

**INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION
COM3461**

Instructor: Joann Brown
Chair, Communication Arts Department
College of Architecture + The Arts
Phone: (305) 348-3364
Fax: (305)348-6272
Email: brownj@fiu.edu
Office: VH 212
Section: XXX
Offline Office Hours: By appointment ONLY
University Drop Date: XXX

TEXTBOOK

TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class is about the unique relationship between communication and culture. More specifically, it is about what happens when people from different cultures come together to share ideas and information. Verbal and nonverbal communication patterns of different cultures will be compared to appreciate the differences and similarities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

Class Objectives

- Understand how culture influences communication.
- Understand the role of communication in intercultural adaptation.
- Understand the communication patterns of different cultural groups living in the U.S.
- Explain how biases, discrimination and segregation influence communication patterns in various cultures.

- Realize that not all cultures have similar vocabularies due to the fact that not all cultures have similar problems or circumstance AND how these differences in communication impact cross-cultural communication.
-

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

In order to be successful in this course, you will be expected to:

- Purchase the textbook within the first week of class.
 - Follow instructions and ask questions when you are uncertain of the course material.
 - Create a calendar consisting of the assignments and their respective due dates.
-

POLICY FOR ASSIGNING AN INCOMPLETE “I” GRADE

An incomplete grade is a temporary symbol given for work not completed because of serious interruption not caused by the student's own negligence. An incomplete must be made up as quickly as possible but no later than two consecutive semesters after the initial taking of the course or it will automatically default to an "F" or the grade that the student earned in the course. There is no extension of the two semester deadline. The student must not register again for the course to make up the incomplete. Students who have incomplete grades on their records must remove the incomplete by the end of the fourth week of the term in which they plan to graduate. Failure to do so will result in a cancellation of graduation.

Incompletes are awarded only if the student has completed most of the course work. If a student misses a significant portion of the course work, he/she should drop the course. If the drop period has ended, the student may petition for a withdrawal—this requires the student to un-enroll in all of their courses for that semester. Incompletes are not to be used because a student took on too many credits and they cannot complete everything that is now required of them.

In such cases where the course instructor determines that it appropriate to award a student a grade of "I" (incomplete), the following steps must be followed.

Using an Official University Form the course instructor will report the following:

- The grade earned by the student to date
- The missing work and the percentage of the final grade it represents (this requires the details of the specific missing assignment)

- The date the instructor expects the missing work to be submitted or in the case of an examination made up.
 - The justification for awarding the grade of "I"
 - Have the student sign the form.
 - Submit this form to the Department Chair and Dean and maintain a copy for instructor records and provide a copy for the student.
 - Upon satisfying the requirements for a grade the instructor will sign off on the form and attach it to the change of grade form she or he will submit.
-

ALL ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES

The departmental and course policies governing the acceptance of late assignments were adopted for the purpose of ensuring each student in the course is treated fairly and held to the same objective standards. The department, in adopting the late assignment policy, concluded that it was reasonable for students enrolled in an online class to be responsible for the following:

- Understand and to respect an assignment's posted due date;
- Read and to abide by the course policies posted within syllabus

As such, requests for extensions related to the mismanaging of one's time, unfamiliarity with course policies contained within the syllabus, and/or not following an assignment's posted submission instructions are not compelling reasons for an instructor to grant an extension and will, therefore, be denied.

Extension requests accompanied with proper documentation for medical emergencies or technical problems directly attributable to FIU are reviewed by your instructor or the Department Chair on a case-by-case basis. Requests without documentation will be denied. The decision to grant an extension based on technical problems or medical/family emergencies will be determined based on the documentation provided along with the request.

- All technical problems must be reported to FIU's Technical Support prior to an assignment's deadline. Once a student reports a technical problem, FIU Technical Support investigates and makes a recommendation to the instructor. Technical problems attributable to your own computer or your ISP --internet service provider-- are not sufficient grounds for granting extensions.
- All documentation related to medical emergencies must be dated, signed by a licensed medical professional, and contain the licensed medical professional's contact number. It

is expected that such documentation will be submitted no later than one week after the assignment's due date. Supporting medical documentation is always kept confidential.

Once again, the departmental policies and procedures were adopted for the purpose of ensuring that all students in a class are treated fairly and are evaluated using the same objective standards. Your understanding and cooperation are both greatly appreciated.

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

Attendance: You will be expected to attend every class session. More than one unexcused absence will result in a loss of points from your final grade. There will be no exceptions. Missing an exam or presentation will result in the loss of all points for that exam or presentation.

Tardiness: You will be expected to arrive at class on time.

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENT CODE OF STANDARDS

A University is a learning community following a tradition more than 1,000 years old. Florida International University is such a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. As a member of this community:

I will respect the tradition of academic inquiry, the University's rules of conduct, and its mission.
I will respect the opinions and differences of all members of the FIU community.
I will practice civility and demonstrate conduct that reflects the values of the institution.
I will be diligent and honest in my personal and academic endeavors.

The FIU Student Handbook outlines the Student Code of Conduct regarding students with disruptive behavior.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as

outlined in the Student Handbook. This Code of Academic Integrity was adopted by the Student Government Association on November 28, 2001 and reflects the values articulated in the Student Code of Standards.

All students are deemed by the university to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Code of Academic Integrity's procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the FIU Student Handbook. Students have the right to due process in all disciplinary situations. For additional information concerning student rights and responsibilities, please contact FIU's Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this class. Ignorance of the law is no excuse. Violations of academic integrity will be punished. These violations involve the use of any method or technique enabling you to misrepresent the quality or integrity of any of your university related work.

TURNITIN.COM

All written assignments must be submitted to Turnitin.com by the posted deadline. Assignments submitted by any other means or after the deadline will not be evaluated without proper supporting documentation.

The first week of this course you will be required to register with Turnitin.com. The Class ID and Password will be posted in the Discussion Forum.

Once your assignment has been uploaded successfully to Turnitin.com, you will receive a confirmation receipt. Please keep this confirmation number for future reference. Within a few hours your assignment will also be assigned an originality/similarity percentage.

Within two weeks after the assignment's deadline has passed you will receive written feedback on your assignment. The written comments on your assignment are accessible using the GradeMark function within Turnitin.com. If you do not know how to access the written comments using the GradeMark function, please review pages 15-16 of the Turnitin.com Student Manual:

http://www.turnitin.com/static/pdf/tii_student_guide.pdf

STUDENT CODE OF STANDARDS

A University is a learning community following a tradition more than 1,000 years old. Florida International University is such a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. As a member of this community:

- I will respect the tradition of academic inquiry, the University's rules of conduct, and its mission.
- I will respect the opinions and differences of all members of the FIU community.
- I will practice civility and demonstrate conduct that reflects the values of the institution.
- I will be diligent and honest in my personal and academic endeavors.

The FIU Student Handbook outlines the Student Code of Conduct regarding students with disruptive behavior.

UNIVERSITY LEARNING CENTER

The FIU University Learning Center is available on both campuses to support you. They provide personalized attention tailored to your needs in a user-friendly environment that includes online support. You can get help writing a paper, reading more efficiently and increasing textbook comprehension, or even creating an individualized learning plan. The center is located in PC 247 (305-348-2180) on the main campus and at ACI 160 (305-919-5927) on the Biscayne Bay campus. Find them online at <http://learningcenter.fiu.edu>.

DISABILITY CLAUSE

Students with disabilities, as defined by law, have the right to receive needed accommodations if their disabilities make it difficult to perform academic tasks in the usual way or in the allotted time frame. In order to receive accommodation, however, students with must register with Disability Resource Center:

University Park Campus, GC 190
Voice: (305) 348-3532
TTY: (305) 348-3852
Fax: (305) 348-3850
Email: drcupgl@fiu.edu

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

The University's policy on religious holy days as stated in the University Catalog and Student Handbook will be followed in this class. Any student may request to be excused from an online class to observe a religious holy day of his or her faith.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

As a college, we care about and enforce the Policies and Procedures as they are important to the quality of the education we are providing to you. Details on FIU Policies can be found at:

<http://moodle.fiu.edu/course/view.php?id=37>

FORUM

It will be used for class discussions and other postings of general interest that are directly related to the course. Everyone can read Discussion Forum postings; therefore, do not post private information.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments must be submitted in TWO places:

- Turnitin.com
 - Assignment link located in the Course Tools menu.
-

COURSE CONTENT

Please read the weekly calendar carefully. You are fully responsible for completing the assignments by the assigned dates. This requires that you read ahead as some assignments may take you more time and research than others. This course will consist of the following assignments:

- **Joy Luck Club Quiz:** We will watch *The Joy Luck Club* during class. This film explores the communication styles of Chinese women versus their Americanized daughters. You will have a multiple choice and short answer quiz on the film once it is over. The quiz is not about the plot line of the movie, but rather the communication styles of the people in the movie. This quiz is worth 10% of your grade.
- **Paper:** You will write a 5-6 page double space report on “**How ones culture affects the VERBAL and NONVERBAL communication patterns**” in the countries you have been assigned. The paper is 20% of your grade.

You will NOT find any website or book that will give you this information directly. This will mean that you will need to relate the information about what you are learning in class to your research. In other words, you will have to analyze your research and write an original paper. I expect to read about what you *think* and *believe* as opposed to what someone else has said somewhere else.

- **Dances with Wolves Quiz:** We will watch *Dances with Wolves* during class. This film explores the nonverbal communication styles of the Sioux Indians and American settlers during the Civil War era. You will have a multiple choice and short answer quiz on the film once it is over. The quiz is not about the plot line of the movie, but rather the communication styles of the people in the movie. This quiz is worth 10% of your grade.
 - **Mid-Term Exam:** There will be a mid-term exam that consists of 50 multiple choice and/or T/F questions. This exam is worth 20% of your grade.
 - **Group Project:** Each of you will be assigned to a group. The group will then select a country on which they would like to present (with some restrictions). This is a creative oral project. You do not need to hand in any written report. Specific details will be discussed in class. This project is worth 20% of your grade.
 - **Final Exam:** There will be a cumulative short answer final exam that consists of 20 questions. This exam is worth 20% of your grade.
-

GRADING

Joy Luck Club	10%
Dances With Wolves	10%
Paper	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Group	20%
Final Exam	20%

Letter Grades	Range	Letter Grades	Range	Letter Grades	Range
A	93-100	B-	82-80	D+	69-67
A-	92-90	C+	79-77	D	66-63
B+	89-87	C	76-73	D-	62-60
B	86-83	C-	72-70	F	60-00

COURSE CALENDAR

Topic	Reading	Assignment
Course Intro Glimpse of World Video	Overview	Weekly Assignment 1 Due
World of Difference Video	Overview	Weekly Assignment 2 Due
Communication & Culture Tribes Video Tibet Video Chapter 2	Overview	Weekly Assignment 3 Due
Case for Hoodia & Monumental Dilemma	Overview	Weekly Assignment 4 Due
Metaphors, Hall, and Imperatives	Overview	Weekly Assignment 5 Due

Inter vs. Intra cultural Communication Lost Boys of Sudan Video Chapter 1		Decide Groups and Dates
Language Differences American Tongues Video Chapter 5	Overview	Weekly Assignment 6 Due
Quiz	Overview	Weekly Assignment 7 Due Joy Luck Club Quiz
Nonverbal Communication Chapter 6 Review for Mid-Term	Overview	Weekly Assignment 8 Due
Quiz	Overview	Weekly Assignment 9 Due Dances With Wolves Quiz
Mid-Term and Work in Groups	Overview	Mid-Term
Group Discussion	Overview	Weekly Assignment 10 Due
Group Discussion	Overview	Weekly Assignment 11 Due
Group Discussion	Overview	Weekly Assignment 12 Due

Final Exam Paper Due	Overview	Final Exam Paper Due