

Las Positas College
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551-7650
(925) 424-1000
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

Course Outline for SPCH 11

INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Effective: Fall 2008

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

SPCH 11 — INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION — 3.00 units

Intercultural communication with a focus on the analysis and comparisons of message perception and transmission in interactions between people from different cultures. Emphasis on practical application of skills for effective communication between people of different domestic and international cultures.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. describe the basic communication process;
- B. identify and demonstrate effective, critical listening skills;
- C. define culture and related terms;
- D. analyze the dynamics of communication between people with different cultural heritages (both international and domestic);
- E. assess how communication affects and creates culture;
- F. assess how culture helps create and affects communication;
- G. identify diverse Western and non-Western cultural orientations, values, attitudes, and behaviors;
- H. recognize and assess different communication and cultural patterns and their synergetic effects on each other;
- I. describe contemporary communication networks that link the United States politically, economically, and socially with other countries;
- J. analyze and describe how culture influences communication in both Western and non-Western contexts;
- K. identify similarities and differences in communication styles that are unique to particular international and domestic cultures;
- L. determine when cultural issues influence communication in developing interpersonal relationships;
- M. demonstrate the basic knowledge of how to transcend Western and non-Western cultural and ethnic differences to build "community;"
- N. identify and demonstrate specific communication skills necessary for an intercultural communication experience (elements of conflict and conflict resolution, empathy, listening skills);
- O. identify the obstacles to effective intercultural communication (power and power relationships between cultures; stereotypes, ethnocentrism, racism, and prejudice);
- P. participate in class activities to improve communication skills when dealing with different cultural backgrounds;
- Q. analyze co-cultures and compare and contrast decisions to assimilate or segregate from "mainstream American" culture;
- R. identify different cultural ethnicities, histories, and heritages and their influence upon "typical American" cultural norms .

V. CONTENT:

- A. Introduction to the communication process
- B. Definition of culture and related terms
- C. Cultural similarities and differences in American/Western and non-Western contexts
 - 1. Gender (culturally variable)
 - 2. Asian-American (non-Western based)
 - 3. American-Latino/a (non-Western based, with Western influences)
 - 4. African-American (Western Based)
- D. Historical and cultural influences on distinct communication styles
 - 1. Gender historical influences
 - 2. Asian-American historical influences
 - 3. American Latino/a historical influences
 - 4. African-American historical influences
- E. Political, economic, and social interdependence between Western and non-Western cultures
- F. Cultural background and its effects on communication behavior

- G. Intracultural communication
 - 1. Co-cultures
 - 2. Assimilation and segregation
- H. Intercultural communication
 - 1. Verbal and nonverbal communication
 - 2. Intercultural communication competence skills
- I. Obstacles to intercultural communication competence
 - 1. Discrimination
 - 2. Stereotypes
 - 3. Ethnocentrism
- J. Critical listening/active listening
- K. Interpersonal communication and culture
- L. Conflict and conflict resolution

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Discussion** -
- C. In class group activities (peer to peer teaching)
- D. **Guest Lecturers** -
- E. **Demonstration** - Demonstrations/presentations
- F. **Audio-visual Activity** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Research projects 1. Cultural Interview/Paper: Review scholarly literature regarding student's ethnic history. Then compare and contrast that history with a family member's version of history. Relate this to issues of identity. 2. Create your own cultural project: What is your culture's main values? Who is the dominant culture? What is their language based on? What is their non-verbal communication like? Where do they lie in terms of context and Hofstede's Value Analysis? B. Analysis of conflict and conflict resolution using the mass media (TV, film, etc.) as a source.

VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
- B. **Frequency**
 - 1. Frequency
 - a. Daily/Weekly activities
 - b. One midterm
 - c. One major group project
 - d. One final exam

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Haley, Alex, and Malcolm X *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, Random House, 1999.
2. Martin, Judith N, and Thomas K Nakayama *Experiencing Intercultural Communication: An Introduction*. . 3rd ed., McGraw-Hill, 2007.
3. Rico, Barbara Roche, and Sandra Mano *American Mosaic: Multicultural Readings in Context*. 3rd ed., Houghton Mifflin, 2000.
4. Samovar, Larry A, Richard E. Porter, and Edwin McDaniel *Communication Between Cultures*. 6th ed., Thompson Wadsworth, 2006.
5. Takaki, Ronald *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America*, Little Brown, 1993.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: