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

Course Title:
Interethnic Communication Seminar

Course Number:
COMM 6413-101

Course Description:
The purpose of this course is to expand your understanding of interethnic communication as it is conceptualized, studied, and experienced. To this extent, we will analyze issues connected to defining ethnicity and interethnic communication, their connections to identity, and various interactions between members of different ethnic groups.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

- **Dates:** February 23 – March 1, 2015
- **Location:** Washington, D.C. Liaison Office - 2189 Crystal Plaza Arcade, Arlington, VA, 22202.
- **Hours:** Mon-Fri 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.; Sat 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- **Last day to enroll or drop without penalty:** January 25, 2015

Site Director:
Christopher Della Valle. Assistant: Sasha Ramdeen. 2189 Crystal Plaza Arcade, Arlington, VA, 22202.
Phone: 703-418-4800; Fax: 703-418-2730; E-mail: apwashington@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

- **Course Professor:** Ioana A. Cionea, Ph.D.
- **Mailing Address:** Department of Communication
  University of Oklahoma
  610 Elm Avenue
  Norman, OK 73019-3141

- **Telephone Number:** 405-325-3018
- **Fax Number:** 405-325-7625
- **E-mail Address:** icionea@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, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Readings indicated next to each day in the course outline. Readings will be posted 30 days prior to the beginning of class. Access D2L at [http://learn.ou.edu](http://learn.ou.edu); enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Course Objectives:

By completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the place and role of ethnicity in contemporary American society;
2. Explain societal, situational, and psychological factors that influence interethnic communication;
3. Explore communication approaches that facilitate interethnic communication and relationship building; and
4. Present an informed argument about challenges and opportunities that arise in communication between members of different ethnic groups.

Course Outline:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings due</th>
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| Day 1   | Introduction to the study of interethnic communication | Betancourt & López (1993)  
          |                                             | Halualani (2000)  
          |                                             | Kim (2005) |
          |                                             | Alba (1990)  
          |                                             | Gong (2007) |
| Day 3   | Language and interethnic communication     | Ross (1979)  
          |                                             | Bourhis, Sioufi, & Sachdev (2012)  
          |                                             | Gumperz (1978) |
| Day 4   | Intergroup/Interethnic communication       | Billig (1976)  
          |                                             | Taifel (1982)  
          |                                             | Gudykunst & Shapiro (1996) |
| Day 5   | Intergroup contact: Theory and applications | Pettigrew & Tropp (2011)  
          |                                             | Goto & Chan (2005)  
          |                                             | Christian & Knight Lapinski (2003) |
| Day 6   | Interethnic conflict                       | Landis & Albert (2012)  
          | Case study topic meetings with instructor    | Ellis (2012)  
          |                                             | Lukens (1979)  
          |                                             | Tszeng & Jackson (1994)  
          |                                             | Bernstein & Norwood (2008)  
          |                                             | Ting-Toomey et al. (2000) |
| Day 7   | Final examination (in-class)               | N/A                                              |

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

In-class performance (20% of course grade)

This is an interactive seminar. You are expected to attend all classes and come to class prepared with pertinent comments about our readings, to make significant and substantive contributions to seminar discussions, and to offer constructive feedback on others’ work when applicable.

Each person is responsible for posting one discussion question for each day’s readings on D2L> Discussion under the appropriate thread at least one hour before class every day (so, if we have three readings for a day, a total of three discussion questions, one for each reading, is expected from you). Questions should challenge or critique the reading, highlight inconsistencies, inquire about the practical applications of the material, and, ultimately, demonstrate your understanding of each article. Questions should not be redundant of other students’ questions.

Article presentation (15% of course grade)

Throughout the course, you will be responsible for leading discussion on one of our assigned readings (except those assigned for the first day of class). You will have the opportunity to sign-up for the day and reading you would prefer on the first day of class. On the day of your presentation it is expected that you will have a 2-3 page handout for the rest of the class that summarizes the main argument(s) of the article, the main implications of the article for the study of intercultural communication, your critique of the article, and 2-3 questions regarding the article that your believe deserve further discussion.
Post - Course paper (35% of course grade)

The course paper for this class asks that you choose a current controversy or issue that involves interethnic communication occurring in today’s society and treat it as a case study in interethnic communication. Specifically, the paper should describe the issue you have identified and provide any necessary historical or social context. The bulk of the paper should focus on identifying and explaining the most relevant ideas from this course that can aid in our understanding and (if applicable) betterment of the issue you have chosen to address for the paper. Note that this should be your own argument, which you can support with class material. Also include in your discussion the possible ways in which interethnic communication at the individual, organizational, community, or societal level in respect to this issue can be enhanced, improved, or changed.

The paper should be between 10 and 12 pages (excluding the cover page and references) and follow APA 6th edition in respect to formatting, writing, and citations.

The paper should be submitted electronically to D2L>Dropbox>Course papers no later than two calendar weeks after the last day of classes. Late assignments may incur a grade deduction. The instructor will return feedback electronically via D2L.

Papers will be graded based on their content, structure, and writing. Further details about the paper will be discussed in class.

Final examination (30% of course grade)

The final examination will take place during the last class session. It will test your understanding of interethnic communication concepts and issues studied, as well as the readings material assigned for the class. Exam questions will be drawn from the required texts and articles from the course, lectures, and class discussions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class performance</td>
<td>February 23rd-March 1st</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case study</td>
<td>February 28th</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>March 1st</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post - Course paper</td>
<td>March 15th</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Grading:

This is a letter-graded course. Grades will be assigned according to the following scale, based on the cumulative percentage earned: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = Less than 60.

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result late submission deductions and 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

Ioana A. Cionea

Education

- 2013: Ph.D. in Communication, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- 2006: M. A. in Communication Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL
- 2004: L. L. B., Dimitrie Cantemir University College of Law, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Current Position

Assistant professor, Department of Communication, University of Oklahoma, Norman Ok

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- COMM 5003: Quantitative Research Methods
- COMM 5013: Intro to Graduate Study
- COMM 6413: Interethnic Communication
- COMM 6433: Intercultural Communication

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Intercultural communication
- Interpersonal communication
- Argumentation
- Research Methods

Representative Publications and Presentations


Representative Honors and Awards Received

- University of Oklahoma, Office of the Vice President for Research, Junior Faculty Fellowship, 2014
- University of Oklahoma, Department of Communication Faculty/Staff Service and Support Award, 2014
- University of Maryland, Department of Communication Outstanding Service Award, 2010.
- University of Maryland, Department of Communication Outstanding Teaching Award, 2008.

Major Professional Affiliations