

Psyc 257 Intercultural Communication



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Camosun College

Course Description

The course explores relevant concepts, attitudes and skills. Students develop an awareness and competence in effective communication in culturally diverse settings. The topics include theories of culture and diversity, verbal and non-verbal intercultural communication, prejudice, discrimination, ethnocentrism, and adapting to new cultures. Competence and practice in intercultural communication skills are emphasized.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate the verbal and nonverbal communications skills for effectively interacting with individuals of different cultures
 - Develop awareness of different cultural practices
 - Detect forms of social prejudice and discrimination
 - Apply psychological knowledge to resolve intercultural conflicts
 - Understand communication challenges faced by individuals who speak English as a second language
 - Acquire competence to work in culturally diverse settings
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Learning the basics of communication and the nature of culture, we will look at the nature of personhood within cultural contexts. We will also examine the role of communication in the development and maintenance of selves and communities. This will involve a consideration of mythology in art, literature and everyday life. As such we will consider culture and communication within various contexts including migration and adjustment, health, music and dance, traditions and rituals, media, commerce and the marketplace.

Textbook:

Samovar, L. A. & Porter, R. E. (2004). *Communication between cultures* (5th Edition). Wadsworth: Canada.

Supplemental Readings: *to be made available.*

Course Content:

Each week, there will be one lecture and one in-class or on-line activity. The activities will include group discussions, presentations, library research, interviews, observations. The class activities are aimed at facilitating awareness and skills of intercultural communication, including some WebCT activities. The lecture material will be posted sometime prior to the lecture and is designed to help students understand and interact with the material. Readings from the textbook will support the lecture material, but will at times vary from the material covered in the lecture. At times there will be supplemental readings that will be covered in class.

In-class Activities	10 %	Regular intervals through semester
Take home / online assignments	10 %	Weekly or bi-weekly
Culture Log	15 %	Submit for review at midterm & end of course
Research Project	15 %	Involves paper and presentation Mar 16, 23, 30
Midterm Exam	25 %	Web CT - About week 8 - Feb 26
Final Exam	25 %	Web CT - During Final Exam period April

Readings: See [Syllabus](#)

In-class activities: Group discussions and thought exercises will be carried out through the semester. These will be done in-class as ways to support or share information on culture and communication. Some will be done in small groups while others will involve the entire class. At times students will be expected to lead discussion on specific topics covered.

Assignments: Some will be individual while others will be done through WebCT discussion board.

Culture Log: You will maintain a log of your inter-cultural communication experiences over the semester. This will include your participation in at least three cultural activities whether through formal organisations or through everyday cultural experiences. You will submit your log around midterm time for non-graded review and will submit the final log by the time of final exam.

Research Project: The research project will involve your investigation into a topic in inter-cultural communication that draws from one or more areas of the course material. The project may involve a review of past research or theory on your topic of choice or it may involve the implementation of an applied project. You will be expected to produce a short essay in APA style of about 5 pages typed double space (1250 words) in 12 point font. The research project will begin with handing in an outline of the topic that will be approved before the paper is written. A short (10 minute) presentation will be made during the last month of classes by each student.

Grading:

The Grading will be done following Camosun Standards as seen below:

A+ 95 - 100

B 75 - 79

D 50 - 59

A 90 - 94

B- 70 - 74

F 0 - 49

A- 85 - 89

C+ 65 - 69

I = Incomplete*

B+ 80 - 84

C 60 - 64

*(If the missing work is not completed within 6 weeks from the semester end, the grade will become **F**).