

**MCOM 3990: Interracial/Interethnic Communication**  
**Spring 2017**  
**Dr. David M. Duty**  
**University of Central Oklahoma**

**TEXTBOOK:**

Orbe, M. P., & Harris, T. M. (2015). *Interracial communication: Theory into practice* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

**Recommended Texts** (for critical book review):

Geronimo (2005). *Geronimo: My life* (as told to S. M. Barrett). Mineola, NY: Dover.

Gruenewald, M. M. (2005). *Looking like the enemy: My story of imprisonment in Japanese-American internment camps*. Troutdale, OR: NewSage Press.

Park, R. (1992). *Rosa Parks: My story*. New York, NY: Puffin Books:

Rodriquez, R. (1982). *Hunger of memory: The education of Richard Rodriquez*. New York, NY: Bantam Dell.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

This course explores the theoretical and practical issues related to race, culture, and communication. The course will cover various underpinnings of interracial/interethnic communication including topics such as identity, language, history, cultural influences, and theories. The course is designed to improve each student's understanding and ability to communicate across and within diverse cultural groups in the United States. The term "culture" is broadly define to include race, ethnicity, national origin, economic class, gender, age, sexual orientation, and other markers of social identity. Interracial/interethnic communication in a variety of social contexts will be explored.

- To explore the multidimensional relationship between race/ethnicity and communication.
- To learn to honor and share your own culture while developing a capacity to be inclusive of many other cultures.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of theory, research and applications pertaining to the process of interracial/interethnic communication.
- To critically examine the complexity of your own cultural identities and how they relate to the cultural identities of others in the US.
- To foster a process whereby students can develop the skills necessary to think critically about what they have learned as it applies to their everyday life experiences.
- To create a supportive learning environment where people from varying racial/ethnic and cultural backgrounds can frankly discuss their experiences, thoughts, and perceptions of culture and communication.

*This course satisfies the following National Communication Association's Learning Outcomes*

*in Communication (LOC):*

- *LOC #2: Employ Communication Theories, Perspectives, Principles, and Concepts*
- *LOC# 3: Engage in Communication Inquiry*
- *LOC# 8: Utilize Communication to Embrace Difference*

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**1. Attendance (50 points).** Attendance is mandatory and will affect your grade. There are no excused absences, except for university related absences with documentation for sports, conferences, and so forth—prior approval required. Only emergencies such as hospitalization, close relative funerals with documentation will be considered. Just informing me that you will be absent does not justify an excused absence. A third unexcused absence will reduce your attendance grade to 25 points, and a fourth to 0. **Note: Leaving class early will be counted as an absence. Coming in more than 15 minutes late will be counted as an absence.**

**2. Exams (2 exams @ 100 points each).** There will be two exams—a mid-term and final (not comprehensive) which will consist of structured questions (e.g., multiple choice, true/false) and essays.

**3. Individual Critical Book Review (100 points).** You are to write a 6-8-page critical book review. Your review should have three goals: first, to inform the reader about the content of the book; second, to utilize the theoretical concepts discussed in your textbook as they relate to the author's interracial/interethnic journey; and, third, to provide an evaluation that gives your judgment of the book's quality. Papers should be written in APA format. Further details will be discussed in class.

**4. Group Presentation (150 points).** Each group will be responsible for leading a class presentation/discussion over their respective book review. The presentation should last between 50-60 minutes and should include a PowerPoint presentation. Students will be given a grade based on individual *and* collective performance. More detailed assignment information will be distributed later.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**Week/Topic/Reading**

1/Course Overview/ Studying Interracial Communication/Chapter 1

2/The History of Race/Chapter 2

3/The Power of Verbal and Nonverbal Codes/Chapter 3

4/Racial and Ethnic Identity Negotiation/Chapter 4

5/Intersectionality of Identities/Chapter 5

6/Theoretical Approaches to Studying Interracial Communication/Chapter 6

7/Mid-Term Exam/Reading Day

8/Racial Hierarchies as International Communication Phenomena/Chapter 7

9/Friendships and Romantic Relationships/Chapter 8

10/SPRING BREAK

11/Interracial Communication in the Workplace/Chapter 9

12/Interracial Conflict/Chapter 10

13/Race/Ethnicity and the Mass Media/Chapter 11

14/Moving from the Theoretical to the Practical/Chapter 12

15/Group Presentations/Individual Critical Book Review Due

16/Group Presentations

Final Exam: During scheduled exam time