

Intercultural Communication

Spring 2018

Prof. Timothy Halkowski
Comm. 397 s.1
Class: M & W 3:30-4:45pm
Classroom: CAC 202

Office Hours: T 2-3:30; Friday 2-3pm, & by appt.
Office: CAC 225
☎ 715.346.3409
tim.halkowski@uwsp.edu

“... I have been a stranger in a strange land...”

Course Description, Overview And Objectives

This course is an overview of central topics and analytic domains in Intercultural communication. In studying intercultural communication, we start off by problematizing (i.e., ‘digging in to’) the taken-for-granted concepts of ‘culture’ & ‘intercultural’. We will then see that intercultural communication is occurring much more than we might imagine; indeed, to various degrees we are surrounded by it. (For example, doctors talking with patients (or car mechanics talking with customers) are regularly speaking across the ‘intercultural gulf’ that separates them from ‘lay-people’). We will also study the ways people manage to make their way (successfully, or not) through intercultural encounters. In a deep sense, this course will be about how people avoid, or fall in to, traps of misunderstanding in communication, and how they then work to repair those misunderstandings.

At the conclusion of the course you will be able to:

- Identify & analyze aspects of culture in communication.
- Identify the key components found within one or more cultures that are distinct from those found in predominantly English-speaking cultures.
- Analyze key forces or processes that contribute to global interconnectedness, and their implications.
- Demonstrate curiosity and empathetic insight about diverse cultural perspectives.

Program Competencies for the Division of Communication

By the time they graduate, students should be able to:

1. communicate effectively using appropriate technologies for diverse audiences;
2. plan, evaluate and conduct basic (quantitative and qualitative) communication research;
3. use communication theories to understand and solve communication problems;
4. apply historical communication perspectives to contemporary issues and practices; and
5. apply principles of ethical decision making in communication contexts.

In this course we will address *aspects of* all of the above competencies.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You will demonstrate your understanding of the core topics of the course via:

- discussion of assigned readings, as well as occasional news articles;
- short in-class & take home assignments;
- a midterm exam; and,
- a final exam.

In class & take home assignments:	40%
Midterm exam:	30%
Final exam:	30%
Course grade:	100%

A standard grading scale will be used to assign final course letter grades.

94 - 100 = A	74 - 76 = C
90 - 93 = A-	70 - 73 = C-
87 - 89 = B+	67 - 69 = D+
84 - 86 = B	60 - 66 = D
80 - 83 = B-	< 60 = F
77 - 79 = C+	

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. The *REQUIRED READINGS* will be available on D2L.

COURSE POLICIES

Because they may interfere with the navigational systems of your professor, all cell phones need to be turned off & securely stowed.

Late assignments will generally not be accepted, unless you can document the reason in an acceptable manner.

The University has strict policies regarding **Academic Integrity**. It is your responsibility to read, understand, and abide by those policies (on the University web site).

Those who attend class tend to do better on assignments, exams, & course papers. Borderline grades at the end of the semester will be affected by your participation in the class discussions.

Office Hours: Please make use of office hours. Students who use office hours to discuss difficult aspects of classes tend to manage those problems and succeed. Students who wait until a problem has snowballed usually have too big a mountain to climb at the end of the semester, and sometimes end up having to dropping a class.

Disability services:

If you have a documented disability and verification from the **Disability and Assistive Technology Center** and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services and meet with a Disability Services counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start.

The Disability and Assistive Technology Center is located in 609 Learning Resource Center and can be contacted by phone: (715) 346-3365 (Voice), (715) 346-3362 (TDD only), or email: datctr@uwsp.edu

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Jan 22 - 24	'... A stranger in a strange land'	A. Schutz, 'The Stranger'
Jan 29 - 31	Discourse & Culture	Intercultural comm., chapt. 1
Feb 5 - 7	Culture	Intercultural Comm. chapt. 2
Feb 12 - 14	Culture	Duranti chapt. 2 Opie, Oral legislation
Feb 19 - 21	Culture	Duranti, chapt. 3.
Feb 26 - 28	Communication	Duranti, chapt. 7
Mar 5 - 7	Communication - part 2	Duranti, chapt. 8.
Mar 12 - 14	Review & Midterm exam	
Mar 19 - 21	Intercultural moments in immigrant families	Negotiating understanding in intercultural moments in immigrant family interactions
Mar 26 - 28	SPRING BREAK	
Apr 2 - 4	Repair of understanding	Robinson - 'what 'what' tells us.'
Apr 9 - 11	Repair of understanding	Universal principles of repair 2015
Apr 16 - 18	Intersubjectivity	
Apr 23 - 25	<i>t.b.a.</i>	
Apr 30 - May 2	<i>t.b.a.</i>	
May 7 - 9	Course wrap-up & Final Exam Review	
Friday May 18, 12:30—2:30pm	FINAL EXAM	
