

Dates are Monday of each week. Assignments start on Monday and end by Friday of each week.

Assignments due by Friday each week 5PM Central

Jan. 20: DISCUSSION: Ch. 1, 2

Jan. 26: DISCUSSION: Ch. 3

Case Study 1: Page 73 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the specific case to your life.

Theory Corner 1: Page 69 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the theory specifically to your life.

Feb 2: DISCUSSION: Ch. 4

Case Study 2: Page 94 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the specific case to your life.

Theory Corner 2: Page 82 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the theory specifically to your life.

Feb.9 : **Test 1**

Feb. 16: DISCUSSION: Ch. 5

Case Study 3: Page 115 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the specific case to your life.

Theory Corner 3: Page 104 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the theory specifically to your life.

Feb. 23

Discussion: Ch.6

Case Study 4: Page 127 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the specific case to your life.

Theory Corner 4: Page 135 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the theory specifically to your life.

March 2

DISCUSSION: Ch. 7

Case Study 5: Page 142 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the specific case to your life.

Theory Corner 5: Page 153 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the theory specifically to your life.

March 9

DISCUSSION: Ch. 8

Case Study 6: Page 172 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the specific case to your life.

Theory Corner 6: Page 160 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the theory specifically to your life.

March 16	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS
March 23	Test 2
March 30	DISCUSSION: Ch. 9 Case Study 7: Page 192 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the specific case to your life. Theory Corner 7: Page 180 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the theory specifically to your life.
April 6	Discussion: Ch. 10
April 13	DISCUSSION: Ch. 11 Case Study 8: Page 235 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the specific case to your life. Theory Corner 8: Page 224 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the theory specifically to your life.
April 20	DISCUSSION: Ch. 12 Case Study 9: Page 256 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the specific case to your life. Theory Corner 9: Page 250 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the theory specifically to your life.
April 27	DISCUSSION: Ch. 13 Case Study 10: Page 275 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the specific case to your life. Theory Corner 10: Page 270 Write 1-2 paragraphs how to apply the theory specifically to your life. Post-Test Send
May 4	Test 3

I'm looking forward to getting to know each one of you!

Have a great semester!

Discussion Questions

Week 1: What is intercultural communication and why is it important? What contributes to cultural diversity in our society? What challenges does a global village present? What is the influence of culture with communication? What are some characteristics of communication?

Week 2: What are some different characteristics of culture? What are subcultures? What are the different layers of culture? What is identity and what role does it have with culture?

Week 3: Define perception. What are three stages of the perception process? How does culture influence perception? What is ethnocentrism?

Week 4: Test 1

Week 5: What are some differences between high context and low context cultures? How do value orientations influence communication behaviors? What are some principles of ethical intercultural communication?

Week 6: What are some characteristics of verbal codes? How does language influence perception? What are some gender differences in communication?

Week 7: What are some different areas of nonverbal communication? What are some ways cultures can communicate differently nonverbally? Compare and contrast the role of nonverbal communication with verbal communication with intercultural communication?

Week 8: What are some sources of identities? What are some characteristics of identities? What is identity negotiation? What role does identity have with intercultural communication?

SPRING BREAK

Week 9: TEST 2

Week 10: Describe some characteristics of human relationships. What are some stages of relationship development? What influence does culture have with human relationship development?

Week 11: What are some sources of intercultural conflicts? What are the stages of the conflict process? What are the five different conflict styles? What are some ways to manage intercultural conflict?

Week 12: What role does technology and mass media have with globalization? How does the mass media influence thoughts, perceptions, and cultural change?

Week 13: What role does immigration have with cultural diversity? Describe cultural shock and acculturation. What are some ways to improve cross cultural adaption?

Week 14: What are the local and global dimensions of culture? Explain balancing of homogenization and fragmentation of cultures. Describe strategies to develop intercultural competence.

Week 15: TEST 3