

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
RIO PIEDRAS CAMPUS
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Title of the Course: Intercultural Communication

Course Number: INGL 3065

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: First-year English, its equivalent or permission from the instructor.

Course Description: An introductory course to the study of communication between members of different cultures and the important issues that affect and explain it.

Course Objectives: At the end of the course the students will be able to:

- *Explain the following key terms: identity, culture, subculture, cultural patterns, beliefs, values, norms, social practices, attitudes, enculturation, acculturation, communication, intercultural communication (ICC), intercultural communication competence and explain the major theories that make up the conceptual framework for the study of ICC
- *Discuss and explain the patterns of their own culture and compare them with those of other cultures
- *Engage in a knowledgeable fashion in discussions concerning the important issues that constitute the backbone of ICC such as why cultures differ and why IC interactions differ in degree
- *Recognize the influence that the perceptual process and students' own cultural backgrounds have on the way they view themselves and others
- *Identify and explain important theories that attempt to classify cultures using different approaches
- *Explain cultural biases and engage in behavior that successfully deals with them
- *Discuss the role of language in ICC and the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis
- *Discuss and engage positively in the phenomenon of culture shock, its stages, symptoms, and the cognitive strategies necessary to overcome it
- *Communicate more effectively in ICC settings
- *Identify and explain the components of IC competence
- *Be more understanding and tolerant of differences from others and contribute in an effective way to make the necessary adjustments for the inclusion of students with special needs in the classroom situation

Course Outline:

A. Present-day world and interpersonal conflicts due to cultural differences; defining key terms; forces that promote cultural differences; the components of IC competence --three weeks

- B. Foundations of cultural patterns: beliefs, values, norms and social practices; taxonomic approaches to the classification of cultures according to the ways in which they vary; understanding identity, cultural identity, and cultural biases such as ethnocentrism, stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination and racism--three and a half weeks
- C. Coding ICC: verbal and nonverbal intercultural communication; cultural variations in persuasion—three and a half weeks
- E. ICC Competence in IPR and the outside world—three weeks

Teaching Strategies: lecture, group discussion, small group activities, visits by and interviews with members of other cultures whenever possible, and the option of the analysis of a film; those students who receive the services provided by the office of the Vocational Rehabilitation must contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester in order to plan a reasonable accommodation and the necessary equipment according to the recommendations provided by the *Oficina de Asuntos para las personas con Impedimento (OAPI)* at the Office of the Dean of Students. Any other students with special needs or who require any type of assistance or special arrangements should contact the professor.

Required Resources:

Textbook: Lustig, M. & Koester, J. (2013). *Intercultural Competence* 7th Ed. NY: Pearson Education Inc.
 DVD machines provided by the lab

Methods of Evaluation: Special arrangements will be made for those students requiring reasonable accommodation. Class attendance and participation will be considered for extra final points.

Class Attendance (4 pts. per class x 25 days)	100 pts.	(25%)
Four quizzes. (20/30/30/20 pts.)	100	(25%)
Two tests (100 pts. ea.)**	<u>200</u>	<u>(50%)</u>
Total	400 pts.	100%

Grading System: All cellular phones must be turned off completely. You may respond to messages after class. Non-compliance with this regulation will affect grade.

94-100=A	87-89=B+	77-79=C+	67-69=D+	0-59=F
90-93=A-	83-86=B	73-76=C	63-66=D	
	80-82=B-	70-72=C-	60-62=D-	

Bibliography

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- Chen, G.M. (1990). Intercultural communication competence: Some perspectives of research. *Howard Journal of Communications*, 2, 243-261.
- Chua, A. (2002). *World on fire: How exporting free market democracy breeds ethnic hatred and global instability*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday.
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- Hofstede, G (2001). *Culture's consequences: Comparing values, behaviors, institutions, and organizations across nations*. (2nd ed.) Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Lewis, B. (2002). *What went wrong? Western impact and Middle Eastern response*. NY: Oxford University Press.
- Lustig, M.W. & Koester, J. (2013) *Intercultural competence*. (7th ed.). NY: Pearson.
- Merriam, A. H. (1974). Rhetoric and the Islamic tradition. *Today's speech*, 22, 43-49.
- Said, E. (1978). *Orientalism*. NY: Pantheon.
- Shaheen, J.G. (2001). *Reel bad Arabs: How Hollywood vilifies a people*. NY: Olive Branch.
- Zelinsky, W. (1973). *The cultural geography of the United States*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Films

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| Cinema Paradiso (Italian) | A Separation |
| Como Agua Para Chocolate (Mexico) | Argo |
| The Circle (Iranian) | Hotel Rwanda |
| The Gods Must Be Crazy ('Sho' Bushmen) | Not Without My Daughter |
| The Gran Torino | |
| The Last Emperor (China) | Videos/DVD |
| Il Postino (Italian) | |
| The Witness (Amish) | The Language of the Body (doc) |
| Crash (Oscar winner) | The Amish (doc) |
| Babel | American Tongues (doc) |
| The Lives of Others (German, Oscar winner) | |

Some Online Resource

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| http://lanic.utexas.edu/subject/countries.html | http://www.arab.net |
| http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs | http://persia.org/ |
| http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations | |
| http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html | |
| http://www.france.diplomatie.fr/index.gb.html | |