

# Syllabus

## Cross Cultural Communication

Speech 624/424

UW-Whitewater	Fall 2009	3 Credits	Online
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### Course Description

Study of cross cultural contacts and interactions when individuals are from different cultures. An analysis of verbal and nonverbal communication and related factors within and between various cultures, predictions of patterns and effects, and communication barriers.

Please note: This course fulfills the University's General Education Social Science and Diversity requirements. It also satisfies the international requirement in the College of Business and Economics, and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction requirement for human relations for teachers.

### Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Define major terms and concepts related to cross-cultural communication,
2. Identify factors that can influence the cross-cultural communication process,
3. Discuss major theories of intercultural and cross-cultural communication,
4. Discuss specific world views, verbal and nonverbal patterns of communication within selected international and domestic cultures,
5. Apply theories of cross-cultural communication in order to verify symptoms and causes of unsuccessful cross-cultural communication, and
6. Apply communication skills in participating in cross-cultural communication in order to enhance success in face-to-face, cross-cultural interactions.

### Texts

Samovar, L. A., Porter, R. E., & McDaniel, E.R. (2009). *Intercultural Communication: A Reader*. (12th Ed.). Belmont, CA.: Wadsworth.

Other readings will be placed on electronic reserve at the library.

Recommended: APA Manual (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.) Also known as the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

## **Class Format**

This course is designed as a web-based course. Due to the nature of the course content and the delivery method, the course is best described as a guided independent study course. You will be interacting with other class members and you will have lectures/discussions with the faculty member. However, at the end of the day, the course is primarily an independent study in which you read the chapters, view the lectures, and learn the material on your own. If you need more structure and guidance to learn complex material, taking the course in the online context may not be the best for you. Consider enrolling in one of the face to face sections of the course instead.

Online courses are incredibly time-consuming. While this time is flexible (you can be online at 2am posting your ideas and reading the ideas of other class members), online courses require many more hours of work per week than face to face courses do. Additionally, online courses require advanced reading and comprehension skills and the ability to self-direct ones' own learning. In an online class lectures are electronic and non-interactive, so you **MUST** be able to read and comprehend **LARGE** amounts of complex material on your own—you will be reading extensively. In an online course, there are fewer checkpoints for professors to make sure you are keeping up, thus, you **MUST** be able to organize time well and remain dedicated to doing the work so that you do not fall behind. Online classes require a great deal of self-motivation and self-structured learning. Finally, online courses require that you enjoy writing and write well. Students spend hours and hours writing in an online course as all assignments, discussion, and so on are text-based.

Additionally, this is an advanced 400-600 level course that covers large amounts of complex material at a very brisk pace. Thus, this course will be twice as challenging because it is both an online course, and covers an advanced curriculum. Be certain that you have the motivation, skills, and time to dedicate to this course, as you will harm yourself and the other class members who will come to depend upon you for group projects and discussion, if you drop the ball. You can make the course easier on yourself by doing the following: keeping up with the readings; writing down and asking questions; and actively participating in class discussions and projects. If at any time you feel anxious about the course or anything that takes in class, please do not hesitate to talk with me.

**A Note about Computer Competency:** In order to fully participate in an online course you need to have intermediate computer competency. For example, you need to be very familiar and comfortable with D2L, downloading and view podcasts, and accessing the e-reserves at the library. You would also be helpful if you know how to post photos on the web, create hot links to web-based material, and scan and digitize text or video.

## **Class Attendance**

**Attendance:** Please refer to the “Assignments” portion of the course materials for a complete explanation of the participation expectations for this course. But also keep in mind the following five policies about attendance and participation in an online course:

1. All work is due to me by 8am central standard time on the day it's due. My computer will record the time that the assignment has been received and I will use that time to determine if your assignment is late or not. Thus, if your computer says you sent it at

- 7:45, but mine says I received it at 8:10—your assignment will be considered late. I will accept late work, but the **HIGHEST** grade you can receive on a late assignment is a low B (80%). **I will not accept** any assignments later than **one business day** after the due date-- so don't ask! However, I will always accept early work.
2. Missing points for failure to participate in online class and group activities on time **CANNOT** be made up.
  3. Students with frequent and high quality participation (those who consistently surpass expectations by playing a proactive role in creating the course dynamic and contributing to the enhancement of the online learning environment) will qualify for bonus points toward their final grade.
  4. Students who do not actively participate will **NOT** receive a passing grade in this course. This means that even if you have received an A average on all of your assignments, you will still receive a D or an F in the course if you do not play an active role in the online classroom through discussion and participation.
  5. As this is online course, you are expected to be able to participate every week—even if at some point during that week you are traveling, are ill, or are gone on university business. In seven days, you should always have the ability and the time to access a computer and participate in that week's unit. Thus, there are **NO** excused absences for a lack of participation in this course.

## **Outside Preparation**

Plan on spending between 8 and 10 hours a week on this class. You will need this time to read the text, take quizzes, write research papers, prepare projects, and study for exams.

## **Desire2Learn**

This course is supported by Desire2Learn. Use the link on the UW-W homepage to access D2L. Once there, you'll need to use your UW-W Net ID and password. D2L will only operate with your UW-W e-mail address, so check your university e-mail regularly. I recommend taking on-line quizzes and exams on campus. Connections to D2L through off-campus access, including Wi-Fi, may be problematic.

## **Written Work**

All written work must be word-processed and double-spaced. Use 12 point Times New Roman for all body copy. All documents **MUST** be in Microsoft Word (no MS Works documents please). My computer does not have VISTA so please save in an older format if necessary so my computer can read your work. Please keep a backup copy of your work.

## **On-Line Reading Quizzes and Exams**

During the semester 10 on-line, open-book quizzes will be given via D2L. The quizzes will cover the assigned readings, and will be available between Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. and Friday at 8:00 a.m. Quizzes are open book and will be limited to 15 minutes. A mid-term and a final exam will also be given via D2L.

## **Returned Work**

I will make every effort to promptly return work to you. Most short assignments will be returned within one week. Longer assignments may take up to two weeks.

## **Cross Cultural Travel Study Practicum**

By completing Cross Cultural Communication you will meet the prerequisite for the Cross Cultural Travel Study Practicum, Speech/Journalism 291/491/691. This three-week travel course is scheduled for late May through early June, and focuses on a specific country or group of countries. Spring 2010 is three weeks in Ireland! A series of pre-departure seminars are held during the Spring semester. Please see me for more information. The Communication Department also offers semester-long study abroad programs through universities in Australia, Ireland, and Finland.

## **Special Needs**

Any students with special needs should contact me promptly so I can make arrangements to accommodate your needs. For example, students needing additional time for quizzes and exams should inform me immediately.

## **University Policies**

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduate and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding Special Accommodations, Misconduct, Religious Beliefs Accommodation, discrimination and Absence for University Sponsored Events. (For details please refer to the Undergraduate and Graduate Timetables, the "Rights and Responsibilities" section of the Undergraduate Bulletin; the Academic Requirements and Policies and the Facilities and Services sections of the Graduate Bulletin; and the "Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures" [UWS chapter 14]; and the "Student Nonacademic Disciplinary Procedures" [UWS Chapter 17]).

## **Assignments**

Additional information about each assignment is posted on D2L along with a score sheet outlining the criteria I will use to evaluate your work. Please use the score sheet as the cover page for each assignment when you submit it to the D2L dropbox. Assignments without the score sheet as a cover page will not be evaluated.

**Online Exercises/Discussions**—Throughout the semester you will be asked to complete various exercises and post your answer on D2L. In addition, you will be asked to respond on D2L to the postings of others.

**Midterm Exam** – This exam will cover readings, discussions, and lectures for the first half of the course, and will use multiple choice questions.

**Cumulative Final Exam**-- The **cumulative final exam** will be a multiple choice exam that will cover all of the readings, discussions, and lectures from the course.

Research project: The **research project** should be 8-10 pages, plus bibliography, and will require a minimum of 8 outside sources. A variety of options are available. See D2L for specific requirements. This project may be done as a team project with other course members.

### **Extra Credit**

Up to 100 points may be available in extra credit. Extra credit points can be earned by attending specific intercultural events and writing brief reflective papers. These will be announced as the semester progresses.

### **Graduate Student Requirements**

Graduate students must meet all of the undergraduate requirements and complete two additional requirements to demonstrate the unique expectations this university holds for graduate students in the areas of increased emphasis on course content, intensity, and self-direction. These requirements are as follows: Graduate students will be required write a 12-15 page academic research paper related to their program of study (this paper replaces the undergraduate 8 page paper requirement—it is not in addition to that requirement). APA Style must be used, and a bibliography of at least 12 outside sources is required. The topic should be discussed with the instructor in advance and additional meetings with the instructor are encouraged.

### **Course Grading Policy**

Grades are assigned on the basis of accumulation of points. You are encouraged to keep track of the points you have accumulated. Grades will also be posted on D2L. Your scores for Extra Credit will be posted as a cumulative score. Here are the points for various assignments:

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Available Points</b>	<b>Earned Points</b>
D2L Exercises/Discussions	250	
Quizzes	100	
Midterm Exam	200	
Cumulative Final Exam	200	
Research Project	250	
Extra Credit	100 (possible)	
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>1,000</b>	

The following table is used to determine letter grades for **undergraduates**:

A	93% and above	930 - 1,000
A-	90-92%	900-929
B+	87-89%	870-899
B	83% - 86%	830-869
B-	80-82%	800-829
C+	77-79%	770-799
C	73% - 76%	730-769
C-	70-72%	700-729
D+	67-69%	670-699
D	63% - 66%	630-669
D-	60-62%	600-629
F	Below 60%	599 and below

The following table is used to determine letter grades for **graduate students**:

A	93% and above	1,302 – 1,400
AB	87% - 92%	1,218 – 1,301
B	81% - 86%	1,134 – 1,217
BC	75% - 80%	1,050 – 1,132
C	70% - 74%	980 – 1,049
D	60% - 69%	840 – 979
F	59% and below	839 and below

We reserve the right to change or modify these grading scales.