Course ID Number: ADC6010  
Course Title: Cross Cultural Communication  

No. of Credits: 1  

Graduate School of International Relations  
International University of Japan  

Term: Spring 2013  

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Course Introduction  

Cross-cultural (or intercultural) understanding and sensitivity have become a very important need for us in today’s globalized world. Effective intercultural communication skills are important in a multicultural society, particularly for those individuals who would be in positions that require effective management of cultural conflicts. The unique features of multicultural education and society at IUJ provide very good opportunities to IUJ students to develop an appreciation for cultural differences and effective intercultural communication skills. We will find this course immediately helpful in developing a better understanding of our cross-cultural experiences at IUJ.
Introduction
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Goals and design
This course focuses on fundamental conceptual and practical dimensions of intercultural communication in everyday life in social interactions in multicultural environments. It aims at developing an individual’s intellectual appreciation for cultural differences and sensitivity regarding intercultural interactions.

We will:

1. Discuss basic concepts, conceptual frameworks, and some broader contexts of intercultural communication;
2. Analyze and discuss examples of cross-cultural conflicts in a variety of situations;
3. Develop an understanding of barriers to effective intercultural communication;
4. Develop intercultural sensitivity in terms of beliefs, values, and norms; and
5. Develop an understanding of intercultural competence.

The early part of the course will focus on the complex topic of identity in this globalized world. The course will also cover the notions of essentialism and otherization in multicultural contexts.

Course organization
The course will be offered in ten 90-minute sessions. Classes will be highly student-centered through interactive lectures and group discussion activities.
Based on reading materials, the instructor will cover specific topics by posing a series of questions. Students will be expected to have read the assigned materials in advance and come prepared to participate actively in the discussions.

In addition, practical examples involving problematic cross-cultural interactions will be introduced. These examples, selected from published materials, will be introduced in the form of cross-cultural dialogs, critical incidents, and critical experiences. They will be given as homework assignments, and students will be expected to come prepared to discuss these short assignments. Finally, students will also be encouraged to draw on their own cross-cultural experiences, including those at IUJ.

Classroom activities are designed to generate discussions and exchanges of ideas and opinions among the students. The classes will be personally interesting to all the participants.

**Course requirements and assessment scheme**

1. A mid-term paper (3-4 pages) due in week 5: 25%. This assignment will ask students to discuss their cultural self-identity.
2. An end-of-term paper (5-6 pages) due in week 10, based on a topic selected by the student and agreed upon by the instructor: 35%. This assignment will ask students to apply some basic concepts and/or conceptual framework that they will have learned in the course and discuss topics they are interested in. They will be encouraged to conduct short and easily manageable empirical investigations. Specific guidelines for this assignment will be given in the class.
3. Two in-class quizzes (weeks 5 and week 10), assessing comprehension of the assigned reading materials: 20%
4. Attendance and participation: 20%

**Weekly Sessions: Topics, readings, and assignments**

See the appendix at the end of this syllabus.

**Reading materials**

**Main text:**
(Students should have a copy of this text. The topics of weekly sessions, as listed in the attached appendix (pages 5-7), follow the sequence of chapters in the main text. Students are expected to read the designated chapters from the main text before the scheduled classes.)

Additional texts:
(Selected materials from some of these texts will be used to discussion some topics. They will be available as reserved materials in the library. Students will also find them useful for writing their papers during the course.)


Students will find the following online journal useful: Journal of Intercultural Communication. http://www.immi.se/intercultural/
Course policies/etiquette

- Please read the assigned materials and come prepared to the classes. Be prepared to answer the instructor’s questions and participate actively in class discussions. The classes will consist of both lectures and discussions.
- Come to the class on time. A pattern of late arrival will adversely affect the attendance/participation score.
- Switch off your cell phone before the class begins.
- Do not be absent from the classes. (If your absence becomes unavoidable, inform the instructor immediately, preferably by e-mail.)

Attendance and participation

This includes attending the classes regularly, coming to classes on time, coming prepared and participating actively in classroom discussions, and contributing positively to classroom environment.

Timely submission of papers

This is extremely important. If any assignment is not submitted according to the deadline, it may affect the total score and grade.

Charges for copied materials

The instructor may bring photocopied materials packets and handouts for distribution in the class. Students will be charged a nominal fee for these materials at the end of the course.

Course materials folder

Copies of materials used in the course—ppt. slides, pdf.files, word files, etc.—will be made available in the following folder during the course of the classes:

\Muj-home\IR materials\Ahmed\CCC_Spring2012

NOTES:

1 Although some important distinctions may be made between the terms “cross-cultural” and “intercultural,” both are used in this course description. They may be seen as interchangeable terms, overlapping in their contents in the study of cross-cultural or intercultural communication.
Appendix A: Schedule of sessions

The following schedule may be slightly modified when the course begins. A final version of the course description will be distributed to the students in the introductory session. In addition, during the course itself, some minor modifications in covering the topics may become necessary depending on the actual classroom pacing and dynamics.

SESSION 1
Course introduction:
◊ Course design, contents, components; course requirements; class organization
◊ Beginning key concepts (“communication,” “culture,” “inter-/cross-cultural communication”)
◊ “Cross-Cultural Dialogs,” “Critical Incidents,” and “Critical Experiences” as important elements of the course
◊ Discussion: Cross-Cultural Dialog 1
◊ Student profile

(Note: Since this is a course introduction session, students are not expected to come to the class prepared for class discussion based on assigned readings. This session is designed to introduce the course design, materials, and activities. It will also help get started with some introductory concepts.)

SESSIONS 2-3
Topics:
◊ Cultural Patterns
◊ Perception
◊ Cross-Cultural Dialogs 2-3 and Critical Incident I

Main readings:
Main text (Cooper at al.). Read Chapter 2 (“Cultural Patterns”) and Chapter 3 (“Perception”)

Additional readings:
- An Introduction to Intercultural Communication: Identities in a Global Community, by Fred E. Jandt. Read Chapter 4 (“Barriers to Intercultural Communication”) and Chapter Five (“Stereotypes and Prejudice as Barriers”)
- In Klopf & McCroskey. Read Chapter Five (“Perceiving and Motivating”)

For in-class discussion:
Cross-Cultural Dialogs 2-3 and Critical Incident I

Mid-Term Paper Assignment: Written instructions for the mid-term paper given.
SESSIONS 4-5
Topics:
◇ Cultural Identity
◇ The notion of “Essentialism”

For in-class discussion
Cross-cultural Dialog 4 and Critical Incident 2

Main readings:
 o Main text (Cooper at al.). Read Chapter 4 (“Cultural Identity”)

Quiz 1: In-class, week 6
Mid-term Paper: Due by the end of week 6

SESSIONS 6-7
Topics:
◇ Verbal communication
◇ Different cultural values in language expressions

For in-class discussion
Cross-cultural Dialogs 5-6 and Critical Incident 3

Main readings:
 Main text (Cooper at al.). Read Chapter 5 (“Verbal Intercultural Communication,” pages 103-119)

Additional readings
 o Cross-cultural Pragmatics: The Semantics of Human Interaction, by Anna Wierzbicka. Read Chapter 3 (“Cross-cultural pragmatics and different cultural values,” pages 67-103.)

SESSIONS 8-9
Topics:
◇ Nonverbal Communication
◇ The notion of “Otherization”

For in-class discussion
Cross-cultural Dialogs 7-8 and Critical Incident 4
Main readings:
  o Main text (Cooper at al.), Chapter 6 (“Nonverbal Intercultural Communication,” pages 132-141).

Additional readings
  o In Klopf & McCroskey. Read Chapter 12 (“Communicating Nonverbally Interculturally”)
  o In Jandt. Read Chapter 6 (“Nonverbal communication”).
  o In Condon & Yousef. Read Chapter 6 (“See what I mean? Observations on nonverbal communication across cultures”).

Quiz 2 (in-class; date TBA)
Final Paper: Due in week 10

NOTE: This schedule may be slightly revised, depending on pacing and classroom dynamics.