Course Title:
Cross-Cultural Communication: Theory and Research

Course Number:
COMM 5253-103

Course Description:
This course studies communication in various cultures; includes examination of non-verbal as well as verbal coding systems. It 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: September 26-October 2, 2011
Location: U.S. Coast Guard Air Station, San Diego, Wardroom. Directions available from gate guard.
Hours: Mon-Fri 6:00-9:00 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: August 28, 2011

Site Director:
Daniel Casey. Office Telephone: 858-380-5880; Mobile 619-206-1515; Fax: 858-569-0519. E-mail: apsandiego@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Todd L. Sandel, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: Department of Communication
University of Oklahoma
Burton Hall, Rm. 101
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-1809
Fax Number: (405) 325-7625
E-mail Address: tlsandel@ou.edu
Web page: http://faculty-staff.ou.edu/S/Todd.L.Sandel-1/
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 Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomauion bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).


Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: 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.

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:**

After taking this course, the student should be able to identify and apply concepts of cross cultural communication to new cultural situations. Additionally, the student should come away with new insights about cross-culturally shared behaviors.

**Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

1. Diagnostic paper. After reading the assigned material, and prior to the seminar, each student should write a 5-6 page paper (double-spaced, size 12 font) which includes the following: (1) Based upon your reading of Diamond’s book *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, summarize and analyze his presentation of human societies. What does he say is the origin of cultural differences? What is the relationship between the environment and culture? Feel free to disagree with his assessment and offer reasons why. This section should be 2-3 pages in length. (2) Based upon your reading of Mortenson & Relin’s book *Three cups of tea*, explain *some* of the differences between American and Pakistani cultures, and how Mortenson came to know and understand these differences. (You may imagine that you are writing a letter or brief travel guide to an American friend who knows very little about that part of the world.) This section should also be 2-3 pages in length. This assignment is both an intellectual exercise and a diagnostic tool for the professor—diagnostic in the sense of areas of emphasis for the lecture content. This paper must be turned in on the first day of class. There will be an opportunity to make revisions or improvements to the paper during the week of class.

2. Class presentation. On the last two days of class (Saturday and Sunday), you will have the opportunity to lead the class in a discussion that demonstrates your knowledge, comprehension, and interest in a topic of cross cultural communication. To do this I want you to choose a chapter in DeLoache and Gottlieb’s book *A World of Babies* that you find of interest, read it carefully, prepare a summary of it, and lead the class in discussing the chapter. (You may select any chapter except Chapter One.) Feel free to critique the chapter and present what you believe may be a better way to approach the topic.

   You must contact me by email tlsandel@ou.edu at least two weeks prior to class to let me know which chapter you prefer to present. I will then reply and make assignments on a first-come-first-served basis. (If enrollment is large, and there is interest, I may assign a presentation based upon a different reading and/or topic.)

3. Final examination. The final examination will be given on the last day of class. It will take the form of a written essay and test student’s knowledge and comprehension of issues covered in the readings and week of instruction.
4. Final paper. Three weeks after the final class meeting, you are to send the professor by email a 10-15 page paper (double-spaced, size 12 font) on a topic of cross-cultural communication. This paper may present a close analysis of assigned readings, or may discuss a topic of interest to the student, based upon further readings. Whichever option the student chooses, it must be discussed and agreed upon in a meeting between the student and professor during the week of class.

In sum, the course will consist of lectures and discussion of the texts and other materials provided by the professor, the presentation and group analysis of studies by the class, 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. A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60, F = below 60

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic paper</td>
<td>First day of class</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class presentation</td>
<td>Last two days of class</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>Last class session</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>3 weeks following last class session</td>
<td>30%</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. 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 Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your 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.

Copyright

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

Todd L. Sandel, Ph.D.

Education
Ph. D. in Speech Communication, University of Illinois

Current Positions
- Advanced Programs Professor since 2001
- Associate Professor, Department of Communication, University of Oklahoma
- Fulbright Scholar to Taiwan, 2007-2008

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- International Communication
- Intercultural Communication
- Cross-Cultural Communication
- Language Perspectives
- Taiwanese/Chinese Studies

Representative Publications and Presentations

Major Professional Affiliations
- National Communication Association
- International Communication Association
- Association for Chinese Communication Studies