

**COMM 3002: Intercultural Communication**  
**Spring 2020, Campus**  
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**Course Description:** Interrelationship of cultures/co-cultures. Interpreting diverse communication through readings and experiential learning. Cultural values, worldviews, philosophies, patterns, meanings. Communication strategies across cultures.

**Textbook and Required Materials:**

Gonzalez, A., Houston, M., & Chen, V. (2016). *Our voices: Essays in culture, ethnicity, and communication* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, New York: Oxford University Press, Inc.

Ting-Toomey, S., & Chung, L. C. (2012). *Understanding intercultural communication*. New York, New York: Oxford University Press, Inc.

**Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Investigate and interpret diverse, cross-cultural communication;
2. Examine cultural values, world views and philosophies, patterns, meaning, and effective communication strategies across cultures;
3. Recognize and appreciate the similarities and differences in global cultures and sub-cultures;
4. Reflect the interrelationship of cultures throughout history and today;
5. Analyze complex interactions between people of different cultures;
6. Design plans that facilitate the constructive transfer of meaning in diverse cultures, thus helping diffuse conflict and misunderstanding;
7. Analyze and apply ethical awareness and sensitivity required for communicating in diverse groups.

**National Communication Association Learning Outcomes in Communication (LOCs):**

*LOC #8: Utilize communication to embrace difference*

- Articulate the connection between communication and culture
- Recognize individual and cultural similarities and differences
- Appreciate individual and cultural similarities and differences
- Respect diverse perspectives and the ways they influence communication
- Articulate one's own cultural standpoint and how it affects communication and world view
- Demonstrate the ability to be culturally self-aware
- Adapt one's communication in diverse cultural contexts

**Description of Major Assignments**

**Response Papers (50 points)** Through your response papers, you will have an opportunity to respond to the assigned essays. A set of reflection questions is provided for each paper.

**Cultural Identity Assignment (100 points)** In this assignment, you are asked to reflect upon where you came from and what has shaped your cultural identity. You will write about what has shaped your cultural identity. Connections from the assigned readings are encouraged.

**Discussions (140 points)** Discussion prompts related to assigned readings are posted in the course site prior to in-class discussions. Come to class prepared to discuss the topic and engage with your classmates.

**Intercultural Interviews Project (100 points)** In this assignment, you will conduct multiple interviews with representatives of one intercultural community or a subject matter experts of your ethnic identity. You will also conduct research for this assignment. The final product from your interviews and research is paper. Depth rather than breadth is prioritized. More detail is provided in the course site.

**Applying Intercultural Communication Project (100 points)** You will be asked to consider the numerous stories and topics you have read about in the assigned readings. For this assignment, you will write about how you have or how you will apply what you have learned to your intercultural communication experiences. This is an opportunity to show how you have developed your communication competence, specifically relating to intercultural communication. See the course site for additional assignment details.

**Participation Assignments (50 points)** These assignments are typically in-class activities that you will engage in throughout the semester. Often these activities come from one of the class textbooks, so please bring your books to every class meeting.

### Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments
Week 1	Introductions, Why Study Intercultural Communication, What is Intercultural Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read from <i>Understanding Intercultural Communication</i> Chapter 1 and Chapter 2</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion 1</li> </ul>
Weeks 2 to 4	Cultural Values and Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read from <i>Understanding Intercultural Communication</i> Chapter 3 and Chapter 4</li> <li>• Read from <i>Our Voices</i> Chapter 3, Chapter 4 and Chapter 5</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion 2</li> <li>• Complete Cultural Identity Assignment</li> <li>• Complete Participation Assignments as assigned</li> </ul>
Weeks 5 and 6	Culture, Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read from <i>Understanding Intercultural Communication</i> Chapter 5 and Chapter 6</li> <li>• Read from <i>Our Voices</i> Chapter 11, Chapter 24, and Chapter 29</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion 3</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Response Paper 1</li> <li>• Complete Participation Assignments as assigned</li> </ul>
Weeks 7 and 8	Communicating Across Cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read from <i>Understanding Intercultural Communication</i> Chapter 7</li> <li>• Read from <i>Our Voices</i> Chapter 10 and Chapter 25</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion 4</li> <li>• Complete Participation Assignments as assigned</li> </ul>
Weeks 9 and 10	Bias and Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read from <i>Understanding Intercultural Communication</i> Chapter 8 and Chapter 9</li> <li>• Read from <i>Our Voices</i> Chapter 32 and Chapter 34</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion 5</li> <li>• Complete Participation Assignments as assigned</li> </ul>
Weeks 11 and 12	Developing Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read from <i>Understanding Intercultural Communication</i> Chapter 10</li> <li>• Read from <i>Our Voices</i> Chapter 29 and Chapter 31</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion 6</li> <li>• Complete Participation Assignments as assigned</li> </ul>
Weeks 13 to 16	Issues and Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read from <i>Understanding Intercultural Communication</i> Chapter 11 and Chapter 12</li> <li>• Read from <i>Our Voices</i> Chapter 36 and Chapter 40</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion 7</li> <li>• Complete Participation Assignments as assigned</li> <li>• Complete Response Paper 2</li> <li>• Complete Intercultural Interview Assignment</li> </ul>
Week 17	Final Exam Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Applying Intercultural Communication Assignment</li> </ul>