

Intercultural Communication Seminar

English Literature Department

Course Outline:

Intercultural communication is about communicating with individuals with whom you do not share past experiences. This seminar introduces this concept of intercultural communication, which explores how cultures communicate and interact. It provides an overview of theories of intercultural communication, and examines how culture is evident in languages, behaviors, rituals and worldviews. Specifically, the course investigates the influences on intercultural communication, the development of cultural identities, and issues of inequality so that students can reassess their existing viewpoints and navigate in a global community. In addition, students explore their own communication practices and attitudes through an international writing exchange program with students from the instructor's accredited language school, the Bayon English Academy (BEA), in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Each ICC student is paired with a BEA student, and examines and describes their respective cultural behaviors and heritage through three letters based on an ICC theme.

- Goals:**
1. to identify, describe and share the beliefs, values and norms of Japanese culture;
 2. to recognize differences / similarities between Japanese culture and other cultures;
 3. to identify and avoid cultural bias;
 4. to view cultural differences objectively and understand that cultural differences are not hierarchal;
 5. and to communicate with non-native speakers who have different worldviews, value systems and communicative styles.

Grading Criteria:

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|--------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Writing Exchange Project (3 letters) | 30% | Tests (2) | 20% |
| Group Presentation | 20% | Blog Postings (10) | 10% |
| Reflections & Discussions (10) | 20% | | |

Course Website:

You are required to check the course website for lesson summaries, homework assignments and supplementary materials: <http://www.nicoletakeda.com>

Required Textbook:

Jandt, F. (2010). *An introduction to intercultural communication: Identities in a global community*. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.

Intercultural Communication Seminar Schedule

| Class | Date | Activity | Homework |
|-------|----------|--|---|
| 1 | April 11 | 1P 1. Course Introduction 2. Dispute Over Defining Culture 2P 3. Cambodian Writing Project • Guidelines & Profile | 1. Reflection Topic #1 2. Write Letter #1 J* 3. ICC Reading pp. 37-76 (ch. 2-3) 4. Blog Post #1 |
| 2 | April 18 | 1P 1. Communication as an Element of Culture 2. Culture's Influence on Perception 2P 3. Cambodia Writing Project Discussions 4. Submit Letter #1J* | 1. Reflection Topic #2 2. ICC Reading pp. 81-125 (ch. 4) 3. Blog Post #2 |
| 3 | April 25 | 1P 1. Nonverbal Communication 2P 2. Barriers to ICC | 1. Reflection Topic #3 2. ICC Reading pp. 127-157 (ch. 6) 3. Blog Post #3 |
| 4 | May 2 | NO CLASSES | |
| 5 | May 9 | 1P 1. Language as a Barrier 2P 2. Cambodian Writing Project • Receive Letter #1C | 1. Reflection Topic #4 2. Write Letter #2 J* 3. ICC Reading pp. 163-186 (ch. 7) 4. Blog Post #4 |
| 6 | May 16 | 1P 1. Dimensions of Culture 2P 2. Cambodia Writing Project Discussions 3. Submit Letter #2J* | 1. Blog Post #5 2. Study for mid-term test |
| 7 | May 23 | 1P 1. Mid-Term Test 2P 2. Presentation Preparation • project guidelines • presentation structure | 1. Reflection Topic #5 2. ICC Reading pp. 187-212 (ch. 8) 3. Blog Post #6 |
| 8 | May 30 | 1P 1. Dominant U.S. Cultural Patterns 2P 2. Presentation Preparation • slide guidelines • visual aids | 1. Reflection Topic #6 2. ICC Reading pp. 233-262 (ch. 10) 3. Blog Post #7 |

| Class | Date | Activity | Homework |
|-------|---------|---|---|
| 10 | June 13 | 1P 1. Women, Families and Children (ch. 10) 2P 2. Cambodian Writing Project Discussions 3. Submit Letter #3J** | 1. Reflection Topic #6 2. Blog Post #8 3. Reading pp. 321-351 (ch. 13) 4. Presentation Outline • <i>due June 18 before 12noon</i> |
| 11 | June 20 | 1P 1. Cultures within Cultures (ch. 13) 2P 2. Presentation Preparation • body language • voice inflection | 1. Reflection Topic #7 2. Presentation Preparation |
| 12 | June 27 | 1P 1. Presentations 2P 2. Presentations | 1. Reflection Topic #8 2. Blog Post #9 3. Reading pp. 353-374 (ch. 14) |
| 13 | July 4 | 1P 1. Identity and Subgroups (ch. 14) 2P 2. Final Test 3. Submit Reflection Journal | 1. Blog Post #10 2. Writing Project Evaluation |
| 14 | July 11 | 1P 1. Course Evaluation 2. Submit Writing Project Evaluation 3. Cambodian Writing Project • <i>Receive Letter #3C</i> 2P 4. Effects of Genocide on Culture • <i>Movie: Killing Fields</i> | |