

Antelope Valley College
Communication Studies - Division of Language Arts
INTRODUCTION TO INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION – COMM 219
SPRING 2015

PREREQUISITE: Completion of English 101 and Eligibility for College Level Reading

Instructor: Tina Leisner McDermott Email: tmcdermott@avc.edu Phone: 661-722-6300 x 6144

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Office Location: LS1-101

Class Information: CRN #34279 Wed. 3:45 – 6:50 p.m. LS1-114

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it solely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one corner of the earth all one's lifetime." Mark Twain

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Introduction to intercultural communication in domestic and/or global contexts. Influence of cultures, languages, and social patterns on how members of groups relate among themselves and with members of different ethnic and cultural groups. Theory and knowledge of effective communication within and between cultures. Appreciation and comparison of communication of diverse groups within the larger context of American culture.

REQUIRED READING: *Experiencing Intercultural Communication: An Introduction*, 5th Ed.
by Judith Martin and Thomas Nakayama

RECOMMENDED READING: *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*
by Anne Fadiman (1998)

YOU MUST HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER FOR THIS CLASS AND USE *Blackboard* to access articles, web links, handouts, reminders, Power Points, etc. Periodically I will send out emails using your avc.edu address. You must talk to me in the first week if you do not have computer access or basic computer skills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will learn to:

- Recognize and articulate how core values, worldview, and communication patterns shape cultural and individual identity.
- Identify the components of culture and communication and their interrelationship.
- Evaluate how culture influences verbal and nonverbal communication.
- Comprehend the social and psychological variables of culture and its expression.
- Analyze the diverse ways of thinking, perceptions, and interpretations of different cultures.
- Compare and contrast cultural communication strategies in various contexts.
- Recognize barriers to effective intercultural competencies such as stereotyping, prejudice, and ethnocentrism.
- Identify elements of common ground among diverse cultures.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: I will analyze your overall learning in this class based on the following SLOs. Scores are translated into anonymous data in an ongoing effort to improve teaching and learning at AVC.

- Analyze communication variables, barriers, and similarities among diverse cultures.
(Assessment: Research paper)
- Explain the impact of culture on self and use that information to become an effective intercultural communicator.
(Assessment: Journal entries)

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Participation in this class is an integral part of your learning experience. If you miss class more than **2 times** during the entire semester, you will be dropped from the class, regardless of the reasons for your absences. If you have excessive tardies, I will talk with you and subsequent tardies will count as absences. If you come in after I have taken roll, it is your responsibility to make sure I change the roll sheet at the break.

DISABLED STUDENT SERVICES: If you have disabilities of any kind documented by a physician or other appropriate professional, please talk to me immediately, and contact the Office of Disabled Students (x6360) to arrange for accommodations and talk to me during my office hours within the first 2 weeks.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: College level writing and speaking often involves the synthesis of outside sources to support your opinions and ideas. Plagiarism is a serious offense. To avoid plagiarism, you must properly reference and cite all outside sources whether directly quoted, paraphrased, or summarized. Any form of cheating or plagiarizing will result in a zero on the assignment or test and may be reported to the Dean of Student Services. All assignments in this class are subject to electronic verification for plagiarism avoidance.

SOCIAL CONDUCT: This class requires mature and mindful listening and speaking. The readings and other materials presented in class are intended to provoke and challenge your thinking, and I expect and encourage lively discussion. Be aware that many of our discussions will contain honest and direct discussion about cultural differences, racism, religious views, and sexism. For an intellectual environment to thrive you must maintain an open and curious mind, and be respectful of your classmates and me.

You need to be fully present during class. You must turn off all electronic media before class begins. Separate conversations during class disrupt the learning experiences of other students and are disrespectful to me. If you are rude or disruptive in any way, you will be dismissed from the class for 2 days, which will count as absences, and may lead to being dropped from the class (see AVC Academic Policies at page 47 for further details).

ASSIGNMENTS: All written and oral assignments and exams are due on time unless you have a documented emergency or illness, in which case you should discuss arrangements with me as soon as possible.

- *Three (3) exams* - multiple choice questions on the textbook with references to lecture, films, and other class materials.
- *4 journal entries* – 2-3 pages, typed responses to the *Intercultural Skill Builder* prompts from different chapters throughout the semester.

- *Culture + Community* Research Paper – a 5-7 page research paper exploring an American co-culture integrating academic sources, news periodicals, personal observations and experience, and ethnographic data. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* is an excellent example of ethnographic writing.
- *Field Trip and Treasure Hunt to Downtown Los Angeles* – We will take the Metrolink on **Saturday March 28, 2015** to Downtown Union Station and explore cultural sites such as Olvera Street, Chinatown, and more, time permitting. This is an all-day event. You will leave Lancaster at 9:00 a.m. and return at 6:00 p.m. Cost of at least \$20.00 includes [Metrolink round trip ticket](#) and lunch. Bring more if you can. Please make advance arrangements with work, child care, and other classes. The trip is a significant part of the class and your grade. You may bring an adult friend or family member but no children under 15 (this is not negotiable). If you are unable to participate on this date, see me for an alternate assignment.
- *World Music Day* – Working briefly with a small group in class, you will select a cultural style of music that you are not already familiar with and you will put together a CD with one song from each group member. An informal discussion on the last day of class from each group will occur as we play music and enjoy a pot luck!
- *Extra Credit Option #1:* To improve your writing, you can attend 2 writing workshops at the Learning Center AND meet with a writing tutor to edit your papers for this class a minimum of 3 times. You will need to show me proof of your attendance.
- *Extra Credit Option #2:* You may attend an on campus event that relates to the course. This is usually a 3 hour workshop presented by AVC faculty but may also be a guest speaker or performance. You will need my approval before attending, and you will write a 3 page essay to earn the 5 points possible for this option.

GRADING:	Points Possible	Points Earned
Papers & Projects		
3 Journal Entries (6 pts. Each)	18	_____
Culture + Community research	21	_____
Downtown L.A. Field Trip	21	_____
World Music Day	10	_____
Examinations		
Exam #1	10	_____
Exam #2	10	_____
Exam #3	10	_____
Extra Credit	5	_____
Total Points		_____/100 points

GRADING SCALE (Total number of points accumulated)

A = 90 -100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = 59 or less
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Note: If you are dissatisfied with a grade on an assignment, you may discuss it with me during my office hours, not in class.

SCHEDULE: READ CHAPTERS BEFORE the date of scheduled discussion.

Week 1 (Feb 11):

- Introductions; Overview of Class
- Chapter 1 – Why Study Intercultural Communication; Developing Intercultural Competence

Week 2 (Feb 18):

- Chapter 2 – Intercultural Communication – Building Blocks and Barriers
- In class film: *Secret Lives*

Week 3 (Feb 25):

- Chapter 3 – History and Intercultural Communication
- In class: *Soul Food Junkies*
- **Journal entry #1 due today**

Week 4 (March 4):

- Chapter 4 – Identity
- In class film: *Persepolis*

Week 5 (March 11):

- **Exam # 1 Via Blackboard (Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4)**
- Chapter 5 – Verbal Issues

Week 6 (March 18):

- Chapter 6 – Nonverbal Issues
- In class film: *A World of Gestures*
- **Journal entry #2 due today**

Week 7 (March 25):

- Chapter 10 – Tourism
- Chapter 11 – Business Communication in Cultural Contexts
- Preparation for Field Trip; **Field Notes Assigned**

March 28 - DOWNTOWN L.A. FIELD TRIP by [Metrolink Train](#)

Week 8 (April 1): No Class

- **No Class – Prof. McDermott presenting at Pop Culture Conference in New Orleans**
- **Field Trip Notes Due Today** (email this assignment to me before April 15)
- **Exam #2 Via Blackboard (Chapters 5, 6, 10, 11)**

SPRING BREAK (April 6-11)

Week 9 (April 15):

- Chapter 7 – Pop Culture
- Film: *Reel Injun*

Week 10 (April 22):

- **Assign Research Paper and Works Cited**

Week 11 (April 29):

- Chapter 8 – Intercultural Conflict
- Film: *Where Do We Go Now?*

Week 12 (May 6):

- Chapter 9 – Intercultural Relationships
- In class film: *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* or *Mississippi Masala*
- **Journal entry #3 due today**

Week 13 (May 13):

- **Exam #3 Via Blackboard (Chapters 7, 8, 9)**
- **Review and revise research papers – bring draft to class**

Week 14 (May 20):

- Film: *Throw Down Your Heart*
- Peer review of research paper drafts

Week 15 (May 27):

- **Research Paper Due Today**
- **Meet with your group to organize World Music CD**

Week 16 (June 3):

- **World Music and pot luck**

The instructor reserves the right to alter the schedule as needed.