

COURSE SYLLABUS

SCM 370.01

Intercultural Communication

Three Credit Hours

Spring, 2008

11:00 TTh, 201 Dan Rather Communications Building

Instructor: Dr. J. D. Ragsdale
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Office Hours: 11:00-12:00 MWF, 2:00-3:00 TTh
Other hours by appointment

The study of culture, cultural variation, and diversity and their impact on communication. Emphasis is given to co-cultural issues within the United States as well as to overcoming cultural barriers in international communication. *This is a writing-enhanced course.*

Textbook: Samovar, Porter, & McDaniel, *Communication Between Cultures*, 6th Ed.

Course Calendar

This is a lecture course, but you are encouraged to participate in class discussion of the course materials. There may periodically be guest lecturers, who will share their experiences of cultural differences. You are responsible for all material provided in class.

Meeting Dates	Topic	Readings in Text
01/17	Communication and Culture	Chapter 1
01/22, 01/24	Communication and Culture (cont.)	
01/29, 01/31	The Deep Structure of Culture	Chapter 2
02/05, 02/07	Worldview: Life and Death	Chapter 3
02/12, 02/14	Worldview (cont.)	
02/19, 02/21	Cultural Identity	Chapter 4
02/26, 02/28	Cultural Values	Chapter 5
03/04, 03/06	Cultural Values (cont.)	
03/10-03/14	SPRING BREAK	
03/18, 03/20	Language and Culture	Chapter 6
03/25, 03/27	Nonverbal Communication and Culture	Chapter 7
04/01, 04/03	Nonverbal Communication (cont.)	
04/08, 04/10	Cultural Influences on Business;	Chapter 8
04/15, 04/17	Cultural Influences on Education	Chapter 9

04/22, 04/24	Cultural Influences on Health Care	Chapter 10
04/29, 05/01	Becoming Competent	Chapter 11
05/06, 05/08	Becoming Competent (cont.)	

Course Objectives:

- To increase the student's understanding of the concepts of culture and co-culture
- To increase the student's awareness of the impact of cultural diversity on our understanding of communication
- To develop intercultural communication skills
- To provide an awareness of research literature in intercultural communication
- To develop scientific writing skills

Student Responsibilities:

Class attendance is expected, but there is no penalty for absences. However, you may not make up a missed quiz without a written explanation of your absence, and make up quizzes must be completed within one week of your return to class following the absence.

Research Project/Paper:

1. You will be required to conduct a research project and summary paper worth 100 points.
2. For the project, you should choose a culture about which you will collect materials with the intent of becoming an "expert." The paper should report your conclusions about "the ten most characteristic features" of the culture. As you will discover, the terms "culture" and "country" are not synonymous, but for the purposes of this paper you may ignore the differences.
3. All conclusions in the paper must be evidenced by your collected materials, which you will turn in along with the paper (They will be returned to you.).
4. **This project/paper is due on Tuesday, March 4, 2008. It will not be accepted late.**

Grading System:

1. There will be a quiz following each chapter in the textbook. Questions will be multiple-choice and true/false types. There are no other exams. Quizzes are ordinarily worth 20-30 points each.
2. You will be permitted to make up quizzes provided your absence is excusable (e.g., illness, death in the family, natural disaster). Alarm clocks which fail to go off are not excusable reasons for absence. Computer failure, printer failure, and the like are not acceptable excuses for turning in work late.
3. The grading scale is as follows: 90-100% A; 80-89% B; 70-79% C; 60-69% D; 59% or below F.

Applicable University Policies:

For course policies concerning Academic Dishonesty, Student Absences on Religious Holy Days, Students with Disabilities, and Visitors in the Classroom, see www.shsu.edu/syllabus.