

COMM 4350 – Intercultural Communications

Section 001 – TR 10:00 – 11:15 am

Section 002 – TR 11:30 – 12:45 pm

Spring 2017

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Office: JO 3.544 (primary office)

ATEC 2.901 (TR office)

Office Hours: Tuesday 1-2:15 (ATEC office)

Wednesday 9-11:30 am / 1:30 – 3:00 pm (JO office)

Thursday 1-2:15 (ATEC office)

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

“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:

An Introduction to Intercultural Communication: Identities in a Global Community by Fred Jandt (8th ed)

Grading Policy

| Assignment | Value | My Grade |
|--|---------------------|----------|
| Exam 1 | 100 | _____ |
| Exam 2 | 100 | _____ |
| Exam 3 | 100 | _____ |
| In Class Assignments (10 assignments 20 pts each) | 200 | _____ |
| Group Project | 100 | _____ |
| Cultural Background Paper | 100 | _____ |
| IFriend Project | 200 | _____ |
| Class Participation | 100 | _____ |
| Total | 1,000 points | |

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 |

Grades will be posted in E-Learning solely for the purpose of you being able to view what I have recorded. This is no way reflects your final grade in this class. If a grade is incorrect or missing, please contact me ASAP. Do NOT wait until the end of the semester to bring this to my attention.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

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 submissions for written work will receive a 33% deduction if submitted within 24 hours of the deadline. Another 33% (for a total of 66%) deduction will be applied if submitted between 24 and 48 hours after the deadline. After 48 hours, no credit will be given for the assignment. Please note that the time posted in my email will serve as the official time of submission.

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 Participation

If you attend all classes and are never late, however never say one word in class do not expect to receive full credit for the class participation. Just like in the real world your boss will expect you to contribute ideas/thoughts I will expect you to contribute to this class.

Class Attendance

ABSENCES: It is in your best interest to attend class regularly. **We will be doing at least one in class assignment a week, which cannot be made up outside of class.** If you miss class when we do an assignment this will affect your final grade as each in class assignment is worth 20 points. If you are missing class due to a disability, religious holy day, or university affiliated program please provide me documentation. If you are in the hospital, please have someone send me an email or contact me to let me know.

TARDINESS: If this is your first class of the day and commute please allow enough time for traffic, finding parking, and walking to class. If you live on campus and this is your first class of the day please make sure you wake up allowing yourself enough time to get ready for class. Realize when you graduate and go to work many places do expect you to be on time, so use this class to practice being on time. If you are continually tardy, I will ask to meet with you to determine what the issue is. Also, this could have an impact on your final grade.

Personal Circumstances

If personal circumstances impact your performance, please address the circumstances with me as soon as possible. It is possible that we will be able to work around your situation if we can address the circumstance when it arises. Initiating the conversation late in the semester or well after the situation has arisen will limit the likelihood of us finding alternatives or any opportunity to work around your personal circumstances.

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.

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.

Student Grievance Procedures

A student having a grievance regarding academic concerns may have the issue considered. Procedures for appeals of academic decision can be found at: <https://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess/grievance/>

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.

Accessibility Services

The goal of Accessibility Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Accessibility 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 Accessibility 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.

Sexual Assault

Universities that receive federal Title IX funding now require many employees to report to campus authorities when they learn of a sexual assault. Student Counseling Center staff are exempt from mandatory reporting, so students who visit the center with sexual assault issues will have their confidentiality preserved.

You can find Sexual Assault Recovery help on campus and off campus:

<http://www.utdallas.edu/counseling/sexualassault/>

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

COMM 4350- Assignments & Academic Calendar

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor. There is no final exam in this class however should the University close due to ice/snow for an extended period of time your last exam may have to take place on the Final Exam date.

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| January 10 th | Introduction to Class |
| 12 th | Ch. 1 |
| 17 th | Chapter 2 – Perception |
| 19 th | Chapter 2 |
| 24 th | Chapter 3 – Barriers to Intercultural Communication |
| 26 th | Chapter 3 |
| January 31 st | Chapter 4 – Nonverbal Communication |
| February 2 nd | Chapter 4 |
| 7 th | Chapter 5 – Language as a Barrier |
| 9 th | Chapter 5 |
| 14 th | Exam 1 |
| 16 th | Chapter 6 – Dimensions of Culture |
| 21 st | Chapter 6 |
| 23 rd | Chapter 7 – Dominant U.S. Cultural Patterns |
| Feb. 28 th | Chapter 8 – Comparative Cultural Patterns |
| Mar. 2 nd | Chapter 9 – Culture and Women |
| 7 th | Exam 2 |
| 9 th | TBA |
| 14 th | Spring Break – No Class |
| 16 th | Spring Break – No Class |
| 21 st | Chapter 10 – Immigration and Acculturation |
| 23 rd | Chapter 11 – Cultures within Cultures |
| 28 th | Chapter 12 – Identity and Subgroups |
| 30 th | Chapter 12 |
| April 4 th | Chapter 13 – Contact between Cultures |
| 6 th | Chapter 13 |
| 11 th | Chapter 14 – Future Challenges |
| 13 th | Chapter 14 |
| 18 th | Exam 3 |
| 20 th | TBA |
| 25 th | TBA |
| 27 th | Class Celebration |