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

Course Title:  
Seminar in Intercultural Communication

Course Number:  
COMM 6433-220

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: January 28-February 2, 2014  
Location: Geilenkirchen NATO Base, Germany. Education Center.  
Hours: Tue-Fri 6:00-9:30 p.m.; Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: December 30, 2013

Site Director:  
Valerie Peterson Borro. Phone 02451-63-2208; DSN 458-6098; email apgeilenkirchen@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor:  
Tom Hall, Ph.D.

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University of Northern Iowa  
Department of Communication Studies  
316 Lang Hall  
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0139

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(319) 273-7159  
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E-mail Address:  
tom.hall@uni.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:

Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahoma.bkstr.com. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Representatives are available by phone at (405) 325-3511 or (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or E-mail at 0831mgr@fhegfollett.com from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; and 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). (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 May 8-13 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.
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 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.

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.

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
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