CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION
PSYCH 237, Fall 2012 Syllabus

Dr. Dharam P. Yadav
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
Phone: 656-4016/Fax: 1-802-656-8783

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The major objective of this course is to enhance student’s knowledge and understanding of theory, research and applications pertaining to the process of cross-cultural communication. More specifically, the course is designed to examine the inter-relationship between communication and cultural patterns. It examines the ways in which cultural assumptions, values, perceptual and cognitive orientations, cultural stereotypes, prejudice, ethnocentrism, non-verbal behaviors, language, and meaning systems operate in the process of cross-cultural interaction between people from diverse cultural and ethnic groups. Through a series of class presentations, case studies and individual research projects, we hope to explore the process of cross-cultural communication and conflict arising from cultural diversity and globaliziation in a variety of contexts including counseling, human services, education, health care, environmental conservation, organizational behavior, human resource development, and international development.

TEXTBOOKS


SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

NOTE: EACH STUDENT IS EXPECTED TO ATTEND CLASSES, EXCEPT IN CASES OF ILLNESS OR SPECIAL RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES.

I. COMMUNICATION, CULTURE, & CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Tu 08/28 a. General Introduction: Culture and Human Behavior; Brislin, Chap. 1, pp. 1-22; Samovar and Porter, pp. 1-17
Th 08/30 b. Relevance of Culture to Communication Behavior; Samovar and Porter, pp. 34-55
Tu 09/04 c. Defining Cross-Cultural Communication, its Scope and Importance. Hall, Hidden Dimension, Chap. 1; Samovar and Potter, pp. 32-38

II. ROLE OF SUBJECTIVE CULTURE IN CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION: CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN INTERCULTURAL CONTEXTS

Tu 09/11 a. Subjective Culture and Communication Patterns; Brislin, Chap. 8, pp. 278-298; Samovar and Porter, pp. 56-103
Th 09/13 b. Cultural Assumptions, Values and Concepts; Samovar and Porter, pp. 103-113, 144-160
Tu 09/18 c. Cultural Differences Between the U.S. and Other World Societies; Samovar and Porter, pp. 189-197; 161-188; Brislin, Chap. 3, pp. 70-94
Th 09/20 d. Intercultural Contexts and Communication: Organizational Cultures; Samovar and Porter, pp. 19-33; 327-355
Tu 09/25 e. Subjective Cultural and Social Behavior; Brislin, Chap. 4, pp. 112-133
III. CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION AND MINORITY SUB-CULTURES: THE REALITY OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Th 09/27  a. Cultural Diversity and Pluralism; Samovar and Porter, pp. 206-221

Tu 10/02  a. Cultural Diversity, Stereotypes, and Cross-Cultural Problems; Samovar and Porter, pp. 222-231, 232-240
   b. Culture of Poverty and the Sub-Culture of African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and other Minority Ethnic Groups; Brislin, Chap. 6, pp. 195-208

d. Identifying Prejudice & Communication Barriers in intercultural interactions with Minority Sub-Cultures. Brislin, Chap. 6, pp. 208-226

***CRITICAL ESSAY #1 DUE

IV. CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION, CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND GENDER ROLLS

Tu 10/09  a. Culture, Gender, and Male-Female Interaction. Brislin, Chap. 9
   b. Gender stereotypes
   c. Differences in Male and Female Interaction Patterns
   d. Gender Equality, Autonomy and Communication Behavior. Samovar and Porter, pp. 126-143

Th 10/11  ***EXAMINATION #1***

V. LANGUAGE, MEANING & CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Tu 10/16  a. Language, Culture and Verbal Communication. Samovar and Porter, pp. 268-287, 400-412
   b. Culture and Cognitive Style; Samovar and Porter, pp. 464-479

Th 10/18  c. Affective Meaning Systems Across Cultures.

Tu 10/23  e. Language, Culture, Cognition and Intercultural Communication in Education. Brislin, Chap. 5, pp. 180-186

VI. NON-VERBAL BEHAVIOR AND CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

   b. Facial expressions and body language

Tu 10/30  c. Spatial Behavior and Environmental Influences. Hall, Hidden Dimension, entire book; Samovar and Porter, pp. 266-274

Th 11/01  d. Temporal Behavior. Samovar and Porter, pp. 313-319

Tu 11/06  e. Interaction Patterns. Samovar and Porter, pp. 457-480

VII. PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTIVENESS, MENTAL HEALTH AND CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION


Tu 11/13  b. Culture shock, Psychocultural Adaptation. Samovar and Porter, pp. 422-434; Brislin, Chap. 7
   c. Psychocultural Effectiveness and Intercultural Empathy. Samovar and Porter, pp. 435-444

Th 11/15  ***RESEARCH PROJECTS AND ABSTRACTS DUE/CASE STUDY REPORTS DUE***
VIII. COMMUNICATION & LEARNING IN INTERCULTURAL SETTINGS

Tu 11/27  a. Becoming Intercultural. Brislin, Chap. 11
     b. Components of Effective Communication and Intercultural Learning; Samovar and Porter, pp. 476-489
     c. Cross-Cultural Learning and Its Effects. Samovar and Porter, pp. 498-502; Brislin, Chap. 2

***CRITICAL ESSAY #2 DUE

IX. CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION RESEARCH

Th 11/29  ***EXAMINATION #2***

Tu 12/04  ***PRESENTATION OF CASE STUDIES // RESEARCH PROJECTS AND ABSTRACTS

Tu 05/01  ***CASE STUDIES/RESEARCH PROJECTS PRESENTATION

***CLASSES END

ASSIGMENTS

1. Individual Research Project:

Please hand in an outline of a few pages in length, due Tuesday, September 25, 2012, detailing the research topic, the objectives, the major sources of information, and approach to be followed. It is a “ground-staking” exercise and an invitation for suggestions. I shall be glad to discuss your research proposal with you. Following this review of your outline, you should complete a research project of modest length. The research project may contain visuals, videotape, etc., and may be based on case study, experimental, content analytic, field survey methodology or else your research paper should be based on a comprehensive and critical synthesis of appropriate research studies pertaining to a clearly defined topical theme. The research project should be typed and should reflect proper citations of the origin of its contents that are obtained from other works. The single most important criterion in evaluating each research project submitted will include the demonstration of a clear understanding of the interrelationship between communicative and psycho-cultural patterns that might be present in a selected cross-cultural context that you have chosen for your research. If you choose this option, your research project paper would incorporate the ten (10) research abstracts in the form of a critical synthesis as indicated below. The research project is due on Thursday, November 15, 2012.

2. Research Abstracts:

Each student will review and prepare ten (10) research abstracts from professional journal articles and scholarly publications. The abstracts should focus on specific topic in the field of cross-cultural communication and should include complete bibliographic information along with a summary of research objectives, methodology, findings, and conclusions. The purpose of these abstracts is to enable you to gain a better understanding of a specific topic in the field of cross-cultural communication and to integrate important empirical research studies in your individual research project. The abstracts should be typed and are due on Thursday, November 15, 2011. This assignment is part of the individual research project mentioned above.

3. Cross-Cultural Case Study:

The purpose of this assignment is to enable you to analyze the role of cultural differences and similarities as well as the mutual interplay between cultural patterns and communication behavior in the context of an actual or a simulated cross-cultural encounter involving people from different cultural backgrounds. You may show the uniqueness of subjective cultures, language, systems of meaning, communication styles, thought patterns and cultural adaptation. Your independent case study assignment should analyze a clearly defined aspect of the following topics within a specific cross-cultural context. Please turn in a report of about ten (10) typewritten pages documenting your analysis as well as a review of eight (8) appropriate empirical research studies from scholarly journals. You will be invited to make a brief, informal presentation of your case study in the class. Due dates and general topics for case study assignments are as follows:
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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<td>Case Study</td>
<td>Group #1</td>
<td>Th, Nov 15th</td>
<td><strong>Role of Subjective Culture in Cross-Cultural Communication</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Cross-cultural Communication and Minority Sub-cultures</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Cross-Cultural Communication and Issues of Cultural Diversity in</strong></td>
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<td>Specific Contexts (gender, work place, education, organization cultures, etc.)</td>
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<td>Case Study</td>
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<td><strong>Analysis of Emotion and Non-Verbal Behavior in Cross-Cultural</strong></td>
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<td>* Intercultural Adaptation; Culture shock; Cross-Cultural Conflicts,</td>
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3. **Critical/Reflective Essays:**

   This writing assignment is designed to enable you to present a critical analysis and evaluation of theory and research focusing on a specific aspect of the role of culture in human cognition, emotion and behavior. Possible topics may include: Acculturative Stress and Intercultural Adaptation. Each essay will be 4 -5 single spaced pages long.

   **Essay #1** is due on **Thursday, October 4, 2012**;

   **Essay #2** is due on **Tuesday, November 27, 2012**.

5. **Examinations:**

   There will be two (2), hourly examinations and a final based on assigned readings that are listed in your course outline. Examinations will incorporate multiple choice, short answer questions and essay questions.
COURSE EVALUATION

Your final grade in this course will be determined on the basis of your performance in your individual research project, research abstracts, case study assignments, class participation, and examinations. Each of these components will be evaluated as follows:

Option 1
Two Exams and Final = 50% of grade
Case Study = 25% of grade
8 Research Abstracts and Research Paper = 25% of Grade

Option 2
Two Exams and Final = 75% of grade
Case Study = 25% of grade

Option 3
Two Exams and Final = 75% of grade
Research Paper/Abstract = 25% of grade

Option 4
Two Critical Essays = 25% of grade
Two Exams and Final = 75% of grade

DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

Case Study Group #1 Thursday, November 15th
Case Study Group #2 Thursday, November 15th
Examination #1 Thursday, October 11th
Examination #2 Thursday, November 29th
Research Project / Abstracts Thursday, November 15th
Critical Essay #1 Thursday, October 4th
Critical Essay #2 Tuesday, November 27th