

COM250 / SPC 220 Spring 2010
INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION (3 Credits)
14:00- 15:15 Tu. Thr.

Instructor: Yuko Abe yukoabe@aiu.ac.jp

Office: A3-17 **Phone:** 5960

Office Hours: Tu. Thr. TBA

Style of Class: Lecture, Discussion, Screening Films, Class Activities

Course Description:

This course provides students with the basic concepts and theories of communication between people of different cultural backgrounds. Intercultural communication is broadly defined in this course as communication between individuals who are unlike on the basis of national culture, ethnic group, gender, age, occupation, or other factors. The course will cover a variety of topics including importance of intercultural communication; basic concept and theories of communication; functions and elements of culture; examination of various cultural patterns. verbal and nonverbal communication in intercultural interactions; cultural influences on communications in various contexts; problems and challenges in intercultural communication including stereotyping, prejudice, ethnocentrism, culture shock; and theories in developing and increasing competencies in intercultural communication.

Commonalities and differences in communication across cultures are examined throughout the course to identify the culture-bound rules that govern communication behavior. The course focuses specifically on the cultural differences and similarities between Japanese and other cultures.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to (1) understand the nature, form, and function of culture; (2) recognize cultural variables that appear in communication, (3) identify and understand their own cultural identity and its impact on their behavior; (4) understand barriers to intercultural communication, adjustment to other culture, and culture shock; and (5) increase sensitivity, knowledge, and skills to promote effective intercultural interactions.

Course Materials:

1. Samovar, L.A. and Richard E. Porter. "Communication between Cultures" 6e. Wadsworth/Thomson, 2006
2. Additional readings may be assigned.

Assessment:

Grades will be determined by student performance in the following areas:

Attendance & Participation	20%
Presentation	20%
Assignments	30%
<u>Exam</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

1. Attendance and Participation:

This course is based on discussions and group activities. Attendance and participation are mandatory, and it is also very important to arrive to class on time. Every student is encouraged to make effort to actively participate in all class activities. If you are unable to come to class, it is **your** responsibility to obtain all necessary information from classmates. You are allowed two missed classes without it affecting your grade. Beyond this, **TEN** points will be deducted for each class missed, taking away from your final grade. If you are late for class **three** times, it will count as one absence. If you are late more than 20 minutes, it will be considered absent. **More than Ten unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.**

2. Reaction Papers:

There will be various activities carried in this class. Each activity has its designed own purpose, but your reactions and observations may be different from those planned. Write a reaction paper immediately after each activity, including what you felt, what you thought, what you noticed, your observations of your own reactions and behaviors, your classmates' interactions and behaviors, and your reflections on the purpose of the activities. I will be looking for the expressions of your personal awareness awakened by the class activities. The reaction papers should be on the AIMS in one week after the activity to share with your classmates. **The papers submitted more than one week after the activities will not be accepted without prior arrangements.**

3. Group Project:

The group project is designed to investigate cultures that we believe should be better understood. Each student will be assigned to groups of 3-4 students based on which country you prefer to study. Each group will collect and study information about its culture(s), interview members of that culture, and observe cultural displays in order to determine the ways in which the culture affects its members' communication. Each group will give a 20-minute presentation that includes a discussion of the cultural components, stories about the investigation of that culture, and conclusions that the group has drawn regarding how the make-up of that culture influences its communication. Group members will then, answer class questions for up to 5 minutes. A power point slides should be prepared, used in the presentation, and turned in after the presentation. Your group presentation will be evaluated by all the students other than the member of your group and instructor based on not only the quality of information presented but also the quality of presentation itself. No late work will be accepted. Further details will be discussed in class.

4. Exam:

There will be 2 exams based on lectures, discussions, reading and other presentations. Each exam will have objective questions and short essay questions. The exam 2 may include questions which test your cumulative understanding. No Make-up exams will be given unless a written request with supporting documents is presented.

Class Schedule (Tentative)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
Week 1	Introduction to the course Communication and Culture	Ch. 1
Week 2	Deep Structure of Culture Culture and Individual	Ch. 2/3 Ch. 4
Week 3	Discussion Leading Cultural Patterns	Ch. 5
Week 4	Discussion Leading Value Orientations	
Week 5	Exam 1	
Week 6	Words and Meaning: Language and Culture	Ch. 6
Week 7	Nonverbal Communication	
Week 8	Nonverbal Communication	Ch. 7
Week 9	preparation for Group Presentation	
Week10	Group Project Presentation	
Week11	Cultural Influences on Context	Ch.8-10
Week12	Cultural Influences on Context	
Week13	Cultural Influences on Context	
Week13	Group Project Presentation 2	
Week14	Group Project Presentation 2	
Week15	Developing Intercultural Competence Wrap up Exam 2	Ch. 11