

DEST 485 – Lecture S01
International and Intercultural Communication
Winter 2013
Fr 14:00 - 16:50 SH 278
Class dates: Jan. 8. 10-Apr. 16

Instructor: Dr. Derrick M. Nault

Website: <http://ucalgary.academia.edu/DerrickNault/About>

Email: dmnault@ucalgary.ca

Office location: 1205

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

This seminar course examines intercultural communication at the personal, organizational, societal and international levels. Analyzing various theoretical perspectives associated with intercultural communication, the course also discusses the concept of globalization and its implications for communication among different cultures. Other themes covered in the course are issues of power, identity and influence. An attempt will be made throughout to examine intercultural encounters in the context of specific diversified settings and develop the intercultural communication competence of students to prepare them for actual global communicative situations.

Objectives of the Course

By the end of the course students should be able to

- approach intercultural dialogue with greater awareness and sensitivity
- be better able to understand their own cultural perspectives as well as those of others
- apply techniques to assess and navigate effectively within communicative contexts involving cultural diversity
- understand some key reasons communication breakdown occurs in international and intercultural settings
- soundly grasp the impact globalization is having on human communications in our contemporary world

Textbook and Readings:

Martin, J. & Nakayama, T. *Intercultural Communication in Contexts, 5th edition*. McGraw-Hill Humanities, 2009. [Note: To keep book costs down, students may purchase earlier editions of this book for the course or used versions of the 5th edition. They are also encouraged to purchase the book online if the cost is lower than at the university bookstore.]

Assignments and Evaluation

Participation (10%) (ongoing)

Mid-course exam (30%) (Friday, March 1, 2013) (in-class exam)

Research paper (40%) (Due date: Friday, March 15, 2013)

Online discussions (20%)(ongoing)

Participation: Students should attend regularly and participate in class and group discussions to the best of their ability. Although lectures will form the core of the course, time will be made for students to reflect and offer their views on course themes. As students in the course will be from a wide range of cultural backgrounds, participation will be strongly encouraged so as to enable course participants to learn from one another's diverse experiences.

Research paper: The length of the paper will be 2,500 to 3,000 words. Students may choose a topic that relates to their group presentation or from a list of alternate topics. The paper should demonstrate the student's ability to think critically, support arguments with evidence, and synthesize sources. High quality papers are those that go beyond mere description by posing thought provoking questions and providing insight. They are also free of grammatical errors, logically structured, cohesive, and concise in style.

Note: Please hand in your research paper directly to the instructor in class. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS110; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Exam: Will test students' ability to work with the major ideas and concepts covered in the course. It will include questions on the course readings, lectures, and videos and will consist of essay style questions. Students will be given a list of study questions in advance of which some will be randomly selected for the exams. More details on the number of study questions, number of questions to be selected for the exam, and the number of questions to be answered on the exam will be provided at the beginning of the term.

Online discussions: In the second half of the course students will be required to post comments on lectures and videos related to international and cross-cultural communication. Details on the nature of the comments expected and grading criteria will be provided early in the course.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Writing Skills Statement

Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/info. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: www.efwr.ucalgary.ca

Grading System

The following grading system will be used in the course:

Grading Scale

A+ 96-100
A 90-95.99
A - 85-89.99
B+ 80-84.99
B 75-79.99
B- 70-74.99
C+ 65-69.99
C 60-64.99
C- 55-59.99
D+ 53-54.99
D 50-52.99
F 0-49

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

To be posted on Blackboard before start of classes.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (SS 106, efwr.ucalgary.ca) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops will be allowed in class, but only for the taking of notes or searching of information relevant to lectures. Students who use laptops for other purposes will have their laptop use privileges revoked.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Academic Accommodation Policy

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>
Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Student Representation

Another source of information that you may wish to use is your student representative. All faculties elect students to represent them on the Students Union. Please see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

For your student ombudsman, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see the University of Calgary Research Ethics site: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/for-researchers/ethics>