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COMX 212X.01: Introduction to Intercultural Communication

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
MISSOULA COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES
SPRING SEMESTER, 2022**

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: COMX 212X, Introduction to Intercultural Communication, Online
SEMESTER CREDITS: 3

PREREQUISITES: None

PROFESSOR: Allison Sullivan

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Allison.sullivan@umontana.edu

OFFICE LOCATION: Rm 427 at the 1205 E. Broadway Missoula College Riverside Building

OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment via Zoom, telephone, or face-to-face.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to key theories and practical applications relating to intercultural communication. We will investigate the influence of our own culture on view of self and others. In addition, the following topics will be explored: international conflict, social networking, migrancy, and the effect of technology and mass media in the globalization of communication.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the role of history and identity in intercultural communication and the influence these have on our communication interactions with others.
2. Identify intercultural communication barriers that lead to interpersonal conflict.
3. Critically evaluate your own intercultural competence.
4. Understand how verbal and nonverbal communication is shaped by culture.

GRADING:

Exams (3) – 40% of grade

Inquiries – 35% of grade

Substantive Discussions (4) – 25% of grade

GRADING SCALE: 100-90 (A), 89-80 (B), 79-70 (C), 69-60 (D), 59 and Below (F)

Exams

There will be three exams given over the course of the semester. They will consist of five essay questions worth 20 points each. The questions will require you to provide illustrations and explanations of various theories or concepts from our reading.

Inquiries

Students will be asked to complete three typed reflections during the course of the semester. These will pertain to your own cultural identity, our course readings, or outside intercultural activities. They will require you to integrate the theories learned in the course into your personal experiences and reflections.

Substantive Discussions

We will have five substantive graded discussions during the course of the semester. These will require you to integrate the reading into your thoughts and reflections on specific prompts that pertain to our

intercultural encounters. These will be graded on quantity and quality of prompts. The specific grading criteria for these as well as a sample, excellent discussion is posted in the Week 1 folder.

ASSIGNMENT AND TEST MAKEUP POLICY:

No assignment or test make-ups will be allowed. Please plan ahead. All of the due dates for readings, assignments, and tests are listed in the course calendar. In addition, the week before assignments or tests are due, reminders will be posted in a weekly announcement. It is your responsibility to keep track of the course calendar and check announcements regularly.

If you encounter “technical difficulties” with a test, please notify me by email or phone **the day of the test**. I will verify the status of this issue in Moodle. It is important we reschedule the test within 48 hours of the test date.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Please conduct yourself in a way that promotes learning for all students in the class (i.e. do not use language that might offend others, avoid disclosing too much personal information, etc.).

TITLE IX:

Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Title IX states that:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with Title IX laws, all employees at The University of Montana are considered “**Responsible Employees**,” which requires us to report incidents of gender-based discrimination (e.g. sexual violence, sexual harassment, rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, and/or stalking) to the Title IX Coordinator, **Alicia Arant (243-5710, eoaa@umontana.edu, University Hall, Room 006)**. Please know, we will work with you when we do this. Once an incident is reported to Title IX, the student will be contacted by the Title IX Coordinator for follow up. Students can also report directly to the Title IX coordinator in regards to any gender-based discrimination.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

DISABILITY STUDENT SERVICES:

If you are a student with a disability and wish to request reasonable accommodations for this course, contact me privately to discuss the specific modifications. Please be advised, I may request that you provide a verification letter from Disability Services for Students. If you have not yet registered with Disability Services, located in Lommasson Center 154, please do so in order to coordinate your reasonable modifications. Our Missoula College coordinator is Bonnie Kurien; she is located on the River Level in the corridor to the Learning Center and can be reached at 243-7804. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at www.umt.edu/disability.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION:

Missoula College values the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff as an essential strength that contributes to our shared educational mission. Students of all backgrounds and perspectives are recognized and respected in this class. Course content and activities are intended to honor diversity of

gender, sexuality, ethnicity, race, culture, religion, age, disability, socioeconomic status, and all dimensions of diverse human experiences and their intersection. Please notify your instructor if components of this course present barriers to your inclusion. Students can also reach out to Dr. Salena Beaumont Hill in the Office of Inclusive Excellence for Student Success, which provides student support for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students and student groups. To explore making a formal report about discrimination or harassment, please visit the Equal Opportunity / Title IX office. For counseling or advocacy related to discrimination, please visit SARC.

*COURSE POLICIES ARE APPLIED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Samovar, L. A., Porter, R. E., McDaniel, E. R., and Roy, C. S. (2017). *Communication between cultures* (9th ed.). Cengage: Boston.

A variety of textbook options are available through the UM Bookstore. However, an affordable electronic version of this text (an ebook) can also be purchased directly from the publisher:

https://www.vitalsource.com/products/communication-between-cultures-larry-a-samovar-richard-e-v9781305888067?gclid=CjwKCAjwylKJBhBPEiwAu7zllw1uraaLAdgJNWaMK4bhVP5f7yHei85TaKqbMQ57nJoPcLabE7KgRoCOGwQAvD_BwE

COURSE OUTLINE:

The following readings, tests, and assignments are due on the day they are listed. Schedule is subject to change at the instructors discretion depending on how the class is progressing.

January

- 19 Course Introduction
- 21 Chapter 1, Intercultural Communication: A Requirement for the Interdependent Global Society
- 24 Finish Chapter 1
- 26 Chapter 2, Communication and Culture: The Voice and the Echo
- 28 Chapter 2 Continued and How to Write an Inquiry
- 31 Finish Chapter 2 and Introduction to Sources for Cultural Research

February

- 2 Chapter 3, The Deep Structure of Culture: Lessons from the Family
- 4 Finish Chapter 3
- 7 Chapter 6, Cultural Values: Road Maps for Behavior
- 9 Chapter 6 Continued
- 11 No Class - Instructor away
- 14 Finish chapter 6 and **INQUIRY 1 DUE (Due on Moodle)**
- 16 Exam Review
- 18 **EXAM 1 (Ch 1, 2, 3, and 6) Will be Taken on Moodle**
- 21 Presidents Day - No Classes, Offices Closed

23 Chapter 4, Worldview: Cultural Expectations of Life and Death

25 Chapter 4 Continued

28 Finish Chapter 4

March

2 Chapter 5, Cultural History: Precursor to the Present and Future

4 Chapter 5 Continued

7 Finish Chapter 5

9 Movie

11 Movie

14 Movie

16 Movie Discussion and Chapter 7, Culture and Identity: Situating the Individual

18 Chapter 7 Continued - **INQUIRY 2 DUE (Due On Moodle)**

21-25 Spring Break, No Classes

28 Finish Chapter 7

30 Chapter 8, Verbal Messages: Exchanging Ideas Through Language

April

1 Chapter 8 Continued

4 Finish Chapter 8

6 Exam Review

8 **EXAM 2 (Ch 4, 5, 7, and 8) Will Be Taken on Moodle**

11 Chapter 9, Nonverbal Communication: The Messages of Action, Space, Time, and Silence

13 Chapter 9 Continued

15 Finish Chapter 9

18 Chapter 10, Intercultural Communication in Contexts: Applications in Business, Education, and Healthcare

20 Finish Chapter 10

22 Inquiry 3 Workshop Day

25 Chapter 11, The Challenges of Intercultural Communication: Managing Differences

27 Chapter 11 Continued

29 Finish Chapter 11

May

2 Begin presentations - **INQUIRY 3 DUE (Due on Moodle)**

4 Finish Presentations

6 Exam Review

9-13th Exam week (Final exam will be online and can be taken at any time during exam week) **EXAM 3 (Ch 9, 10, and 11)**