

USC Annenberg School of Communication
COMM 324m Intercultural Communication (Section 20520D)
Spring 2017 Tues/Thur 9:30-10:50am ASC 228

Instructor: Minhee Son, PhD, minheeso@usc.edu
Office: ASC 229 / ASC West Lobby
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 1-2pm, and by appointment

Course Goals

The class will introduce you to key principles, theoretical, and practical insights into intercultural communication, which draws from an array of academic disciplines. You will be asked to critically engage with readings and other course material. The primary goal is to prepare you to become competent and ethical members of an increasingly diverse, multicultural, and global society. In addition to the readings, through lectures, in-class exercises, classroom discussions, and assignments we will work towards:

- 1) Understanding the various relationships between culture and communication
- 2) Developing a meaningful vocabulary for discussing the importance of intercultural communication in contemporary society
- 3) Learning about the processes that affect intercultural interactions.
- 4) Investigating a variety of contexts in which intercultural communication takes place
- 5) Taking an introductory look at the current strands of research in the field
- 6) Apply course concepts to analyze real-world intercultural interactions

Required Texts

Fadiman, A. (1997). *The spirit catches you and you fall down*. New York: Farrar.

Samovar, L. A., Porter, R. E., McDaniel, E. R., & Roy, C. S. (2015). *Intercultural Communication: A reader* (14th Ed)

Class lectures and discussions will go beyond the assigned readings. The course schedule is subject to change--I will notify in class and via email if changes are necessary. BB = readings will be available on Blackboard.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

I. Foundations of Intercultural Communication

Week 1 - Intercultural Communication - Introductions

01/10 Course Introduction

01/12 A Cultural Approach to Communication - James Carey (1989)

Week 2 – What is Intercultural Communication? History & Definition

- 01/17 Understanding and Applying Intercultural Communication in the Global Community - McDaniel & Samovar, p. 5-15
- 01/19 The Multiculturalism Dilemma - Saint-Jacques, p. 438-448
Intercultural Communication in a Globalized World - Saint-Jacques, p. 16-24

II. Intercultural Communication Processes

Week 3 - Identity & Belonging

- 01/24 Identity and Communication - Ch. 5 Martin & Nakayama, p. 161-211 (BB)
- 01/26 Understanding Whiteness in the United States - Martin, p. 76-84
Cultural Identity and Intercultural Communication - Mary Jane Collier, p. 53-61

Week 4 - Thought and Speech

- 01/31 Language matters - Cargile, p. 251-257
- 02/02 Is the world made up of nouns or verbs? - Nisbett 2003, p. 137-163

HOMEWORK 1 - Due Friday 02/03 Noon

Week 5 - Nonverbal

- 02/07 In Different Dimensions: Nonverbal Communication and Culture - Peter A. Anderson, 229-241
- 02/09 Japanese Nonverbal Communication: A Reflection of Cultural Themes - Edwin R. McDaniel, 242-250

III. Intercultural Communication Contexts: Place and Space

Week 6 - Context: 1. Education/Learning Contexts

- 02/14 Intercultural Communication in the University Classroom - Skow & Stephan, p. 288-300
- 02/16 Internationalisation, Ethnic Diversity and the Acquisition of Intercultural Competencies - Jonas Stier (2003)

Week 7 - Context 2: The Neighborhood and City

- 02/21 From Culture to Interculture: Communication, Adaptation, and Identity Transformation in the Globalizing World - Kim, p. 430-436
- 02/23 Ch 5. *SGV Dreamgirl - Changs Next Door to the Diazes* - Wendy Cheng (2013)
Conclusion - Wendy Cheng (2013) (BB)

Week 8 – Review & Midterm Exam

- 02/28 Review
- 03/02 MIDTERM EXAM

Week 9 - Context 3: Health

- 03/07 Negotiating Cultural Understanding in Healthcare Communication - Geist-Martin, p. 320
- 03/09 “Half - Truths” in Argentina, Brazil, and India: An Intercultural Analysis of Physician-Patient Communication - Rao, p. 329

03/13 - 03/17 **SPRING BREAK**

Week 10 – Health (cont.)

- 03/21 *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* - Fadiman
- 03/23 *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* - Fadiman

HOMEWORK 2 - Due Friday 3/24 Noon

IV. Intercultural Communication Application/Competency

Week 11 - Intercultural Communication Competency

- 03/28 Managing Intercultural Conflict Effectively - Ting-Toomey, p. 355-366
- 03/30 "Getting Out of Your Box" versus "Preserving a Culture" - Eliasoph (2011) (BB) p. 183-189

Week 12 - Applications/Strategies

- 04/04 “Imagined Communities” - Benedict Anderson (1991) (BB)
- 04/06 Chen, N.-T. N., Dong, F., Ball-Rokeach, S. J., Parks, M., & Huang, J. (2012). Building a new media platform for local storytelling and civic engagement in ethnically-diverse neighborhoods. *New Media & Society*, 14(6), 931-950. (BB)

Week 13 - Applications/Strategies (cont.)

4/11 “Engaging Intercultural Communication for Social Justice: Challenges and Possibilities for Global Citizenship” (Sorrells, 2012) (BB)

04/13 “On Piped Piers: Imagination and Creativity” - John Paul Lederach, p. 151-163

HOMEWORK 3 - Due Friday 04/14 Noon

Week 14 – Presentations

04/18

04/20

Week 15 - Presentations (cont.)

04/25

04/27 Review/Conclusion

FIELD EXPERIENCE REPORT - Due Friday 4/28 Noon

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 9, 8-10am

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/EVALUATION

Weekly Reading Post: (10% of grade, 50)

Attendance/Participation: (10% of grade, 50)

Homework (10% of grade, 50)

Midterm Exam: (20% of grade, 100)

Field Experience Report: (20% of grade, 100)

Final Exam: (20% of grade, 100)

Final Presentation: (10% of grade, 50)

TOTAL: 500 Points

A+ = 97-100	A = 96-94	A- = 93-90	B+ = 89-87	B = 86-84	B- = 83-80	
C+ = 79-77	C = 76-74	C- = 73-70	D+ = 69-67	D = 66-64	D- = 63-60	F = 59-00

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Participation

Please arrive on time class. When you come in late, you disturb the flow of the class—not to mention missing important announcements and reminders. Your attendance and participation will be noted.

Excellent attendance and outstanding participation may determine whether your grade will be raised if your final average is at the borderline between two grades.

If you have more than three unexcused absences your grade will not be raised even if you have outstanding participation. Remember, it takes *both* excellent attendance and outstanding participation for a borderline grade to be raised. In the case of an excused absence, you need to let me know in advance, *prior* to the start of class, with official proof/documentation. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to reach out to your classmates to stay informed of lecture content and class announcements.

Respectful Behavior

All participation should contribute to everyone's increased understanding of the course materials. Therefore, contributions should be worded thoughtfully, respectfully and in a manner that respects and engages others. Please refrain from side conversations, use of electronics/communication devices**, and reading and writing off-topic.

**NOTE: Use of computer in the classroom is a privilege. You may use a computer in the classroom ONLY for taking notes or looking at the readings. If you abuse this privilege, computers may be banned from the classroom altogether. Please turn your cell phones off.

Late Work

All assignments are to be turned in when due--deadline extensions will not be granted. You will receive a grade reduction (ex: A to A-) for each day that the assignment is late (including Saturdays and Sundays). After seven days, you will receive a zero for the assignment.

Assignments/Grading

You must complete ALL of the assignments in order to pass the class. Failure to complete one or more of them will result in an F in the class. Details on each assignment will be supplied via individual prompts and discussed in lecture. Please carefully read and follow the assignment requirements/instructions--I am here to help if anything is unclear or if you are having difficulties following the assignments, but please do reach out to me sooner than later (not the night before the assignment is due!).

If you have concerns regarding a grade on a given assignment, you must appeal it in writing, stating the reasons why you feel the grade is inaccurate, within one week of receiving the graded assignment. No late appeals will be accepted.

A grade C indicates "fair" work. To achieve a "C" or better on assignments, you must write at a level appropriate for a university student, i.e., with correct grammar, punctuation and spelling. B indicates "good" work, and A indicates "excellent work." All written assignments will be graded for clarity, grammar, and quality of writing. All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced, 12 point-font, times new roman. Use a *single* appropriate format for citations (MLA, APA, or Chicago). Serious errors in grammar, spelling, or citation may negatively affect your grade.

Email Communication

You are responsible for keeping up-to-date with all notices sent to your usc email regarding COMM 324.

Please use your usc email account for all communication with me concerning this class. And please add "COMM 324" in the title of your email: E.G. "COMM 324 question about Carey reading." or "COMM 324 scheduling appointment." I will do my best to respond within 48 hours. If you do not get a response AFTER 48 hours, please re-send as a reminder.

School of Communication Academic Integrity Policy

The School of Communication maintains a commitment to the highest standards of ethical conduct and academic excellence. Any student found responsible for plagiarism, fabrication, cheating on examinations, or purchasing papers or other assignments will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards and may be dismissed from the School of Communication. There are no exceptions to the school's policy.

Special Needs

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure that the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located at STU 301, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday – Friday, and can be reached at (213) 740-0776.

Student Counseling Services

Student Counseling Services provides resources, support, and skill building for students to meet academic and personal goals. The Center provides individual therapy, crisis support, psychiatric services as well as consultation to those who are interested in reaching out to a student in distress. Student Counseling Services is located in Engemann Student Health Center, 1031 W. 34th Street. (213) 740-7711 or <http://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

Other Academic Resources

Center for Academic Support (<http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/>):

STU 301, (213) 740-0776, study@usc.edu

Writing Center (<http://college.usc.edu/writingcenter/>):

THH 321, (213) 740-3691, writing@usc.edu