

**Intercultural Communication
COMM 3355**

Course: COMM 3355
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Office Hours: MW: 10a – 12p & 2-3 pm / TR: 10-11 am & 2-3 pm

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The nature of this course is such that we will address sensitive and controversial topics. My goal is to create an environment where differing viewpoints can be expressed and everyone will feel comfortable sharing in an academically appropriate manner. All of us will not agree, but we will all respect each other. It will be critical for this course that you enter with an open mind and willingness to entertain thoughts and ideas different than your own.

“A point of view can be a dangerous luxury when substituted for insight and understanding.”

~Marshall McLuhan

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the influence of culture on communication from a human perspective. The course emphasizes increased awareness of one’s own culture in relation to cultures different than his/her own.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Increase communication and cultural competence by critically evaluating information about diverse cultures.
2. Increase level of understanding and acceptance of differing views.
3. Take pride in personal cultural memberships and recognize cultural memberships of others.
4. Acknowledge impact that cultural positionality has had in shaping personal lifestyle, attitudes, values and behaviors.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- **Book** - Intercultural Communication for Everyday Life by John R. Baldwin, Robin R. Means Coleman, Alberto Gonzalez, Suchitra Shenoy-Packer (February 2014) ©2014, ISBN: 978-1-4443-3236-0

ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING

Grades are determined on a straight percentage scale, there will be no further rounding or curving. We will explore the various contexts of intercultural communication through the following assignments. Additional instructions will be provided to you throughout the semester.

Assignment	Maximum Points Possible	Points Earned
Response Papers (8 @ 50)	400 points	
Heritage Paper/Presentation	100 points	
“The Other” Paper	100 points	
Service Learning Group Project	200 points	
Cultural Experience	100 points	
Participation	100 points	
TOTAL COURSE POINTS	1,000 points	

GRADING
A= 1,000 - 900
B= 899 - 800
C= 799 - 700
D= 699 - 600
F= 599 and below

******Assignments turned in after class even on the due date are considered late.
Late assignments are not accepted.******

Participation: You are expected to participate in discussion, oral/written assignments, and other activities. I may also ask you to complete additional written work, video viewings, and other related exercises outside of class. No make-ups will be granted for participation activities. I reserve the right to alter your participation points if I feel that you are not **present** in class. Being present in class means that you leave your cell phone OFF, your laptop is for note-taking ONLY, and you are not reading or working on assignments for other classes.

Discussion of Graded Assignments: A student wishing to contest a grade must present me with a **typed** (either e-mail or paper), well thought out case regarding the evaluation **within one week of having received the evaluation** of the assignment in question. The argument must be related to the assignment as presented, and based on how it compares with the criteria for the assignment (not how it compares with someone else’s work or how it will affect a student’s

GPA). Once the student has submitted his or her argument to me, I will respond in writing within 7 days. Then we may meet face-to-face to view the speech in question, and discuss ways to improve future papers/presentations.

Attendance: Attendance is required. A **roll sheet** will be passed around each day during the **first ten minutes of class**. It is your responsibility to sign in (being present but not signing the roll is the same as being absent). The following policy will be enforced in this class:

- (1) Your first TWO absences are without penalty. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the information that was covered from Blackboard, your textbook and from one of your classmates first.
- (2) Your third absence will lower your final course average by 50 points or the equivalent of ½ of a letter grade. (ex: If you have 820 points, you will be reduced to 770 points).
- (3) Each subsequent absence will lower your final course average by 50 points (½ letter grade).
- (4) An unexcused tardy (ten minutes late or more) is considered an absence.

Absences on Exam and/or Presentation Days: Please note that an unexcused absence on exam or presentation days will result in a zero (0). You must give your presentation/take your exam on the day it is scheduled. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Excused Absences: You will be given an excused absence when acting as an official representative of the University, provided you give me written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event. For all other absences to be considered excused, **official documentation** must be submitted to me verifying the reason for your absence.

Typed Work (essays, papers, etc.) must be **typed**. Failure to type any written portion of an assignment will result in a zero for that assignment.

Cell Phones: Cell phone use, in any mode at any time, is not permitted in the classroom. If you are expecting an important call/text/email you must notify me **BEFORE** class begins. Students who ignore this policy will be asked to leave the classroom and counted absent for the day.

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

Religious Holidays: A student wishing to observe a religious holy day must notify me in writing at least 14 days prior to the classes scheduled on dates the student will be absent. For religious holy days that fall within the first two weeks of the semester, notice should be given on the first day of the semester.

Academic Advising: The Department of Communication and Mass Media requires that Communication majors visit with a faculty advisor once they have completed 60 hours. Communication and Mass Media majors who have questions about advising can call 325-942-2031. Undeclared majors are supported by ASU's Freshman College located in Library A312, and can be reached at 325-942-2710.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation. Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Dean of Student Life and Student Services at 942-2191. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Freedom of Expression: Each student is strongly encouraged to participate in class. On sensitive and volatile topics, students may sometimes disagree not only with each other but also with me. It is expected that faculty and students will respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.

Academic Integrity: University standards regulating academic integrity (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, etc.) are strictly enforced. Infractions may result in a zero for the assignment or a failing grade in the course.

Plagiarism is a serious offense; you must cite the source of any material, quoted or paraphrased, used in your presentation. The absence of this documentation constitutes **plagiarism** – a serious academic and professional offense. If you are caught being dishonest, you could be given an "F" for the assignment and/or the course depending on the severity of the offense.

Special thanks to Dr. Justin Velten for his academic generosity and for sharing assignments that will enrich students' experiences in this course.

Communication 3355 – Intercultural Communication

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	NOTES
1	Mon – Aug 26	Introduction Ch. #1 – A Rationale for Studying Intercultural Communication	
	Wed – Aug 28	Ch. #2 – Action, Ethics, and Research [Heritage Paper Assigned]	
2	Mon – Sep 2	Holiday	Holiday
	Wed – Sep 4	Ch. #3 – Origins	Response Paper #1 due
3	Mon – Sep 9	Ch. #5 – Identity: Struggle, Resistance & Solidarity	
	Wed – Sep 11	Ch. #4 – Subjective Culture	Response Paper #2 due
4	Mon – Sep 16	Heritage Presentations	Heritage Papers due
	Wed – Sep 21	Heritage Presentations	Heritage Papers due
5	Mon – Sep 23	Privilege	Response Paper #3 due
	Wed – Sep 25	Ch. #6 – Intolerance-Acceptance-Appreciation	
6	Mon – Sep 30	Documentary <i>India's Daughter</i> (55 mins.)	
	Wed – Oct 2	Documentary <i>India's Daughter</i> (55 mins.)	
7	Mon – Oct 7	Documentary <i>The Hunting Ground</i> (104 mins.)	
	Wed – Oct 9	Documentary <i>The Hunting Ground</i> (104 mins.)	Response Paper #4 due
8	Mon – Oct 14	Ch. #7 – Verbal Communication [“The Other” Paper Assigned]	
	Wed – Oct 16	Ch. #8 – Nonverbal Communication	
9	Mon – Oct 21	Ch. #10 – Culture, Communication & Media	Response Paper #5 due
	Wed – Oct 23	Workshop [Service Learning Group Project Assigned]	
10	Mon – Oct 28	A 25 Year Look at Race https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1IRnf3_YmY	
	Wed – Oct 30	A 25 Year Look at Race https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1IRnf3_YmY	Response Paper #6 due
11	Mon – Nov 4	“The Other” Presentations	
	Wed – Nov 6	“The Other” Presentations	
12	Mon – Nov 11	“The Other” Presentations	
	Wed – Nov 13	“The Other” Presentations Workshop Day – Service Learning Project	
13	Mon – Nov 18	Immigration Documentary <i>The Salinas Project</i>	Response Paper #7 due
	Wed – Nov 20	Holiday Ch. #13 – Relationships & Conflict	
14	Mon – Nov 25	Cultural Experience	Response Paper #8 due
	Wed – Nov 27		Thanksgiving Holiday
15	Mon – Dec 2	Service Learning Group Presentations	
	Wed – Dec 4	Service Learning Group Presentations	
16	Wed – Dec 11	Final: 1 – 3 pm	