

COMM35852-001 (Call# 18479)

## INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Mon/Wed/Fri 8:50-9:40, D 301 (Music & Speech)

Spring 2001

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Instructor: Kumi Ishii  
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Office Hours: Monday 9:45-11:00  
Wednesday 10:45- noon  
Friday noon – 12:30  
and by appointment

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### Course Description

This course will explore issues related to the intercultural communication processes. We will consider the important role of contexts (social, cultural, and historical) in intercultural interactions and examine the complex relationship between culture and communication.

### Course Objectives

This course has two objectives. First, students will learn about a variety of issues on intercultural communication by active class participation and by reading the textbook. Second, students will become familiar with at least one additional culture through their own research and actual intercultural communication.

### Required Text

Martin, J., & Nakayama, T. (2000). Intercultural communication in contexts (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Mountain View, CA: Mayfield.

### Course Requirements

The course grade will be determined by the performance on the following assignments:

Exam #1	100	A = 540 pts and above
Exam #2	100	B = 480 – 539 pts
Exam #3	100	C = 420 – 479 pts
Interview Project		D = 360 – 419 pts
Interview Plan	10	F = below 359 pts
Interview Log Sheet	20	
Interview Paper	100	
Presentation	10	
Background Paper	30	
Literature Review Paper	100	
Class Participation	30	*Attendance is required.

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Total 600 points

**Note: Students must complete all assignments. Any failure to do so will receive at least one letter grade reduction from the course grade.**

**Exams** - Three exams will be given in this course. They are not cumulative. The exam format will be multiple choice, True/False, matching, and short answers. Making up exams are allowed only for excused absences.

**Interview Project** – The purpose of this assignment is to provide students the opportunity to interact with a person from different culture. Students will experience intercultural communication and gain knowledge of the particular culture of the interviewee. The requirements of this assignment are:

- (1) Find one person from a culture outside the U.S. who has come to live here either temporarily or permanently. **The person must be over 18 yrs of age.** See the handout for other requirements.
- (2) Make a future appointment for the interview and set aside sufficient time to do it. The scheduled interview must be face-to-face. See the handout for other requirements.

**Note: Before the interview, all students must complete the Background Paper and Literature Review Paper described below. These two papers will help students' better understand the interviewee's culture.**

- (3) Fill out the Interview Plan sheet. ***Due on February 23.***
- (4) Conduct the interview and fill out the Interview Log Sheet, which must be turned in along with your interview paper. ***Due on April 30.***
- (5) Based on the interview, write a 4-6 page paper (double-spaced). See the handout for other requirements. ***Due on April 30.***
- (6) Students will give a 5-minute presentation about the interview in the final week of this course. The purpose of this presentation is to share the information about the experience of communicating with people of different cultures. Because of this purpose, the presentation is informal.

**Background Paper** – The purpose of this assignment is to help students be more consciously aware of their own culture before studying other cultures. The assignment is to write a 2-page paper (double-spaced). See the handout for details. ***Due on February 2.***

**Literature Review Paper** – The purpose of this assignment is to encourage students to obtain a basic knowledge on the interviewee's culture and patterns of communication through an appropriate literature review before the interview. Review at least three materials (books, journal articles, magazines, newspapers, government documents, etc.) that bear directly on the culture of the person you chose to interview, and summarize it in a 4-6 page paper (double-spaced) in APA style. See the handout for other requirements. ***Due on March 16.***

This paper must be turned in before the interview. Contact the instructor if the interview is scheduled before March 16.

**About Assignments** – All paper assignments must be typed in APA style (4<sup>th</sup> edition).

**APA Style** – The following APA manual is available in library.

American Psychological Association. (1994). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author. [APA]

**Late Work** - All assignments should be turned in on each due date. No late work will be accepted without prior approval from the instructor. Failure to obtain prior approval will result in a 10% grade reduction for the assignment and additional 10% reduction per day thereafter.

### **Attendance Policy and Class Participation**

Attendance is required. Absences will be excused only with written documentation/proof. Three unexcused absences are permitted during the semester in the case of an emergency where one cannot provide any written verification. For each additional unexcused absence, 20 points will be deducted from the final course grade.

In class, active participation in group discussions as well as active participation in class activities are expected to all students.

**Important Note – Students’ Responsibilities**

Students are responsible for each assignment due in accordance with the attached course schedule. Although class activities are tentatively scheduled, all assignments are due on the dates noted unless the changes are announced in classes. In accordance with the schedule, students are responsible for each assignment due.

Students are also responsible for all information, announcements, and changes addressed in classes.

**Cheating and Plagiarism Policy**

All work should be a reflection of one’s own efforts. University policy with regard to cheating and plagiarism is applicable and enforced in this course. A student who cheats or plagiarizes will receive zero for that assignment and/or a failing grade for the course. Probation, suspension and/or dismissal from the university are also possible, as the instructor is required to report to university authorities all such incidents. To avoid any impropriety, protect yourself. In written assignments, (a) provide the names of the authors of all ideas that are not one’s own (b) carefully summarize another’s works and ideas in one’s own words with proper citations.

**Students with Disabilities**

Please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss the necessary accommodations.

Intercultural Communication (COMM 35852)  
**Tentative Course Schedule**  
 Spring 2001

Week	Dates	Class Activities	Assignments
Week 1	1/17 (Wed) 1/19 (Fri)	Course Orientation Chapter 1 Why Study Intercultural Comm.?	
Week 2	1/22 (Mon) 1/24 (Wed) 1/26 (Fri)	(Cont'd) (Cont'd) Chapter 2 The History of the Study of	
Week 3	1/29 (Mon) 1/31 (Wed) <b>2/2 (Fri)</b>	Intercultural Comm. Chapter 3 Culture, Comm, Context, & Power (Cont'd)	<b>Background Paper Due</b>
Week 4	2/5 (Mon) 2/7 (Wed) 2/9 (Fri)	(Cont'd) (Cont'd) Chapter 4 History	
Week 5	2/12 (Mon) 2/14 (Wed) <b>2/16 (Fri)</b>	(Cont'd) (Cont'd) <b>Exam #1</b>	
Week 6	2/19 (Mon) 2/21 (Wed) <b>2/23 (Fri)</b>	Chapter 5 Identity (Cont'd) (Cont'd)	<b>Interview Plan Due</b>
Week 7	2/26 (Mon) 2/28 (Wed) 3/2 (Fri)	(Cont'd) Chapter 6 Language and Intercultural Comm (Cont'd)	
Week 8	3/5 (Mon) 3/7 (Wed) 3/9 (Fri)	(Cont'd) Chapter 7 Nonverbal Codes and Cultural Space	
Week 9	3/12 (Mon) 3/14 (Wed) <b>3/16 (Fri)</b>	(Cont'd) Chapter 8 Understanding Intercultural Transitions	<b>Lit. Review Paper Due</b>
Week 10	3/19 (Mon) 3/21 (Wed) <b>3/23 (Fri)</b>	(Cont'd) (Cont'd) <b>Exam #2</b>	
Week 11	3/26 (Mon) 3/28 (Wed) 3/30 (Fri)	<b>Spring Break</b>	Have fun!
Week 12	4/2 (Mon) 4/4 (Wed) 4/6 (Fri)	Chapter 9 Folk Culture, Popular Culture (Cont'd) (Cont'd)	
Week 13	4/9 (Mon) 4/11 (Wed) 4/13 (Fri)	Chapter 10 Culture, Comm & Intercultural Relationships (Cont'd)	
Week 14	4/16 (Mon) 4/18 (Wed) 4/20 (Fri)	Chapter 11 Culture, Comm, & Conflict (Cont'd) (Cont'd)	
Week 15	4/23 (Mon) 4/25 (Wed) 4/27 (Fri)	Chapter 12 The Outlook for Intercultural Comm. (Cont'd)	
Week 16	<b>4/30 (Mon)</b> 5/2 (Wed) 5/4 (Fri)	Presentation on Interview Project (Cont'd) (Cont'd)	<b>Interview Paper &amp; Log Due</b>

**Final Exam – Wednesday, May 9 at 10:15 – 12:30 p.m.**