

**COMM 4350 – Intercultural Communications**  
**Section 001 – MW 10:00 -11:15 am**  
**Spring 2014**

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Office Hours: M – 8:30-9:30 am/T 9:00 – 10:00 am  
or by appointment

**Course Pre-requisite, co-requisite, and/or other restriction**

COMM 4350 requires you to have credit for RHET 1302 and upper-division standing. I do expect you to demonstrate advanced college level writing skills on all assignments.

**Course Description (from 2012 Undergraduate Catalog)**

“Examines how culture is studied and how culture affects self-concept, reasoning and patterns of thought, verbal and nonverbal communication, and communication style. Additional topics include intercultural conflict, ethnocentrism and prejudice, intercultural accommodation and adjustment, and intercultural business protocol.”

Additional comments: Today’s society is very diverse. This diversity means cultural differences, which can complicate communication. Many times we become fixated within our own culture that when we “step out” it is hard to understand why some other cultures do things or say things a certain way. If we can be open and attentive we may discover new things in other cultures and, maybe better appreciate things within our own culture. This course is designed to help us become better communicators through intercultural awareness, skill, and ethical character.

**Learning Outcomes**

- To learn about intercultural communication theories that explain how and why cultures may communicate in a certain way.
- To learn and perform communication skills that can enhance our relationships.
- Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical approaches toward intercultural communication
- To understand how technology/media affects intercultural communication.
- Describe your own cultural heritage/identities and how these influence your communication.

**Required Textbook & Materials**

This course requires one textbook:

**Intercultural Competence – Interpersonal Communication Across Cultures – Myron W. Lustig & Jolene Koester**  
**7<sup>th</sup> edition ISBN 978-0-205-21124-1**

**Grading Policy**

Assignment	Value	My Grade
Exam 1	150	_____
Exam 2	150	_____
Exam 3	150	_____
Paper-Cultural Background	100	_____
Paper-Cultural Background (Pt.2)	100	_____
Group Project	250	_____
Class Participation	100	_____
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000 pints</b>	

Grading is based on the UTD Undergraduate Catalog and a 1000-point cumulative scale for points earned from assignments. Grades are awarded as follows:

Grade	Cumulative Credit Points
A	930 - 1000
A-	900 - 929
B+	879 - 899
B	830 – 869
B-	800 – 829
C+	770 – 799
C	730 – 769
C-	700 – 729
D+	670 – 699
D	630 – 669
D-	600 – 629
F	0 – 599

## **Course & Instructor Policies**

### **Deliverables**

All assignments and presentations are due on the assigned date by the beginning of class. If the date for your assignment or presentation is a problem, please notify me as soon as possible so that the situation can be addressed and we can consider any alternatives. Waiting until the day of your presentation to request a new date and time for your presentation is not acceptable and you will receive a zero for your grade if you are not able to present.

### **Late Work**

Late, incomplete, or improperly submitted work is not acceptable in this course.

Technological problems are not valid excuses for late work, so plan accordingly. The only exception to this is if you are hospitalized & provide a valid physician excuse or if there is a family emergency. Missed work results in a zero on the assignment.

Students are advised to turn in their assignments early if they know they will miss a due date by being absent from when the assignment is due.

### **Class Attendance**

**ABSENCES:** You must attend class regularly. A sign in sheet will be provided at the beginning of each class, it is your responsibility to sign in. A student may miss a maximum of 3 classes throughout the semester before their grade will be affected. Once a student has 3 absences there will be a 100 point deduction for each subsequent absence after the 3<sup>rd</sup>. This means upon the 4<sup>th</sup> absence, the student's grade will receive an automatic deduction of 100 points from their final point total. There is no distinction between "excused" and "unexcused" absences.

**TARDINESS:** Arriving at a scheduled class time after roll has been taken constitutes a tardy. Being late 10 or more minutes constitutes an absence although the student may attend the class. Roll will be taken at the beginning of class. 3 tardy arrivals equal 1 absence. Out of respect for your fellow class members and your instructor, be on time to class. If you arrive late it is your responsibility to sign in after class is over.

### **Classroom Citizenship**

Students are expected to use this course to practice communicating in a civil and professional manner. Examples would include:

- Respect for each other when speaking
- No side conversations when a fellow classmate or instructor is talking
- Cell phones should be off or set to vibrate
- Do not check email, text messages, or work on other class work.

## **Technology Requirements**

EMAIL: Check your email prior to each class for assignments and announcements. Use only your UTD email account. You can redirect your UTD to a preferred email account. Contact the UTD Help Desk if you have any problems or questions regarding your UTD email account. Failure to check UTD email, errors in forwarding email, and over-quota mailboxes are not acceptable excuses for missing course or project related email.

## **Classroom and Equipment Use Policies**

- Tampering with or destroying any of the computers, printers, Smart Board, white boards, networks or wiring in the classroom is strictly prohibited. Violations will result in disciplinary referral to the Dean of Student's office.
- The room may be used only for COMM 4350 related activities. You may not work on other class projects, check your email, print, or install software. Violations will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Student's office.

## **Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because of the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details).

## **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights, and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-1.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

## **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U. T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

### **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled. Last day to drop this semester is October 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Student Grievance Procedures**

A student having a grievance regarding academic concerns may have the issue considered. Procedures for appeals of academic decisions can be found at [www.utdallas.edu/student/catalog/undergrad11/app1.html](http://www.utdallas.edu/student/catalog/undergrad11/app1.html).

### **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within 8 weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

### **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 3.200 in the Student Services building.

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please visit with the Office of Disability Services. It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professor of the need for accommodations. Letters are provided to students to present to faculty to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Please contact me after class or during office hours if you are needing special accommodations.

### **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence (for the purpose of observing a religious holy day) or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

## COMM 4350- Assignments & Academic Calendar

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor

January	13 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Class
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Watch Mariachi Gringo
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday – No class
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Finish watching Mariachi Gringo/Introduce Group Project <b>Due: Cultural Background Paper</b>
Feb.	27 <sup>th</sup>	Finish Ch. 1/Group Project Time
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 2
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapter 2
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 3
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 3
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 4
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 4
	19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Exam 1</b>
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 5
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 5
Mar.	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapter 6
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 6
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break – No Class
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break – No Class
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 7
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 7
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 8
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 8
April	31 <sup>st</sup>	Group Project Day
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Exam 2</b>
	7 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 9
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 10
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 10
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 11 & 12
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Chapter 11 & 12
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Exam 3</b>
May	28 <sup>th</sup>	Group Presentations
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Group Presentations
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Final Paper Due : Cultural Background Part 2</b>