

# Graduate Course Syllabus

[Edit](#)

## **FOUNDATIONS OF INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION**

**MMC5708, Class # 15708**

**Fall 2023**

**3 Credits**

**Asynchronous**

**Instructor: Professor Michael Leslie, Ph.D.**

**E-mail: use Canvas email**

**Office Hours: By appointment**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The study of intercultural communication is often approached from a social-psychological perspective. Although that perspective has yielded many important ideas about intercultural communication, the historical, interpretive and critical perspectives also contribute to our understanding of our subject, particularly in acknowledging the influence of context and power in intercultural interactions. Through your participation in this course, you will come to appreciate the complexity in intercultural interactions and increase your intercultural communication competence.

This course is being conducted asynchronously, meaning that you can complete assignments at any time that is convenient for you by **FRIDAY OF THE WEEK THE SPECIFIC MODULE IS ASSIGNED.**

**Be on the lookout for communications from me in ANNOUNCEMENTS and CANVAS EMAIL each week.**

### **STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

During this course, you will become familiar with the study of intercultural communication from social science, interpretive, critical/cultural and historical perspectives, and:

1. Discover the important roles of context and power in intercultural communication.
2. Become sensitive to the complexity of intercultural interaction

3. Recognize and appreciate the influence of your own culture on your intercultural interactions.
4. Become a more willing, self-reflective, flexible, and adept intercultural communicator.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

Martin, Judith N. and Nakayama, Thomas K. **Intercultural Communication in Contexts** McGraw-Hill: Boston (Latest Edition).

Sorrells, Kathryn and Sekimoto, Sachi (eds.). **Globalizing Intercultural Communication: a reader**. Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA, 2016.

### **REQUIRED READING FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:**

Bennett, Milton J. (ed.) **Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication**. Boston: Intercultural Press 1998.

Gudykunst, William B. (ed.) **Cross Cultural and Intercultural Communication**. Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA 2003.

### **RECOMMENDED READING FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS:**

Asante, Molefi K., Yoshitaka Miike and Jing Yin (eds.) **The Global Intercultural Communication Reader**. Routledge: New York, 2013

Dines and Humez. **Gender, Race and Class in Media**. Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA. (latest edition)

Halualani, Rona Tamiko. **Intercultural Communication: A Critical Perspective** . Cognella Publishing, 2019.

You can likely rent digital copies of the required textbooks on Amazon.com

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

**(This schedule is *tentative*: it will be modified as needed.)**

#### **Week of August 20: Orientation to the course**

Explore the course requirements, review the modules, review the course syllabus and practice using Canvas tools, introduce yourself to the other course participants, get books, get your questions answered.

## **Module 1 August 28**

Why Study Intercultural Communication?

## **Module 2 September 4**

Development of the discipline. Theoretical approaches to understanding and practicing intercultural communication.

## **Module 3 September 11**

What is culture? What is communication? Dialectical approaches to understanding culture and communication. The relationship between communication and context. The relationship between communication and power.

## **Module 4 September 18**

From history to histories. History, power, and intercultural communication. History in Intercultural Communication. History and identity Intercultural communication and history. Identity and Adaptation.

## **Module 5 September 25**

A dialectical approach to understanding identity. Social and cultural identities. Identity, stereotypes, and prejudice. Identity development issues. Identity and language Identity and communication.

## **Module 6 October 2**

Language and Intercultural Communication. Thinking dialectically about language. Cultural variations in language Discourse: Language and power. Moving between languages. Language politics and policies.

## **Module 7 October 9**

Non-Verbal Codes and Cultural Space. A dialectical approach to nonverbal communication. The universality of nonverbal behavior. Defining cultural space.

## **Module 8 October 16**

Understanding Intercultural Transitions. Types of migrant groups. Cultural shock Migrant host relationships. Cultural adaptation.

## **Module 9 October 23**

Defining popular culture and folk culture. Consuming and resisting popular culture. Representing cultural groups. U.S. popular culture and power. Learning about cultures without personal experience.

### **Module 10 October 30**

Benefits and challenges of intercultural relationships. Cultural differences in notions of friendship. Cultural differences in relational development. Relationships across differences. Context in intercultural relationships.

### **Module 11 November 6**

Characteristics of intercultural conflict. Approaches to conflict. Managing intercultural conflict.

### **Module 12 November 13**

Striving for Effective Intercultural Communication. Components of competence. Applying your knowledge about intercultural communication.

**NOVEMBER 20: THANKSGIVING WEEK, NO CLASS!**

**WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27 (NO ASSIGNMENTS, WORK ON FINAL PAPER)**

**FINAL PAPER IS DUE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 5:00 P.M.**

### **END OF COURSE**

### **COURSE FORMAT**

This course consists of assigned reading, chapter summaries, a journal (blog), discussions, exploratory activities, team topic presentations and exercises, and a course paper or literature review.

**The readings** are intended to provide essential information and promote informed discussion of intercultural issues.

**Chapter summaries** test your grasp of the subject matter.

**Discussions** are opportunities for you to dialogue about pertinent issues.

**Intercultural journal:** You are required to track your journey as you grow in understanding intercultural communication each week. What insights are you having? How does what you are learning help you understand/reinterpret your own interpersonal interactions or experience.

**Activities and Exercises** allow you to test intercultural theories and concepts and engage in intercultural communication.

**Topic Presentations** allow you to showcase didactically your understanding of the material presented in each module of this course.

**Term Paper/Literature Review, Project:** You will choose a term paper or literature review on an intercultural topic in consultation with the instructor.

### INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS

1. **Research presentations:** Each student or student team will be assigned to make 2-3 recorded presentations. You are responsible for preparing a brief on your assigned topic and presenting that topic to the class. Presentations should not exceed 5 minutes and should be supported by external audio-visual materials. PowerPoint or similar presentation software is recommended. See Announcements for details on posting this presentation. You will upload your presentation to the course drive and provide a link to it under the appropriate Discussion.
2. **Presentation Summaries:** This is a minimum 3-page, double spaced summary of your assigned research presentation. It should include an introduction, identification of the various sub-issues or perspectives, and annotated references from recent books, periodicals, journals or qualified web resources that discuss the topic. By annotation, I mean one paragraph describing the essential content of each of the books, periodicals, journals or qualified web resources you researched and reviewed on the topic. **This summary should be posted by FRIDAY, preceding the Monday you are scheduled to post your presentation to the class, under the Assignments tab for Presentations.**
3. **Weekly Reading Assignment Summaries:** Each student will contribute a weekly paper, summarizing the assigned reading and addressing some significant issue raised by the reading. These reflections will be evaluated based on your success in logically and coherently summarizing the assigned reading(s), incorporating ideas from your own additional reading with proper citation style, and your thoughtful consideration of the implications of what you have learned for the practice of intercultural communication. **These should be submitted by midnight Friday each week.**
4. Your **Intercultural Journal** is your weekly personal reflection on your intercultural communication journal, much like diary. Write in it each week.
5. **Discussions** begin with the **Discussion Question** that is offered in each module. These **weekly** discussions are **critical** to the success of this course. You are expected to read the assigned reading before responding to the discussion prompt. One of the

purposes of class discussion is to reveal multiple perspectives on and understandings of course topics. Differences of opinion are not only expected but healthy, and contributions to others' posts are encouraged. **Your discussion post should be submitted by the end of each week.** One way you can contribute to class discussions is to post relevant articles, photographs, website materials or videos you find that relate to course topics.

6. **Final Paper/Literature Review/Project:** You will write a paper researching and discussing some aspect of the intercultural communication process. **The paper is due on Friday of the last week of class.**
  
7. **Participation in Assigned Activities:** Student involvement is vital to the success of this course and you are expected to play an active part in the assigned activities.
  
8. **Note:** You are expected complete all of the assigned readings, to do your weekly reflection on the readings, enrich the course by contributing other relevant readings/resources, and participate meaningfully in online discussions. When you are assigned to make a research presentation or be a discussion leader, your performance in this role will be included in your grade.

#### **ASSIGNMENT WEIGHTS:**

Discussion Participation: 20%

Weekly Summaries: 20%

Topic Research Presentations 20%

Research Paper/Project or Literature Review 20%

Activities and Exercises 20%

**Total: 100%**

#### **EVALUATION:**

Your final grade is dependent on your performance on the class assignments:

Course grades will be assigned on a curve, with the following percentages used for *guidance*:

100-93 % A 92-83% A/B 82-78% B/C 77-73% C 72-68% C/D 67-63% D 62-00% F

## **STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMODATIONS**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

## **CLASS ETIQUETTE:**

Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally and ethically.

## **LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

Assignments should be turned in by Friday of each week.

They may be turned in early.

Your grade will be adjusted downward for any late assignment.

PLEASE PLAN AHEAD!

## **Plagiarism and Academic Honesty**

For the communications professional, there hardly exists a graver crime than plagiarizing another writer's work. In short, it is YOUR responsibility to make certain you understand what constitutes plagiarism and to ensure that you give proper credit anytime you draw on someone else's writing or work. If you're not certain you understand what's acceptable and what isn't, check out this website:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml> (Links to an external site.)  
[Links to an external site.](#)

If you read these materials and still aren't certain what's acceptable, ASK ME! Do not assume that any other student or professor can tell you what will be acceptable in my class. There is no penalty for asking questions -- but there ARE penalties for failing to credit someone else's work properly because you didn't ask questions.

Be especially careful about the use of information you find on the Internet. It is all too easy to copy and paste background information into your papers, but unless you enclose such information in quotation marks and clearly cite the website from which it came, this constitutes plagiarism. Even if you paraphrase, you must include a clear reference to any written materials on which you've drawn.

Be aware that if I suspect, for whatever reason, that material in one of your submissions is plagiarized, I will submit it to a web-based plagiarism checking program. Relatively minor and *clearly unintentional* instances of plagiarism will result in your being required to re-write and re-submit your work. More extensive plagiarism, even if unintended, and ANY instance I believe represents an intentional attempt to pass off someone else's work as your own will result in a failing grade for that submission, at the least. If the plagiarism is severe enough (for example, if a substantial portion of your submission has been copied from others' work), you will receive a failing grade for the class and I will report the incident to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs as academic dishonesty.

Another no-no is recycling your own work for this class. Let's make the policy clear and simple: **You will NOT turn in to me ANY work you previously have submitted to another instructor or that you plan to submit for any other class at UF or any other institution.** If you want to write on a topic you've worked on before, that may well be acceptable IF you discuss it with me and get permission IN ADVANCE.

In accordance with UF policy, I'm also including in this syllabus the definitions of the types of academic dishonesty that seem most likely to be potential problems for students in this class. If a situation ever arises in which you think something you're contemplating MIGHT constitute one of these types of academic dishonesty, ASK BEFORE YOU DO IT.

***From the Office of Student Judicial Affairs website:  
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/Academichonestyfaculty.html>***

**Plagiarism.** The attempt to represent the work of another as the product of one's own thought, whether the other's work is published or unpublished, or simply the work of a fellow student. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting oral or written materials without citation on an exam, term paper, homework, or other written materials or oral presentations for an academic requirement; submitting a paper which was purchased from a term paper service as your own work; submitting anyone else's paper as your own work.

**Misrepresentation.** Any act or omission with intent to deceive a teacher for academic advantage. Misrepresentation includes taking another's work and handing it in as your own; lying to a teacher to increase your grade and lying or misrepresenting facts when confronted with an allegation of academic honesty.



**Fabrication.** The use of invented or fabricated information, or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive for academic or professional advantage.

**A Note about Office Hours:** As much as humanly possible, I will be available during my office hours. If you cannot meet with me during my office hours, please make an appointment. **Unless you have made an appointment in advance, please respect the fact that I need to attend to other tasks -- research, writing, planning for class, grading papers, meeting with other students, conducting committee work, etc., during my non-office hours.** If you make an appointment and then can't keep it, please call or email me as soon as possible to let me know. Remember, the most efficient method to communicate with me is via email.

## Useful Resources

### **Journals & Trade Publications**

**Howard Journal of Communications** ISSN 1064-6175 Academic/Scholarly. Taylor & Francis, Inc. 1988-current While many Communication Studies journals publish articles on Intercultural Communication, the Howard Journal of Communication, according to Ulrich's, "examines ethnicity, gender, and culture as domestic and international communications concerns. Addressing topical issues on television and culture, gender and communication, and African American film, HJC offers a multiethnic interdisciplinary research vehicle. The HJC emphasizes the link between communication and culture." Quarterly.

**Human Relations** ISSN 0018-7267 Academic/Scholarly. Sage Publications. 1947-current Considered the most valuable resource of research in intercultural communication in interpersonal, small group, and organizational relationships. Monthly.

**Intercultural Communication** ISSN 1404-1634 Academic/Scholarly. University of Goteborg, Department of Linguistics. 1999-current <http://www.immi.se/intercultural/> ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#) An online journal, whose stated goal is to "promote research but also education and training in the area of intercultural communication."

**Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology** ISSN 0022-0221 Academic/Scholarly. Sage Publications. 1970-current Examines research on responses of individuals and groups from different cultures or environments to similar stimuli or situations. Bimonthly.

**Journal of Intercultural Studies** ISSN 0725-6868 Academic/Scholarly. Routledge.

According to Ulrich's, "the Journal of Intercultural Studies is an interdisciplinary, international journal that provides a forum for research related to intercultural studies. Two issues are published each year, with one issue thematic, examining a common topic from a variety of disciplinary perspectives as reflected by writers from different

countries, and the other presenting a wide range of timely topics for reflection and discussion."

#### Other Intercultural Communication Research Journals

**Journal of Intercultural Communication Research**

**Journal of International and Intercultural Communication**

**Do a Google Scholar search for additional publications and resources!**

#### **Bibliography**

The following list is by no means inclusive of the vast number of books available for persons wanting to learn more about intercultural communication. Some of the references focus on teaching intercultural communication; others provide a theoretical foundation; still others are useful resources for experiential activities that can be used as launching points for developing activities and small-group projects or demonstrations in intercultural communication teaching, practice or research.

Bennett, M. J. (1993). Towards ethno-relativism: A developmental model of intercultural sensitivity. In R. M. Paige (Ed.), *Education for the intercultural experience* (pp. 1-51). Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

Bennett, M. J. (Ed.). (1998). *Basic concepts of intercultural communication: Selected readings*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

Brislin, R. W. (1993). *Understanding culture's influence on behavior*. Fort Worth, TX: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Brislin, R. W., & Yoshida, T. (1994). *Intercultural communication training: An introduction*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Byrd, M. L. (1992). *The intercultural communication book*. New York: McGraw-Hill.  
Carbaugh, D. (Ed.). (1990). *Cultural communication and intercultural contact*. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.

Chen, G. M., & Starosta, W. I. (1998). *Foundations in intercultural communication*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon

Cushner, K., & Brislin, R. W. (Eds.). (1997). *Improving intercultural interactions: Modules for cross-cultural training programs* (Vol. 2). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Fowler, s. M., & Mumford, M. G. (Eds.). (1995-1999). *Intercultural sourcebook: Cross-cultural training methods* (Vols.1-2). Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

Gochenour, T. (Ed.). (1993). *Beyond experience: The experiential approach to cross-cultural education*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.  
Gonzalez, A., Houston, M., & Chen, V. (Eds.). (2000). *Our voices: Essays in culture, ethnicity, and communication: An intercultural anthology* (3rd ed.). Los Angeles: Roxbury.

Groth, G. A. (1997). Managing conflict and hostilities during diversity discussions and training. In C. D. Brown, C. Snedeker, & B. Sykes (Eds.), *Conflict and diversity* (pp. 266-279). Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press.

Gudykunst, W. B., & Nishida, T. (1989). Theoretical perspectives for studying intercultural communication. In M. K. Asante & W. B. Gudykunst (Eds.), *Handbook of international and intercultural communication* (pp. 17-46). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Hall, B. J. (1992). Theories of culture and communication. *Communication Theory*, 1, 50-70. Hall, E. T. (1981). *Beyond culture*. New York: Doubleday. \

Kohls, L. R. (1996). *Survival kit for overseas living* (3rd ed.). Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

Kohls, L. R., & Knight, I.M. (1994). *Developing intercultural awareness: A cross-cultural training hand- book* (2nd ed.). Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

Kolb, D. A. (1993). *Learning-Style Inventory: Self-scoring inventory and interpretation booklet*. Boston: Hay /McBer Training Resources Group.

Martin, J. N., & Nakayama, T. K. (1999). Thinking dialectically about culture and communication. *Communication Monographs*, 9, 1-26.

Martin, J. N., Nakayama, T. K., & Flores, L. A. (1998). *Readings in intercultural contexts*. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield.

Paige, R. M. (Ed.). (1993). *Education for the intercultural experience*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

Paige, R. M. & Martin, J. N. (1983). Ethical issues and ethics in cross-cultural training. In D. Landis & R. Brislin (Eds. ), *Handbook of intercultural training*. Elmsford, NY: Pergamon.

Ponterotto, J., & Pedersen, P. (1993). *Preventing prejudice: A guide for counselors and educators*. New- bury Park, CA: Sage.

Pusch, M. D. (Ed.). (1979). *Multicultural education: A cross-cultural training approach*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

Samovar, L., & Porter, R. (Eds.). *Intercultural communication: A reader* (9th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Seelye, H. N., (Ed.) (1996). *Experiential activities for intercultural learning* (Vol. 1). Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

Singer, M. R. (1998). *Perception and identity in intercultural communication*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

Smith, D., & Kolb, D. A. (1985). *User guide for the Learning-Style Inventory*. Boston: McBer.

Steward, E. C., & Bennett, M. I. (1991). *American cultural patterns: A cross-cultural perspective*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

Summerfield, E. (1993). *Crossing cultures through film*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

Thiagarajan, S. (1990). *Barnga: Simulation*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press. Ting-Toomey, S. (1999). *Communicating across cultures*. New York: Guilford.

Warren, L. (1997). *15 suggestions for controlling emotional "hot buttons" in class*. Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University. [www.fas.harvard.edu/ \(Links to an external site.\)](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~bok-cen/docs)[Links to an external site.](#)

Wildman, M. (1996). *Privilege revealed: How invisible preference undermines America*. New York: New York University Press.