

**Semester at Sea Course Syllabus
Colorado State University, Academic Partner**

Voyage: Fall 2017
Discipline: Communication Studies
Course Number and Title: SPCM 434 Intercultural Communication (Section 2)
Division: Upper
Faculty Name: Kenneth Cushner
Semester Credit Hours: 3

Meeting: A Day 1400-1520, Adlon

Prerequisites: One (1) college composition course*

*Per instructor: I am willing to waive the prerequisite for this course. While ample writing is expected in this course, most undergraduate English courses would satisfy this requirement. I do not see it necessary to have a documented composition course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Regardless of your field of study or ultimate career trajectory you are more than likely to engage in deep interpersonal and professional relationships with people whose cultural background is significantly different from your own. The primary objective of this course is to provide students with an appreciation of global diversity and the role of communication in opening up channels of dialogue to discuss and analyze a variety of intercultural communication practices, situations, and traditions. The course will provide a survey of intercultural communication theory and practice, and encourage the cultivation of communicative competence with people from different cultural backgrounds both in domestic and international settings, as well as across a variety of contexts. The course balances attention to concepts and principles with experientially-based study designed to apply theoretical understandings in concrete, international locations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explore cultural self-awareness as well as other culture awareness, and the dynamics that may arise in interactions between the two in both domestic as well as international settings.
- To compare and contrast different epistemologies and theoretical paradigms adopted by social scientists as they relate to the field of intercultural communication and interaction.
- To identify challenges that may arise from these differences in intercultural interactions and learn ways to creatively address them.
- To discover the importance of the roles of context and power in studying intercultural communication, focusing on the interrelationships among culture, identity, language,

nonverbal codes, and cultural spaces as they are evident in global identities, socioeconomic status, gender and sexuality, as well as in colonial and other social histories.

- To examine specific cross-cultural experiences and contexts to learn how to promote effective cross-cultural communication.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Judith N. Martin and Thomas K. Nakayama
(referred to as MN in Course Outline)
TITLE: Intercultural Communication in Contexts
PUBLISHER: McGraw-Hill
ISBN #: 978-0-07-803677-4
DATE/EDITION: 2012/6th Edition

Additional Readings will be provided by the instructor

Course Overview: The first part of this course focuses on building a basic understanding of the field of intercultural communication as well as cultural formation, perception, communication, and behavior of individuals on the interpersonal level. The second part of the course will utilize knowledge, building frameworks from established theories in the field for critical analysis and understanding of cross-cultural engagement. The third phase of the course will focus on building the skills needed to apply your knowledge to address issues of dehumanization, cross-cultural conflict, and social integration including issues involving ethnic, racial, gender, and class differences.

Given the nature of the subject, this course emphasizes theory in practice with priorities on personal critical reflection (awareness), academic engagement (knowledge), and experiential learning (skills). To foster personal and critical reflection, much of our class time will be spent in discussion. It is important that you bring your ideas and questions with you and share them freely with others in the class. Certain assignments and class activities will also be given with a focus on building a deeper self-awareness of your own cultural values, behaviors, and worldview. A high value is placed on your ability to critically evaluate your own identity in relation to what we are learning and the challenges the material presents.

In order to deepen academic knowledge and engagement, readings from a variety of sources will be assigned to provide you with a comprehensive survey of the intercultural field. This knowledge will be evaluated through traditional examinations focused on identifying your understanding of theoretical models as well as projects and activities designed to connect theory to current events and activities. Students are expected to read assigned material ahead of class meetings and come with thoughts and questions prepared for discussion (your textbook is designated as MN in the Topical Outline below). Understand that class time is meant for engaging material, not reviewing it, so it is imperative that you come to class having read the assignment for the day.

Understanding theory requires far more than reading and writing, but also doing thorough

observation, speaking, and action. This is especially true when seeking to study and understand the influential reach of culture on communication and conflict. One cannot simply know cross-cultural dynamics, one must experience them as only through experience can true competency and skill in intercultural affairs be formed. In order to begin building the necessary skills for competent cross-cultural engagement, you will engage in a number of experiential learning activities including cross-cultural simulations; films; roundtable discussions on controversial issues; in-port observations, interactions, projects and interviews; as well as reflective writing and analysis. You are expected to be as engaged with the experiential dimension of the work as with the theory itself, and as such will be required to demonstrate your understanding of major concepts addressed in the course by using your authentic experiences in the various ports to produce a number of critical incidents and other products that can be used to teach others.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Class	Topic	Assignments/Activities
A1 – September 11	Introduction to course objectives, expectations & classmates. Introductory intercultural exercises, “Seeing with New Eyes – Hearing with New Ears!”	Who am I as an Intercultural Being?
A2 – September 13	Why Study Intercultural Communication?	MN Chapter 1
September 15-18	In Barcelona/Valencia, Spain	
A3 – September 19	Cross-Cultural Training Strategies, with particular focus on the 18-theme Culture General Framework (Cushner & Brislin, 1996). Development and use of critical incidents.	Read Cushner and Landis <i>The Intercultural Sensitizer. Handbook of Intercultural Training</i>
A4 – September 21	History of the Study of Intercultural Communication. Paradigms for studying culture and communication.	MN Chapter 2 (<i>Nacirema; The Sacred Rac</i>)
A5 – September 24	Culture, Communication, Context and Power.	MN Chapter 3 <i>White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack</i>
A6 – September 26	Historical Intercultural Encounters: Contact between Colonial Powers and Indigenous Groups	Film “ <i>First Contact.</i> ” <i>Cultural Identity Self Analysis Essay due</i>
September 27-30	In Tema, Ghana	
A7 – October 3	In class review of rough draft of two critical incidents based on experiences in Ghana and/or Spain	<i>Rough draft of two critical incidents due</i>
A8 – October 5	History and Intercultural	MN Chapter 4

	Communication	<i>First two critical incidents due.</i>
October 7-12	In Capetown, South Africa	
A9 – October 13	Identity and Intercultural Communication; Sources of Cultural Identity.	MN Chapter 5
A10 – October 15	Development of Intercultural Competence and the Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity	DMIS/IDI activity Read Bennett, J.M. & Bennett, M.J. (2003): Developing intercultural sensitivity (pp. 147-165)
A11 – October 18	Hofstede’s Cultural Dimensions.	Read: Hofstede, G. (2011). Dimensionalizing Cultures: The Hofstede Model in Context. Country comparisons using the various ports of call on the voyage.
October 19	In Port Louis, Mauritius	
A12 – October 21	Language and Intercultural Communication.	MN Chapter 6 Analyzed through the film: <i>A Different Place: The Intercultural Classroom.</i>
A13 – October 24	Nonverbal Codes and Cultural Space. Prejudice Formation, Prejudice Reduction and the Contact Hypothesis.	MN Chapter 7 Analyzed through the <i>John Gray Experience.</i>
October 25-30	In Cochin, India	
A14 – November 2	Mid-Term Examination	<i>Mid-Term Exam</i>
November 4-8	In Yangon, Myanmar	<i>Required Field Program on November 8</i>
A15 – November 9	Understanding Intercultural Transitions. Acculturation and immigrants, refugees, sojourners and Third Culture Kids (TCKs).	MN Chapter 8
A16 – November 12	Culture, Communication, and Intercultural Relationships.	MN Chapter 10 <i>Two critical incidents due</i>
November 14-18	In Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	
A17 – November 19	Culture, Communication, and Conflict	MN Chapter 11
A18 – November 22	Culture, Communication, and Conflict (cont.). Building trust and	Film: <i>Promises.</i> Field Work Reflection Due.

	understanding between cultures in conflict – Arab-Israeli relationships.	
November 24-29	In Shanghai, China	
A19 November 30	Popular Culture and Intercultural Communication.	MN Chapter 9
December 2-6	In Kobe, Japan	
A20 December 7	Cross-Cultural Communication Training in Context: Military Advisors, Educators and others.	
A21- December 9	Communication Displays across Culture presentations.	<i>Student presentations</i>
A22 – December 11	Communication Displays across Culture presentations continued.	<i>Student presentations Last critical incident due</i>
A23 – December 13	Communication Displays across Culture presentations continued.	<i>Student presentations</i>
A24 – December 15	Striving for Engaged and Effective Intercultural Communication – Personal Reflection and Growth	MN Chapter 12
December 16	In Honolulu, Hawaii	
A25 – December 18	Final Examination	<i>Final Examination</i>

Assignments and Course Expectations

1. **Cultural Identity Self Analysis Essay.** This is a way for you to think about how the many different cultural groups to which you belong influence you. You will prepare a brief essay (3-4 double-spaced pages) where you describe the various cultural groups to which you belong and how they have influenced your values and worldview. You should also discuss how each of these groups influences your communication behavior and your relationship with others (e.g., who you communicate with, how you communicate, etc.). (Due A6, 5%).
2. **Critical Incidents as Culture Teaching Tools/Independent Field Assignments.** A significant portion of the class will build on experiences you have in port. As such, you will be paying attention not only to the cultures of each location but especially to how you and others respond to communication differences and adjustment challenges. You will demonstrate your understanding of how concepts from the class can be applied and then used to teach others by preparing five critical incidents based on your personal experiences that reflect the 18-theme cultural general framework (developed by Cushner and Brislin) and/or Hofstede's dimensions. Criteria for the expectations of the critical incidents will be provided in class A3, but keep in mind that these incidents must emphasize communication differences you have experienced or observed and be used to help others better understand the role

culture plays in communication. At least one of the critical incidents should reflect your experience in the required Field Class. We will review your first two critical incidents as part of class A7. The final versions of the first two critical incidents will be due A8; two incidents are due A 16; with the last one due A 22. (20%).

3. **Intercultural Reflection Group Assistant.** Each student on the voyage will participate in 5 Global Studies Intercultural Reflection sessions that will take place in classes A3, B6, A9, B13 and A20. These Intercultural Reflection groups will be facilitated by a faculty member. You, joined by perhaps a fellow classmate, will assist the facilitator during the reflection sessions (e.g., facilitating small group discussions, assisting with class activities). We will prepare for these sessions in the class prior to the scheduled reflection (10%).
4. **Communication Displays across Cultures across the Voyage.** For this assignment you will work with a partner to identify how one aspect of communication behavior is exhibited in at least five of the countries visited on the voyage (*at least one of your observations should reflect your experience in the required Field Class*). You may choose personal/interpersonal behavior (e.g., public displays of affection, meeting and greeting behavior, gestures); expressions or exhibits of popular culture (e.g., compare how a particular product or idea is marketed and/or presented), or a series of interviews with people you meet where you compare their responses to a similar inquiry (e.g., attitudes toward something, interactions among minority groups). You will present your findings via a PowerPoint or video presentation in class A 21, 22 and 23. (15%)
5. **Mid-Term Exam.** The mid-term exam will be a traditional examination consisting of True/False, Multiple Choice, Matching, and Case Study Analysis questions covering materials from both readings and lectures. The exam is designed to focus on assessing foundational material vital for expanding our discussion and study in the second half of the semester and covers material found in Chapters 1 – 7. Class A14. (15%)
6. **Field Work Reflection.** You will submit a 2 – 3 page reflection on your experiences during our field work. In your reflection you should briefly describe at least two major ideas, observations or epiphanies you took away from the visit and how you can apply them to your personal or professional life. The fieldwork reflection for this section is due A18. Additional evaluation of both your independent and required fieldwork is in assignment #2 and 3 above. (10%).
7. **Final Examination.** Held in Class A25 covering all course content. (20%)
8. **Participation:** Respectful and active participation is an important part of this class. However, I also recognize that different people contribute in different ways. You all have communication experience and sharing that experience with the rest of the class improves the quality of class discussion and student learning. Accordingly, 5% of your grade depends on your active participation in class.

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class. Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and will be developed and led by the instructor.

Field Class and Assignment

The field class for this class will take place on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 – the last day the ship is in port in Yangon, Myanmar.

Class title: Intercultural Communication in Action

The Parami Institute in Yangon, Myanmar, is among the first institutions attempting to promote democratic principles, critical thinking, interdisciplinary learning and responsible citizenship for the long-term needs of this developing country. With the vision to create change agents from all walks of life, Parami institute aims to transform our youth to effective leaders and responsible citizens through liberal education.

Learning Objectives:

1. Meet with faculty, staff and students to learn about the developing work of the Parami Institute, its education and leadership development programs and goals;
2. Apply our intercultural communication skills through person-to-person interaction with local students through a shared cultural experience and visit to a local cultural site; and
3. Make personal connections with young people in Myanmar.

Evaluation: Reflections will be required for the Field Experiences above. In addition, in Assignment #2, one of the five critical incidents students are required to develop should be based on their personal experiences in the Field Experience. Similarly, on Assignment #4, one of the five ports serving as the basis for the comparative study should be the Field Experience site.

Independent Field Assignments

INDEPENDENT FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

Much of the class discussion and assignments build on experiences you have in port. As mentioned above, your independent experiences will form the basis for Assignments #2 and 4.

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING SCALE

GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%:
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

A - Indicates superior work (exhibits originality, clarity of exposition, precision, and depth as well as mastery of course content)

B - Indicates good work (content of course firmly in control and handled with some mark of distinction)

C - Indicates competent work (control of course content is evident)

D - Indicates less than competent work (deficiencies in either control of course content or in written English)

F - Indicates failure to meet requirements satisfactorily

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A memo from the student's home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

RESERVE BOOKS AND FILMS FOR THE LIBRARY

1. AUTHOR: Kenneth Cushner and Richard Brislin
TITLE: *Intercultural Interactions: A Practical Guide*
PUBLISHER: Sage Publications
ISBN #: 0-8039-5990-7
DATE/EDITION: 1996 / 2nd Edition

2. AUTHOR: Larry A. Samovar, Richard E. Porter, and Edwin R. McDaniel
TITLE: *Intercultural Communication: A Reader*
PUBLISHER: Wadsworth Publishing
ISBN: 1285077393
ISBN13: 978-1285077390
DATE/EDITION: 2014 / 14th Edition

3. AUTHOR: Samover, L., Porter, R., McDaniel, E. and Roy, C.
TITLE: *Communication Between Cultures*
PUBLISHER: Wadsworth Publishing
ISBN-10: 1285444620
ISBN - 13: 978-1-285-44462-8
DATE/EDITION: 2016 / 9th Edition

4. AUTHOR: Cushner, K.
TITLE: *Beyond Tourism: A Practical Guide to Meaningful Educational Travel*
PUBLISHER: Rowman Littlefield/Scarecrow Press
ISBN #: 1-57886-154-3
DATE/EDITION: 2004

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

The following should be on reserve and available for students:

CHAPTER AUTHORS: Cushner, K. and Landis, D.
CHAPTER TITLE: The Intercultural Sensitizer
BOOK TITLE: Handbook of Intercultural Training, 2nd Edition
(Editors: Landis and Bhagat; Sage Publications)
VOLUME: 2nd Edition
DATE: 1996
PAGES: 185 - 202

CHAPTER AUTHORS: Bennett, J.M. & Bennett, M.J.
CHAPTER TITLE: Developing Intercultural Sensitivity: An Integrative
Approach to Global and Domestic Diversity
BOOK TITLE: Handbook of Intercultural Training, 3rd Edition
(Editors: Landis, Bennett and Bennett; Sage
Publications)
VOLUME: 3rd Edition
DATE: 2003
PAGES: 147 - 165

AUTHOR: Hofstede, G.
TITLE: Dimensionalizing Cultures: The Hofstede Model in
Context
JOURNAL TITLE: *Online Readings in Psychology and Culture*, 2(1).
ACCESSED AT: <http://dx.doi.org/10.9707/2307-0919.1014>
VOLUME: 2(1)
DATE: 2011

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