

CMST 3118  
Intercultural Communication

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**Office Hours:** 11:40-1:10 Monday and Friday; 2:30-3:30 on Monday or by appointment. To make an appointment, either see me after class or email me. For all emails, please allow a **minimum of twenty-four hours advance notice** before your desired meeting time.

**Course Description:** This course serves to introduce students to the field of intercultural communication by looking at the practical applications of theory and research drawn from critical cultural and social scientific perspectives. It identifies the key challenges presented by intercultural interaction both at home and abroad and how those challenges affect people, their jobs, and their relationships. It focuses on the strategies and skills needed to deal effectively with these challenges in a broad variety of interaction contexts. The course will cover several general topics including but not limited to: perception, communication and culture, linguistic differences, common and important dimensions of cultural difference, stereotyping, the challenges presented by intercultural encounters, adaptation and culture shock, and gender.

**Course Materials:** Texts: Holliday, Adrian. 2011. *Intercultural Communication and Ideology*. London: Sage (required). Neuliep, James William. 2011. *Intercultural Communication: a Contextual Approach*. London: Sage (recommended). Any other significant materials will be made available via Moodle.

**Absences/Late Work:** Excusable reasons for missing an examination or a deadline are few and far between, but they include unexpected sickness **proven** by the presentation of a doctor's note, court summons **proven** by the appropriate documentation from the court, family emergency **proven** through presentation of an obituary, etc., or a university-sanctioned activity such as a game or a concert **proven** by a note from an advisor or an instructor. Under these circumstances, I will work out a way for you to make up the assignment.

All course assignments will be due in-class unless otherwise stated. All assignments are due on the dates specified. After that point, work will **no longer be accepted** for full credit without proof of extenuating circumstances (see above). All other work turned in will be penalized **one letter grade per class period late**. I do not accept emailed assignments unless otherwise specified.

**Remember:** "Class attendance is the responsibility of the student. The student is expected to attend all classes. A student who finds it necessary to miss class assumes responsibility for making up examinations, obtaining lecture notes, and otherwise compensating for what may have been missed. The student is responsible for providing reasonable advance notification and appropriate documentation of the reason for the absence. (PS-22)"

**Academic Misconduct:** Do not plagiarize. Any student found to have turned in material not their own (either downloaded from the internet or written by another student) will immediately be reported to the Dean of Students. You can find the official LSU policies on plagiarism here: <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/instruction/plagiarism2.html>. Your work would be considered as plagiarism in part or entirely if it involves any of the following:

- Submitting work that was written by someone other than you (an online source, a friend, etc.).
- Submitting work in which you use the ideas, metaphors or reasoning style of another, but do not cite that source and/or place that source in your list of references. Simply rewording a sentence does not make work your own.
- Submitting work in which you “cut and paste” or use the exact words of a source and you do not put the words within quotation marks, use footnotes or in-text citations, and place the source in your list of references.
- Submitting work that you have written together with a friend as if it was solely your own intellectual property.
- Submitting work for CMST 3118 that you wrote verbatim for another class.

**Students with Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states: “If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a coordinator in the Office of Disability Affairs (112 Johnston Hall) so that such accommodations can be arranged. After you receive the accommodation letters, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations.

**Point Breakdown:** The overall course is worth 1000 points.

#### *Participation*

Class Participation: 100 points

#### *Examinations*

Online Quizzes (2)	50 points
Exam I:	100 points
Exam II:	100 points
Final Exam:	50 points <b>Friday 9 May 10:00 - Noon</b>

#### *Research Paper*

Prospectus:	100 points
Lit/Theory Paper:	150 points
First Draft:	150 points
Final Draft:	50 points

#### *Presentations*

Group Presentation:	50 points
Symposium Talk:	100 points

## Assignment Notes

*Research Paper:* The research project allows the student to demonstrate knowledge at critically analyzing some aspect of intercultural communication related to your major or your personal areas of interest. The paper should be between twelve and fifteen typed pages; articulate a clear theoretical position; cite and critique relevant, recent literature; and explore in some depth an aspect of intercultural communication with an aim of improving communication across cultures. We will work on this paper throughout the semester, so plan early. **NB:** You have the choice of whether to approach the paper from a critical, qualitative, or quantitative framework. That said, given university regulations, should you choose a project that will require surveys or interviews, you will need to see me so that we may attend to IRB regulations.

*Group Presentation:* You will form groups of two. Each group will each be responsible for leading class discussion on one of the articles assigned and presented via Moodle. You will be allowed to sign up for the article you choose to lead in class as the time to begin discussing the approaches. The sign up will be first come, first served. Your task in doing so will be as follows: (1) summarize the article; and (2) lead class discussion by relating the article to the other article assigned for that day and to the chapters and themes previously discussed in class. You should prepare open-ended discussion questions for your classmates. The total time for your presentation and discussion should be 15-17 minutes.

*Symposium Talk:* The final three weeks of the semester, we will hold a research symposium. During this time, you will orally deliver your research papers to the class and any guests from the department. Questions will be asked of you in an effort to help you refine your final draft before you turn it in. Your talk will be between 6 and 7 minutes. As such, you will not be able to read your paper. While not required, working with a visual aid (PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) might be helpful. More details will be provided after midterm.

## ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE (Dates Subject to Change as Necessary)

Week 1: 13 – 17 January

W: Introduction/ Syllabus

F: What is Communication?

**Read:** Chapter 1 “The Necessity of Intercultural Communication,” Neuliep, pp. 1 - 44

Week 2: 20 – 24 January

M: MLK HOLIDAY NO CLASS

W: Non-Verbal Communication

**Read:** Chapter 8 “The Nonverbal Code,” Neuliep, pp. 235 - 266

F: Online Quiz I (No Class)

Week 3: 27 January – 31 January

M: What is Culture? (General Overview Lecture)

W: Approaches to Studying Culture

**Read:** Chapter 1 “Key Discussions,” Holliday, pp. 1 – 17

F: How to Approach Intercultural Communication

**Read:** Chapter 2 “Critical Cultural Awareness,” Holliday, pp. 18 – 40 (focus on 27 – 40)

Week 4: 4 – 8 February

M: Culture, Discourse, Power, I

**Read:** Chapter 6 “A Grammar of Culture,” Holliday, pp. 123 - 150

W: Individualism/Collectivism

**Read:** Chapter 2 “The Cultural Context,” Neuliep, pp. 45 - 93

F: Online Quiz II (No Class)

Week 5: 11 February – 15 February

M: Review for Midterm

W: **Article Demonstration: Article TBA**

F: **Exam I**

Week 6: 17 February – 21 February

M: Prejudice and Stereotypes

**Read:** Chapter 3 “The Microcultural Context,” Neuliep, pp. 93 - 130

**Turn In:** Prospectus

W: Prejudice and Stereotypes

**Read:** Chapter 3 “The Microcultural Context,” Neuliep, pp. 93 - 130

F: **Articles:** Ferrari, Chiara. “Dubbing The Simpsons: or How Groundskeeper Willie Lost His Kilt in Sardinia”

Week 7: 24 February – 30 February

M: Othering & Stereotypes

**Read:** Chapter 4 “The Indelible Politics of Self and Other,” Holliday, pp. 69 - 96

W: Othering & Stereotypes

**Read:** “Knowing the Oriental,” Said, pp. 31 – 49 (Moodle)

F: **Articles:** Schrader, Valerie Lynn. “Good Morning Baltimore: Whiteness, Blackness, and Othering in the 2007 Movie Musical;” Mudambi. “Another Look at Orientalism: (An)Othering in Slumdog Millionaire”

Week 8: 3 March – 7 March

M: MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY: NO CLASS

W: MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY: NO CLASS

F: INDIANA UNIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM: NO CLASS

Week 9: 10 March – 14 March

M: Westernization and Management

**Read:** Chapter 5 “Unnoticed Periphery Identities,” Holliday, pp. 97 – 122

**Turn in:** Theory/Lit Review Paper

W: Westernization and Management (**TBD**)

**Read:** Chapter 11 “Intercultural Communication in Organizations,”

Neuliep, pp. 373 - 404

F: **Articles:** Usunier, et al. “The Influence of High- and Low-Context Communication Styles on the Design, Content, and Language of Business-to-Business Web Sites;” Bargiela-Chiappini, et al. “Five Perspectives on Intercultural Business Communication;”

Week 10: 17 March – 21 March

M: Culture, Gender, and Sexuality

W: Culture, Gender, and Sexuality

F: **Articles:** Kornfield. “Cross-cultural Cross-dressing: Japanese Graphic Novels Perform Gender in U.S;” Banerjee. “Probing the Problematics of Gender and Sexuality: an Intercultural Approach to Critical Discourses on body in the Colonial Benali Magazine Nara-Naree.”

Week 11: 24 March – 28 March

M: Acculturation and Culture Shock

**Read:** Chapter 12 “Acculturation, Culture Shock, and Intercultural Competence,” Neuliep, pp. 405-433.

W: Conflict

**Read:** Chapter 10 “Intercultural Conflict,” Neuliep, pp. 351-372.

F: **Articles:** Dervin, “A Plea for Change in Research on Intercultural Discourses: a ‘Liquid’ Approach to the Study of the Acculturation of Chinese Students;” Jian “Does Culture Matter? An Examination of the Association of Immigrants’ Acculturation with Workplace Relationship Quality”

Week 12: 31 March – 5 April

M: **Exam II**

W: SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION: NO CLASS

F: SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION: NO CLASS

Week 13: 7 April – 11 April

M: **Articles:** Roncancio, et. al. “Health as a Locus of Control, Acculturation, and Health-related Internet use Among Latinas;” Yu and Wang “An Investigation into the Acculturation Strategies of Chinese Students in Germany.”

W: **Articles:** Balaji “Why do Good Girls Have to be Bad? The Cultural Industry’s Production of the Other and the Complexities of Agency;” Cheong and Gray “Mediated Intercultural Dialectics: Identity Perceptions and Performances in Virtual Worlds”

F: **Due:** First Draft of Research Paper

Week 14: 14 April – 18 April

SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS

Week 15: 21 April – 25 April

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Week 16: 28 April – 2 May

## RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM