Introduction to Intercultural Communication -15-COMM-349H-001

Dr. MJ Woeste
Email: woestemj@uc.edu
Office – 120 McMicken  556-4474
Advising Hours: As needed

Blackboard: Online materials replace reading packet = (BB). Note: the numbers listed on the calendar portion of the syllabus correspond with the Blackboard listing of readings.

Course Objectives:
1. To provide students with a basic introduction to current theory on cultural differences in communication practices among cultures, with a focus on local populations that are living in poverty or are identified as marginalized communities.
2. Students will have a basic functional understanding of the processes and consequences of communication between peoples of different cultures.
3. To encourage students to draw connections between theoretical conceptions related to intercultural communication and their own cultural experiences.
4. To utilize real community settings and experiences as a means of making theory real and directly applicable.
5. To meet a need within the marginalized community setting(s) through student – community member interactions.

Attendance & Notes/Handouts:
1. Attendance is essential. Absences will be considered excused if you provide advanced notice. NOTE: *Each absence = a loss of 10 points otherwise
2. Four (4) unexcused absences constitutes a full grade reduction.
3. Further grade reductions will or may result with each additional absence.
4. Notes missed due to absence must be acquired from colleague(s).
5. Handouts are available upon request.

Coursework and Grading:
1. Coursework: All assignments must be typed or computer printed and must demonstrate college-level mastery of grammar, punctuation, and language use.

2. Plagiarism & Cheating: The University rules, including the Student Code of Conduct, and other documented policies of the department, college, and university related to academic integrity will be enforced. Any violations of these regulations, including acts of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the severity of the misconduct.

3. Withdrawals and Incomplete Grades: must be discussed with the instructor prior to any final action. Conditions for completing work can only be established before the end of the term. The instructor can mandate the withdrawal of an officially enrolled student who has missed the first two (2) class sessions without and oral or written explanation. Any message
addressing this issue must be received before the third class session to reserve class space for the student.

4. **Special Needs:** If you have any special needs related to your participation in this course, including identified visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, communication disorder, and/or specific learning disability that may influence your performance in this course, you should meet with the instructor to arrange for reasonable provisions to ensure equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. At the discretion of the instructor, some accommodations may require prior approval by Disability Services.

**Theoretical Review**

The theoretical review is centered on your experience(s) and the direct application of an intercultural communication theory (you select) to the experience(s). You will be assigned to small groups (families) depending upon your selection of an experience (see the two listed below). At the end of the quarter, your small group/family will be responsible for a brief informal presentation to the rest of the class, and a paper to be graded by the instructor. More specific directions/information will be made available during the quarter. The options are:

1) The family will participate in an **“Urban Immersion (36-hour) Experience”** that will take place during (1) one selected weekend during the quarter. The experience will begin on Friday about 5:00 p.m. and end early Sunday morning. You will experience **homelessness** and explore that co-culture during that time, and meet with men participating in the recovery program “Exodus”. We will select and coordinate the weekend within the first two weeks of class.

2) The family will work with **“The Outlet”**, a recreationally and relationally focused program that occurs every Saturday morning at City Gospel Mission, and strives to “normalize” some aspects of the lives of the people that are homeless, living on the street, or economically marginalized. The participants will be expected to volunteer with “The Outlet” at least 4 times (or 20 hours) throughout the quarter.

3) **In Their Shoes – (Women Only)** The female students will be matched with a woman participating/enrolled in the recovery program “Having The Courage To Change” and will work as a tutor/mentor for the duration of the quarter. There are many types of projects or activities to engage in or create. You will be working closely with Courtney Harris – Clinical Director in this process or designing and implementing the project(s).

4) **Oak Street Experience –** Alcoholics or Narcotics Anonymous (AA / NA) hold open meetings near campus during different times of day throughout the week. A student participant would be required to attend at least 5 meetings or the equivalent of 20 hours, and “hang out” with the people who are attending those meetings.

**NOTE:** Also an important expectation - Near the end of the quarter, students will be invited to participate in “re-connecting” with the community members. This is designed to assist both the families and community members in extending the relationship(s). There will be more specific direction/information concerning this opportunity as the quarter progresses.

**Research Component:**

Your family will be responsible for conducting research during the course of the quarter. This research will be based on the inductive nature of the course and how we seek to understand the impact of poverty and homelessness on members of marginalized populations/communities in the city of Cincinnati. This research will be
presented to the class as a part of the study of intercultural communication theory and the application of the theories to real life circumstances/conditions.

**EXAMS:**

The midterm and final exams will be a mixed format consisting of multiple choice, true/false, and/or case studies with applied responses. There will be a review for each test that will outline the expectations and theories covered.

**POINTS & GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points Available</th>
<th>Points Received</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theoretical Review</td>
<td>100</td>
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**Total points =** 300

**Grading:**

(A) 300 - 250
(B) 249 - 199
(C) 198 - 148
(D) 147 - 97
(F) 96 - below

**NOTE:** The use of a (+) may be applied by the instructor to award greater course involvement or accomplishments, or a (-) for inadequate involvement or accomplishments.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day/Date</th>
<th>Read</th>
<th>Activity/Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK ONE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>T 3/30</td>
<td>We vs. They / Information vs. Knowledge</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>H 4/1</td>
<td>BB = “Acculturation, Assimilation, Diffusion”</td>
<td><strong>Explanation of experiential opportunities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>WEEK TWO</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>T 4/6</td>
<td>Ch. 18 Anxiety/Uncertainty Management (Gudykunst)</td>
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<tr>
<td>H 4/8</td>
<td>BB = Review/Study Sheet</td>
<td>BB = Synopsis of A/UM</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK THREE</strong></td>
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<td>T 4/13</td>
<td>Ch 3 Speech Codes Theory (Philipsen, Coutu, Covarrubias)</td>
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<tr>
<td>H 4/15</td>
<td>BB = Review/Study Sheet</td>
<td>BB = Synopsis of Speech Codes Theory</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK FOUR</strong></td>
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<td>T 4/20</td>
<td>Ch. 8 Co-Cultural Theory (Orbe, Spellers)</td>
<td>BB = Review/Study Sheet</td>
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<tr>
<td>H 4/22</td>
<td>Ch. 8 Continued</td>
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<td><strong>36 Hour weekend – City Gospel</strong></td>
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<td><strong>WEEK FIVE</strong></td>
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<td>T 4/27</td>
<td>BB = “Forms &amp; Functions of Prejudice”</td>
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<td>H 4/29</td>
<td>BB = Hofstede: Synopsis of Dimensions of Cultural Variability &amp; pages 8-9 in Textbook</td>
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<td>BB = Brislin &amp; Alport &amp; Amir: Antecedents of, Contact Hypothesis</td>
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WEEK SIX

T 5/4      ------     Midterm
H 5/6      Ch. 6      Communication Accommodation Theory (Gallois, Ogay, Giles)

WEEK SEVEN

T 5/11     BB =       Review/Study Sheet
           BB =       Synopsis of Communication Accommodation Theory
H 5/13     Ch. 17     Cultural Schema Theory (Nishida)

WEEK EIGHT

T 5/18     Ch 17      Continued
           BB =       Review/Study Sheet
H 5/20

WEEK NINE

T 5/25     Ch. 2      Coordinated Management of Meaning (Pearce)
           BB =       Review/Study Sheet
H 5/27

WEEK TEN

T 6/1
H 6/3     FINAL EXAM
          Theoretical Reviews Due