CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION
PSYCH 237, Spring 2009

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Phone: 656-4016
Office Hours: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Tue/ Thurs 1:45 - 2:45pm

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 globalization 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

I. COMMUNICATION, CULTURE, & CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Tu 01/13 a. General Introduction: Culture and Human Behavior; Triandis, Chap. 1; Samovar and Porter, pp. 1-15
Th 01/15 b. Relevance of Culture to Communication Behavior; Samovar and Porter, pp. 16-31
Tu 01/20 c. Defining Cross-Cultural Communication, its Scope and Importance. Hall, Hidden Dimension, Chap. 1; Samovar and Porter, pp. 32-38
Th 01/22 d. Nature of Cross-Cultural Problems and Cross-Cultural Research. Triandis, Chap. 3

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

Tu 01/27 a. Subjective Culture and Communication Patterns; Triandis, Chap. 4; Samovar and Porter, pp. 408-419
Th 01/29 b. Cultural Assumptions, Values and Concepts; Samovar and Porter, pp. 103-113, 114-121
Tu 02/03 c. Cultural Differences Between the U.S. and Other World Societies; Samovar and Porter, pp. 83-87, 142-148; Triandis, Chap.2
Th 02/05 d. Intercultural Contexts and Communication: Organizational Cultures; Samovar and Porter, pp. 298-307
Tu 02/10 e. Subjective Cultural and Social Behavior; Triandis, Chap. 6
III. CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION AND MINORITY SUB-CULTURES: THE REALITY OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Th 02/12  a. Cultural Diversity and Pluralism; Samovar and Porter, pp. 49-60

Tu 02/17  a. Cultural Diversity, Stereotypes, and Cross-Cultural Problems; Samovar and Porter, pp. 49-163, 164-169, 326-342
          b. Culture of Poverty and the Sub-Culture of African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and other Minority Ethnic Groups

Th 02/19  c. Cultural and Linguistic Variations between the American "Middle Class Culture," and the Sub-Culture of Minorities. Samovar and Porter, pp. 275-285
          d. Identifying Prejudice & Communication Barriers in intercultural interactions with Minority Sub-Cultures. Triandis, pp. 242-248

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

Tu 02/24  a. Culture, Gender, and Male-Female Interaction. Triandis, Chap. 5
          b. Gender stereotypes
          c. Differences in Male and Female Interaction Patterns
          d. Gender Equality, Autonomy and Communication Behavior. Samovar and Porter, pp. 177-186, 198-208

Th 02/26  EXAMINATION #1

V. LANGUAGE, MEANING & CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Th 03/05  a. Language, Culture and Verbal Communication. Samovar and Porter, pp. 222-230, 246-249
          b. Culture and Cognitive Style; Samovar and Porter, pp. 209-221

Tu 03/17  c. Affective Meaning Systems Across Cultures.

Th 03/19  e. Language, Culture, Cognition and Communication in Education. Triandis, pp. 120-123.

VI. NON-VERBAL BEHAVIOR AND CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Tu 03/24  a. Culture and Emotional Communication. Samovar and Porter, pp. 250-265; Triandis, Chap. 7
          b. Facial expressions and body language

Th 03/26  a. Spatial Behavior and Environmental Influences. Hall, Hidden Dimension, entire book; Samovar and Porter, pp. 266-274
          b. Temporal Behavior.

Tu 03/31  c. Interaction Patterns. Samovar and Porter, pp. 308-317

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

Th 04/02  a. Culture, Aggression, Stress, Intercultural Conflict and Mental Health. Samovar and Porter, pp. 366-377; Triandis, Chap. 8

Tu 04/07  b. Culture shock, Psychocultural Adaptation. Samovar and Porter, pp. 387-393; Triandis, Chap. 9

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND ABSTRACTS DUE/CASE STUDY REPORTS DUE
ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Individual Research Project:**

   Please hand in an outline of a few pages in length, due **Tuesday, February 10, 2009**, 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 **Tuesday, April 07, 2009**.

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 **Tuesday, April 07, 2009**. 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>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case Study</td>
<td>Group #1</td>
<td>Tu April 07</td>
<td>* Role of Subjective Culture in Cross-Cultural Communication OR</td>
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<td>* Cross-cultural Communication and Minority Sub-cultures OR</td>
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<td>* Cross-Cultural Communication and Issues of Cultural Diversity in Specific Contexts (gender, work place, education, organization cultures, etc.)</td>
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<td>Case Study</td>
<td>Group #2</td>
<td>Tu, April 07</td>
<td>* Analysis of Emotion and Non-Verbal Behavior in Cross-Cultural Communication OR</td>
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<td>* Intercultural Adaptation; Culture shock; Cross-Cultural Conflicts, Acculturative stress</td>
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4. 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

**DEADLINES TO REMEMBER**

- Case Study Group #1: Tuesday, April 07th
- Case Study Group #2: Tuesday, April 07th
- Examination #1: Thursday, February 26th
- Examination #2: Thursday, April 16th
- Research Project / Abstracts: Tuesday, April 07th
- Final Examination: SCHEDULE TO BE DECIDED