INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS — SPEE 1030

A. Course Description

- Credits: 3.00
- Lecture Hours/Week: 3.00
- Lab Hours/Week: 0.00
- OJT Hours/Week: 0
- Prerequisites: None
- Corequisites: None
- MnTC Goals:
  - 07 – Human Diversity
  - 08 – Global Perspective

This course studies cultural differences and how they affect communication in our locally, nationally and globally. Topics include definitions of communication; definitions of culture and diversity of cultural patterns; cultural variables influencing communication such as the media, gender, language, nonverbal behavior, perception, values, and beliefs. Basic theories, models and concepts that interface with intercultural communication are explored. An examination of US culture in comparison to other cultures is explored in different contexts. Meets MnTC Goals 7 and 8.

B. Course Effective Dates: 6/1/00 – Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas

1. Basic theories and models of culture and concepts
2. Business and education across cultures: local, national, international levels
3. Concepts: connection between culture and communication, relationships, dimensions of sameness and difference, cultural generalizations, and influence of attitudes, values and beliefs
4. Crossing cultural boundaries: ethnocentrism, culture shock; images; media, the experience of tourists, expatriates, and refuges/immigrants
5. Culture-specific interactions relative to deep and surface structure cultures
6. Culture-specific reflection and analysis in various contexts: description, differences, and comparisons
7. Definitions: communication, intercultural communication, culture
8. Personal and professional intercultural relationship dynamics

D. Learning Outcomes

1. Apply knowledge of intercultural communication theory to specific cross-cultural interactions in multiple
contexts
2. Compare and contrast the behaviors, attitudes, values, and beliefs of specific cultural groups
3. Demonstrate increased awareness and understanding of cultural differences
4. Reflect on and analyze personal and professional cross-cultural interactions
5. Understand the core concepts specific to intercultural communication having to do with the general categories of identity, belief, language, nonverbal communication, and perception
6. Define acculturation
7. Define and describe stereotyping, racism
8. Define intercultural communication
9. Describe cultural universals in nonverbal communication
10. Describe outcomes of intercultural contact for people and cultures
11. Describe the different face needs across cultures
12. Describe the different styles of persuasion preferred by various cultures
13. Describe the organizational preferences of different cultures
14. Develop interpersonal competence in intercultural contexts
15. Discuss similarities that are characteristic of all cultural patterns
16. Discuss some of the ethical dilemmas in intercultural communication
17. Discuss types of intercultural communication encounters
18. Elaborate on the link between uncertainty reduction and competence
19. Emphasize aspects of one's cultural identity that can change in different encounters
20. Emphasize the importance of competent intercultural communication
21. Examine social settings
22. Explain concept of ethnocentrism
23. Explain cultural differences in self-disclosure
24. Explain how communication may change the effects of cultural differences
25. Explain how cultural differences affect competence
26. Explain how cultures use evidence, warrants, and claims differently
27. Explain the challenge of living in an intercultural world
28. Explain the cultural pattern of individualism/collectivism
29. Explain the cultural pattern of power distance
30. Explain the cultural pattern of uncertainty avoidance
31. Explain the natural formation of cultural identity
32. Explain the process of acculturation
33. Explain the relationship between nonverbal and verbal communication in the context of culture
34. Explain the relationship between nonverbal code systems and cultural patterns
35. Explain the social interaction backgrounds are influenced by culture
36. Explore issues related to conflict and culture
37. Identify the forces that create and maintain cultural differences
38. Introduce learners to the concept of cultural patterns
39. Introduce students to the components of social episodes
40. introduce students to the topics of communication and culture
41. present common metaphors used to describe U.S. cultural diversity
42. present the three taxonomies of cultural patterns
43. provide definitions and examples of beliefs, value, and norms
44. provide definitions of communication and culture
45. research and document cultural events available in the area
46. understand how a culture will be reflected in its language

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 07 — Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
4. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
5. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

Goal 08 — Global Perspective

1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

F. Learner Outcomes Assessment

As noted on course syllabus

G. Special Information

None noted