

Coms 3370 Intercultural Communication

3 credit hours

Spring 2012

MWF 11:00 – 11:50

Classroom: DRCB 201

Dr. Terry M. Thibodeaux

Office: DRCB 322E; Office Phone: 294-1356

Office Hours: MWF 10-11

@ Sam Center 2-5 M-Th; others by appt.

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Course Description and Objectives

This course is a study of the theory, research, and practice of communicating within and across cultures. Research in intercultural communication will be studied with an emphasis on application to the student. Special emphasis will be given to exploring the Cajun culture of Southern Louisiana and its relationship to the Acadian culture of Northeast Canada.

Required Texts

Samovar, L., A., Porter, R. E., McDaniel, E. R., (2010). *Communication between cultures*. Boston: Wadsworth.

Davidson, A., & Thibodeaux, T. M. (2008). *Catherine's Cadeau*. Huntsville, TX: Texas Review. (provided by instructor)

General Course Policies

1. ATTENDANCE. Attendance is essential for class participation and is checked each class period. No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences. Each class period is worth points toward the participation grade. As per university policy, each student may be absent three class hours without penalty. For every three hours of absences beyond the third hour absent, the course grade will be lowered by one letter grade.

If a student enters class after the instructor finishes taking roll, that student is considered absent. It is the tardy student's responsibility to notify the instructor of his/her attendance before leaving that class period; otherwise, the absence stands. Two tardies = one absence.

2. GRADING SCALE. All grading is done on a total points basis, with a total possible of 1000 points for the class. Final grades will be determined by total number of points earned, using the following 8% scale: A=920+; B=919-840; C=839-760; D=759-680.

3. PARTICIPATION. Twenty percent (20% or possible 200 pts.) of the final grade comes from class participation-- participation in class discussions, chapter summaries, class attendance, etc.

4. EXAMS. Four exams will be administered covering content from class lecture/discussion, and assigned readings. Each will be a 150-point exam. (Total: 60% of grade)

5. CULTURAL ANALYSIS PAPER. Each student is required to write an 8 to 10 page paper discussing the 10 most important characteristics of a culture of their choice (and must be approved by the instructor). Any reputable sources are acceptable, either online or traditionally published. (Wikipedia is an example of an **unacceptable** source for this assignment.) More detail will be given in class. (Worth 200 points toward grade or 20% of final grade.)

Due date for paper: April 2

6. LATE WORK. There are NO make-ups for scheduled presentations missed. Missing a scheduled presentation results in ZERO credit on that presentation. Credit for any late work is given at the discretion of the instructor. Any tests or assignments accepted late will incur a standard penalty of 10% per day late. The phone number or e-mail address listed above is to be used to explain extenuating circumstances for any missed or late work.

7. BLACKBOARD COURSE WEB PAGE Students are required to use the Blackboard (Bbd) course homepage for this class. Assignments, due dates, handout information, changes in class schedule, etc., will be posted there as needed. It is highly encouraged that you check the Course homepage regularly. This will save you time, work, and stress.

8. ELECTRONIC DEVICES. Cell phones, pagers, and any other electronic devices, other than computers *used only for the class (in note-taking, etc.)* must be turned off before entering the classroom, since they pose a distraction to the class. Any student disrupting the class by use of any electronic devices will be dismissed from the class resulting in an absence for that period. Repeated offenses may result in the student being dropped from the class.

9. The following four sections can be found at <https://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Tentative Class Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Jan 18	Intro to course; Self-introductions <i>CC Reading assignments</i>	
Jan 23	Definitions & Models of Com	Ch 1
Jan 30	Communication & Culture: The challenge of the future	Ch 2
Feb 6	The deep structure of culture: Roots of reality EXAM 1 (D/M; Ch's 1-2);	Ch 3
Feb 13	Worldview: Cultural explanations of life and death	Ch 4
Feb 20	Culture and the individual: Cultural identity;	Ch 5
Feb 27	Shaping interpretations of reality: Cultural values; <i>Research Paper Workshop</i> EXAM 2 (Ch's 3-5)	Ch 6
Mar 5	Language and culture: The essential partnership	Ch 7
Spring Break – March 12 – 16		
Mar 19	Finish Language: Begin: Nonverbal communication: The messages of action	Ch 8
Mar 26	Finish Nonverbal Com and Culture	Ch 9
Apr 2	EXAM 3 (Ch's 6-8); Cultural Influences in Business Setting; Paper Due April 2	
Apr 9	Cultural Influences in Educational Setting	Ch 10
Apr 16	Cultural Influences in Health Setting	Ch 11
Apr 23	Research Reports	
Apr 30	Putting it All Together: Intercultural Communication Competence	

May 9 @ 11:00-1:00 **Final Exam (Ch 9-11)**