The University of Oklahoma
College of Continuing Education
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:
Cross-Cultural Communication: Theory and Research

Course Number:
COMM 5253-221

Course Description:
Studies communication in various cultures; includes examination of non-verbal as well as verbal coding systems. Considers problems, barriers, and patterns of communication that occur across cultural boundaries. Three general objectives govern this course: 1) to increase awareness of one’s strengths and weaknesses when functioning in a cross-cultural communication situation; 2) to study the reciprocal relationship of communication and culture; and 3) to examine the problems of communication research in a cross cultural context and to develop guidelines to help overcome these obstacles.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: December 8-13, 2015
Location: Stuttgart, Germany. See site director for classroom location.
Hours: Tuesday - Friday 6:00-9:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: November 9, 2015

Site Director:
Toni Colaninno. Stuttgart Army Education Center. DSN: 431-3304; Fax 431-2571 or CIV 07031-15-2580
FAX 07031-15-2571. Email: apstuttgart@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Maria del Guadalupe (Lupe) Davidson, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: Women’s and Gender Studies Program
Robertson Hall 101
Norman, OK 73069
Telephone Number: (405) 325-3481
Fax Number: (405) 325-3573
E-mail Address: mdavidson@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session and by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at http://www.bkstr.com/oklahomastore/home is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fheg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.
Course Objectives:
After taking this course, you should be able to identify and apply concepts of cross/intercultural communication to new cultural situations. Additionally, you should come away with new insights about cross/interculturally shared behaviors.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Assignment #1: Reflection Essays
Please read: *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, *Purple Hibiscus*, and *Fast times in Palestine* and write 3 separate reflection essays (one essay per book). Each Reflection Essay should be 3 pages in length. Any essay that is not 3 pages in length will receive a 20-point deduction.

The objective of each Reflection Essay is to demonstrate that you can provide a critical analysis of a given situation discussed in each book.

Format for each essay:

1. provide a 1 paragraph summary of the text;
2. explore 2-3 conflicts for the main character(s) in each book AND discuss the sources of the conflict(s);
3. discuss the perspectives of the conflicts from different cultures/individuals/values presented in the various book;
4. explore possible solutions for these intercultural conflicts.

All three Reflection Essays are due to the D2L Drop Box by Tuesday (December 8th) by 4:30pm (this is the first day of class). Please bring a hard copy of all three Reflection Essays to class as well.

Assignment #2: In-Class Exam
You will have a comprehensive written examination on the last day of class. The test will cover the books and lecture materials and will be a mixture of objective (i.e., true/false and multiple choice) and short-answer essay questions. The test is closed-book and no notes, but you will receive a study guide on the first day of class.

Assignment #3: Cultural Self Assessment Essay
Using *Intercultural Communication in Contexts* (6th ed.), by Judith Martin and Thomas Nakayama as a guide, this essay will provide you with an opportunity to apply cultural concepts and dimensions to your personal life.

Format:

1. begin by articulating your self-identity through narrative (tell a story about yourself ‘who are you’ and ‘what you value’);
2. discuss the perceived sources of your values and worldviews (‘where do they come from?’ ‘are they culturally rooted?’);
3. analyze your culturally preferred communication style;
4. address whether your cultural communication style causes conflicts with others who communication style may be different;
5. discuss how can you improve your cross-cultural communication capacity for the future.

This essay should be a total of 5 double spaced pages. Any essay that is not 5 pages in length will receive a 20-point deduction.

Essay Submission and Format
All essays will be submitted via D2L to the Drop Box. Your essay should be typed using Times New Roman Font with 12-point letter size. Double-space your work, and do not place any extra spaces between your paragraphs. Please use the tab key to indicate a new paragraph. Please do not add titles or a title page to your work. Any paper lacking the correct format will lose 10 points. Please use the following heading for all of your papers:

Your Name
The Date
Cross Cultural Communication 5253-221
Assignment Name
Dr. Maria D. Davidson

All of this information should be single-spaced and located on the left hand corner of your document. While still in single-space, hit the return key three times. After that, start your text. Your text should be double-spaced.

Late Work
It is my policy not to accept late work though I will be flexible in cases of true emergency and with proper documentation. Please make every effort to submit your work on time.

In-Class Films
We will be watching two films. The first film is The Help and the second is Crash. Note: Crash has some violence, strong language, and content that might be disturbing for some.

If you don’t think that you will be able to watch the film, I would be happy to provide you with an alternate assignment.

Course Format
In sum, the course will consist of lectures and discussion of the texts and other materials provided by the professor, essays, and a written examination to be held on the final day of class. The following overview identifies the major topics to be addressed.

- Course orientation and introduction to communication study
- Approaches to the study of cross-cultural communication
- Symbolic systems, cultural universality and particularities
- Existential dilemmas
- Social change strategies and tactics
- Methodological problems in cross-cultural study
- Training and education problems
Grading

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F. The class is worth a total of 500 points:

- (A) 500-450
- (B) 449-400
- (C) 399-350
- (D) 349-300
- (F) <300

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points/Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Essays</td>
<td>First day of class</td>
<td>3 at 60 points each= 180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>Last class session</td>
<td>200 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Self Assessment</td>
<td>1 weeks following last class session</td>
<td>120 points</td>
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Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc…in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Maria del Guadalupe Davidson, Ph.D.

Education

• 2006  Ph.D., Rhetoric, Duquesne University
• 1999  M.A., Communication Studies, Duquesne University
• 1997  M.A., English Language and Literature, Duquesne University
• 1995  B.A., English, St. Bonaventure University

Current Positions

• Director, Women’s and Gender Studies Program
• Co-Director, Center for Social Justice

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

• COMM 5253 Cross-cultural Communication
• HR 5110 Multicultural Issues in Human Relations

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

• Race Theory
• Gender Theory
• Women’s History
• Africana Philosophy
• Business Communication

Representative Publications and Presentations

Books


Edited Volumes

• Mothers of Black Sons: Fears, Sorrows, and Hopes, co-edited with George Yancy (in Progress).

Refereed Journal Articles

Representative Honors and Awards Received

- Faculty Fellow, Center for Teaching Excellence, the University of Oklahoma, 2015-2016
- Fellow, Faculty Learning Academy, the University of Oklahoma, 2015-2016
- Feminist Teacher-Mentor Award 2014, Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender
- Black Girls Rock Award 2014, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Beta Beta Chapter
- Outstanding Faculty Award 2012, Presented by the University of Oklahoma Fraternity and Sorority Student Life
- Donald H. Wulff Diversity Travel Fellow 2012 Professional Development Network in Higher Education
- Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award 2011, Presented by The University of Oklahoma African American Student Life
- National Women’s Studies Association, Women of Color Leadership Project, Selected Participant 2011

Grants

- Ford Foundation Travel and Learning Grant $10,000 (funding period 11/14-9/15)
- Overbrook Foundation $10,000 for the 2015 Take Root Conference
- National Advocates for Pregnant Women $5,000 for the 2015 Take Root Conference
- Provide $5,000 for the 2015 Take Root Conference
- The Buffet Foundation $7,500 for the 2015 Take Root Conference
- Alley-Rayonier International Travel Award $1,500 2015
- OU VPR-Internal Funding for the Center for Social Justice STEM Initiative 2013-2016

Major Professional Affiliations

- National Women’s Studies Association
- Women of Color Leadership Project-NWSA
- Coalition of Women Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition
- The Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender
- Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
- National Communication Association
- Rhetoric Society of America