Course Title:
Seminar in Intercultural Communication

Course Number:
COMM 6433-227

Course Description:
This course offers an overview of communication between individuals of differing cultural backgrounds. It examines potential sources of intercultural misunderstanding and conflict, and explores ways to enhance communication effectively in dealing with cultural strangers. This course proceeds in a seminar format, in which the primary in-class activities are open discussions and individual/group presentations. All participants are expected to make an active contribution in each seminar session.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: February 3-8, 2015
Location: Wiesbaden, Germany. See Site Director for classroom site.
Hours: Tue-Fri 6:00-9:30 pm; Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: January 5, 2015

Site Director:
Megan McReynolds. Assistant: Wade Jackson. Phone: 00-49-611-705-5937; DSN 337-5937; Fax: 00-49-611-705-6188; DSN 337-6188; E-mail: apwiesbaden@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Tom Hall, Ph.D.
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Department of Communication Studies
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Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0139
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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:
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 www.oklahoma.bkstr.com 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.


Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

**Course Objectives:**

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

- Describe the interrelatedness of culture, subculture, and communication;
- Analyze the cultural, sociocultural, and environmental influences on intercultural communication processes;
- Identify key differences in encoding and decoding patterns across cultural traditions; and
- Identify factors that minimize intercultural misunderstanding and facilitate communication effectiveness and relationship development between cultural strangers.

**Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

All books must be read before the first day of class. Students should attend each class session prepared to describe, explain, critique, and apply the ideas presented by the authors. Such preparedness is essential to your successful performance.

**Short Essay (20%)**

Students are required to prepare a short essay on Intercultural Communication. Students are expected to describe an experience or an observation that they have regarding Intercultural Communication. The experience or observation should be described in detail. Students are then expected to apply material from any of the three class texts to analyze their experience/observation. Students are not limited regarding the number of concepts/ideas from the texts, but I would rather see two or three concepts applied with an appropriate level of depth than five or six concepts applied superficially. The paper should be 4-5 pages long and follow APA style. The paper should roughly adhere to the following format:

- Introduction
- Description of Experience/Observation
- Explanation of Concept(s)
- Application of Concept(s)
- Conclusion regarding Intercultural Communication

Please note—I am not a professor who gets bogged down in trivialities. The above description is a guideline - feel free to be creative. For example, if you want to describe two observations instead of one, please do so. All I want is to read well-written, well thought out papers that apply concepts from the readings to real world experiences/observations.

**Class participation (20%)**

During the week of class we will be spending roughly 30 hours together. I expect all students to participate fully during that time. These classes work best when there is a free exchange of ideas and a robust discussion. Please moderate your participation so that you are neither dominating the discussion nor non-interactive. Students should also be respectful to all members of the class. One recommendation I have that might help with your participation is to begin paying more attention to articles (newspapers, television, internet sources) and personal experiences that relate to Intercultural Communication. Print off or cut out the article—consider how it relates to course content—bring it to class—and then share it with the class.
Comprehensive Final Exam (60%)

On Sunday there will be an essay exam designed to assess your recall and understanding of concepts discussed in the course. Although this is subject to change, students will likely be given five essay questions from which they will select three to answer. More information regarding the comprehensive final exam will be distributed during the week of the course.

Grading

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

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.
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
Tom Hall, Ph.D.

Education
2005 Ph.D. in Communication, University of Oklahoma

Current Positions
• Director, Graduate Studies, Communication Studies Department, University of Northern Iowa
• Associate Professor, Communication Studies Department, University of Northern Iowa
• Advanced Programs Professor since 2008

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
• COMM 6433 Intercultural Communication
• COMM 5253 Cross-cultural Communication
• COMM 6323 International Communication

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
• Organizational Communication
• Intercultural Communication
• Communication Theory
• Communication Methodologies

Representative Publications and Presentations

Major Professional Affiliations
• National Communication Association
• Iowa Communication Association
• International Association for Business and Society