

COURSE SYLLABUS

Intercultural Communication

A. General Information

Lecturer: Michelle Kang
Schedule: Wednesdays, 14:30 - 17:20 hrs
Location: Building Y, Classroom 134
Number of Classes: 17

B. Contribution to the Graduate's Profile

What is culture? How does it affect the way that we interact with the world? How do we communicate effectively with each other when we come from different cultural perspectives? These are questions that we might ask in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world. In this class, we will seek to answer some of those questions, assuming that both students and their surrounding society benefit from meaningful interactions with members outside of their immediate cultural group.

The course is divided into three units: first, to understand our own identity through a cultural lens; second, to ask what it means to respectfully engage with those of other cultures; third, to evolve one's own practice of intercultural awareness and sensitivity as related to communication.

Skills that will be developed through this course are critical thinking, writing, media analysis, understanding other cultures, communicating with those of other cultures, peer critique, and public presentation.

C. General Learning Objective of the Course

- To understand and reflect on one's own cultural identity, context, and experience
 - To connect this understanding with one's own perception of and communication with others.
- To explain how culture may be different from another person's or group of people's perspective
 - To critically engage with essentialist notions of the "other"
 - To investigate when the other's perspective is not immediately clear
- To practice culturally sensitive communication methods (conversations, presentations, written materials, etc.)
 - To improve these methods based on an evolving understanding of self and others

- To teach others about intercultural sensitivity

D. Units, Unit Content and Learning Objectives

Unit / Unit Contents	Learning Objectives
Unit I: Identity & the Self Understanding one's own cultural background & experience	To understand and reflect on one's own cultural identity, context, and experience To connect this understanding with one's own perception of and communication with others.

Unit / Unit Contents	Learning Objectives
Unit II: The Other Understanding others	To explain how culture may be different from another person's or group of people's perspective To critically engage with essentialist notions of the "other" To investigate when the other's perspective is not immediately clear

Unit / Unit Contents	Learning Objectives
Unit III: Application Evolving your practice of intercultural communication	To practice culturally sensitive communication methods (conversations, presentations, written materials, etc.) To improve these methods based on an evolving understanding of self and others To design one's own plan of growth for intercultural awareness and communication

E. Teaching Strategies

This course will utilize a variety of learning methods, including group discussions, oral presentations, peer critique, writing assignments, multimedia projects, and simulations. Classes

will favor interactive engagement and discussion over lectures; students are furthermore encouraged to draw upon and share their personal life experiences to deepen their and others' engagement with the course content.

F. Evaluation

Class Participation - 25%
Weekly Assignments - 25%
Midterms - 20% (10% each)
Final Project - 30%

Class Participation - 25%

This class is only as good as the engagement of students within it. To encourage this, class participation (speaking in class, doing classroom activities, etc.) is a significant portion of your grade and I will be grading you according to your level of engagement in class.

Attendance is crucial. Each missed class will result in an automatic 0.5 point deduction of your class grade (unless you email the instructor beforehand to arrange a make-up assignment).

You are required to physically attend at least 70% of classes in order to receive course credit.

Weekly Assignments - 25%

Each week, you will have a small assignment incorporating the reading and/or content for the upcoming class. Ideally, you would come prepared to discuss, analyze, and share opinions about the content that we will be covering for that class.

Each assignment will be graded with a "+" sign if it meets minimum requirements, or a "-" sign if it does not.

The grade distribution for this are as follows:

7 = 12 completed (+) weekly assignments
6 = 11 completed (+) weekly assignments
5 = 9 - 10 completed (+) weekly assignments
4 = 7 - 8 completed (+) weekly assignments
3 = 5 - 6 completed (+) weekly assignments
2 = 3 - 4 completed (+) weekly assignments
1 = less than 3 completed (+) weekly assignments

Midterms - 20%

You will have two midterms.

For the **first** midterm, you will record a video of yourself having a conversation with a classmate who is from a different culture than you. You will then transcribe and analyze the video according to the theories that we have learned in class. Then, you will write this analysis in the form of a 6-8 page paper (double-spaced).

First midterm is due April 22nd, 2020 at 11:59PM.

For the **second** midterm, you will rewatch the video and read the paper that your conversation partner wrote for the first midterm. Then, you will write a 6 - 8 page response to their paper.

Second midterm is due May 27th, 2020 at 11:59PM.

Further instructions will follow closer to the dates. We will **not** have in-person class on the days that the midterms are due (April 22 and May 27), as you should be using the extra time to work on them.

Final project - 30%

For your final project, you will create a “public service announcement” through which you educate your chosen audience about an aspect of intercultural communication.

You should carefully consider the following well in advance:

- Which medium you would like to use (i.e. advertisement, mini-documentary, journalistic article, blog, training video, etc.)
- Main audience of the PSA
- Main message / purpose of the communication
- Connection to theories that we have learned

Your PSA will be due on **June 24, 2020 at 11:59PM**. You will present your PSA to your fellow students on the day of our last class (also June 24).

G. Timeline

March 04	Introduction	First class
March 11	Unit I: Self	
March 18	Unit I: Self	
March 25	Unit I: Self	
April 01	Unit I: Self	

April 08	Unit II: Other	
April 15	Unit II: Other	
April 22		Midterm 1 due at 11:59PM - No class
April 29	Unit II: Other	
May 06	Unit II: Other	
May 13	Unit II: Other	
May 20	Unit II: Other	
May 27		Midterm 2 due at 11:59PM - No class
June 03	Unit III: Apply	
June 10	Unit III: Apply	
June 17	Unit III: Apply	
June 24	Unit III: Apply	Last class - Final project presentations - Finals due at 11:59PM

H. Other Information

As is UDD policy, all written work will follow APA format.

This class is 100% in English. Your work is expected to be free of basic spelling and grammar errors. If you are not yet at this level, you should expect to work very hard to improve your English skills (verbal, reading, and written) during this class.

Please check Canvas regularly for updates, materials, and deadlines that are crucial for your success in this class.

If you have any comments or questions, please email me at m.kang@udd.cl.