

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Communication 124 – Intercultural Communication

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

The purpose of this course is to explore and learn about intercultural communication: the study of face-to-face communication between people from different cultural backgrounds, including those reflecting national or ethnic diversity. This course will utilize a culture-general approach, meaning that the focus will be on general principles of intercultural communication that are applicable across a broad spectrum of cultures and contexts.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) The benefits of intercultural communication awareness in a variety of communication settings.
- 2) Cultural value patterns and their influence on communication
- 3) Cultural influences on identity and self-concept development and regulation
- 4) Verbal and nonverbal code in intercultural contact.
- 5) Cultural influences on conflict management.
- 6) Stages and management of culture shock
- 7) Cultural enculturation, acculturation, and adaptation.
- 8) Differences among cultural groups, including ethnicity, language, religion, styles of art, clothing, etc.
- 9) Gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation.
- 10) Awareness of white privilege, heterosexual privilege, and other types of privilege, including how they impact non privileged groups.
- 11) Biases, stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination
- 12) Overcoming biases, stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination.
- 13) The ability to code switch and adapt to a variety of communication situations.
- 14) Ethics in intercultural communication

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Analyze and describe how culture influences communication.
- 2) Apply specific communication skills necessary for effective intercultural communication.
- 3) Compare and contrast one's own culture and communication style with those from other cultures.
- 4) Identify obstacles to intercultural communication, and choose the most appropriate communication behavior(s) to overcome those obstacles.
- 5) Understand stereotypes, biases and their influence on communication.
- 6) Overcome biases and stereotypes in communication.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be written exams, or skills demonstration.

- 1) Written quizzes, exams, and final exam (essay/objective) that require students to analyze and describe how culture influences communication.

- 2) Topic papers, term projects, research papers, student presentations, and/or textbook outlines that require students to compare and contrast their own culture and communication style with those from other cultures and analyze and describe how culture influences communication.
- 3) Skill building exercises and activities including interaction in pairs and small groups that require students to apply specific communication skills necessary for effective intercultural communication and identify obstacles to intercultural communication, and choose the most appropriate communication behavior(s) to overcome those obstacles.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom with world map and video recording/playback equipment

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Filming
- 3) Role play
- 4) Guest speakers

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) **Reading:** review lecture notes, course materials, digital references, and more.
- 2) **Writing:** exercises analyzing, comparing, and/or describing their culture and communication style with other cultures and how culture influences communication.
- 3) **Other:** skill building exercises and experiential activities like interviews requiring the application of specific communication skills necessary for effective intercultural communication and identification of obstacles to intercultural communication.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Martin and Nakayama. *Intercultural Communication in Context*. 8th edition. McGraw-Hill, 2025.
 - b. Jandt. *An Introduction to Intercultural Communication: Identities in a Global Community*. 11th edition. SAGE Publications, 2024.
 - c. Ting-Toomey and Chung. *Understanding Intercultural Communication*. 3rd. edition. Oxford University Press, 2022.
 - d. Piller. *Intercultural Communication: A Critical Introduction*. 2nd edition. Edinburgh University Press, 2017.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Compare and contrast one's own culture and communication style with those from other cultures.
- 2) Identify one's own biases and describe methods for overcoming them.
- 3) Interact respectfully with others who hold divergent perspectives
- 4) Analyze and describe how culture influences communication.