

# Psyc 257 Intercultural Communication

**Dr. R. G. Tonks**

**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.

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## **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:** *This Course Reading Pack*

**Supplemental Readings:** (Optional) Samovar, L. A. & Porter, R. E. (2004). *Communication between cultures* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). Wadsworth: Canada.

**Course Content:** Each week, there will be lectures / discussions and in-class activities. The activities will include group discussions, presentations, interviews, observations. The class activities are aimed at facilitating awareness and skills of intercultural communication. The lecture material will be based upon the course reader notes and is designed to help students understand and interact with the material.

In-class Activities	20 %	Regular intervals through semester
Take home / In class essays	30 %	See study questions
Culture Log	30 %	Submit for review at midterm & end of course
Research Project	20 %	Involves short paper and presentation

**Readings:** See table of contents

**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:** Essay based on the study questions will be written two or three times through the semester these will be in class and take home style.

**Culture Log:** You will maintain a log of your inter-cultural communication experiences over the semester. It is expected that you will integrate the material covered in the course with your observations of culture in your everyday life. This will include your participation in at least three cultural activities whether through formal group activities 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 end of the semester.

**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 1000-1250 words. The research project will begin with handing in an outline of the topic that will be approved before the paper is written. A short presentation will be made during the last weeks of class 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).