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

Course Title:
Cross-Cultural Communication: Theory & Research

Course Number:
COMM 5253-301

Course Description:
Studies communication variables as they function in varied cultures and subcultures; includes examination of nonverbal as well as verbal coding systems. Consider problems, barriers, and patterns of communication that occur across cultural boundaries. Three general objectives govern this course: (a) to increase awareness of one’s strengths and weaknesses when functioning in a cross-cultural setting, (b) to study the reciprocal relationship of communication and culture, and (c) to examine the problems of communication research in a cross cultural context and to develop guidelines to help overcome these obstacles. The specific communicative contexts and settings that will be covered in this class include: conflicts, business, health and illness, identity management, interpersonal communication, language perspectives, and nonverbal communication.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: December 2-8, 2012  
Location: Hangar 2, Room 102, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.  
Hours: Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; M-F 6:00-10:00 p.m.; Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: November 3, 2012

Site Director:
Mary Keller. Assistant: Novelda Sommers. Phone: 808-422-5510; Fax: 808-422-5509; E-mail: aphickam@ou.edu.

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Elaine Hsieh, Ph.D.  
Mailing Address: Department of Communication  
University of Oklahoma  
Burton Hall, Rm. 101  
Norman, OK 73019  
Telephone Number: 405-325-3154  
Fax Number: 405-325-7625  
E-mail Address: ehsieh@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:
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.oklahomaunion.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 405-325-7140 (outside the U.S.).


5. 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.

- Detailed Syllabus and reading schedules.
- Additional readings (e.g., journal articles).
- PowerPoint Slides for the course lectures (please check the PowerPoint slides 3 days before the course dates).

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 intercultural communication to various contexts (e.g., conflicts, business, health care, identity management). Additionally, the student should come away with new insights about cross-culturally shared behaviors.

**Course Outline:**

The course will consist of lectures and discussion of the texts and other materials provided by the professor, the presentation and group analysis of case studies by the class, and a written examination. 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.
- Worldview, philosophical diversity, and communication behaviors.
- Value analysis and intercultural studies.
- Social change strategies and tactics.
- Cross-cultural communication in applied settings.
- Methodological problems in cross-cultural studies.

**Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

After reading the assigned materials (including the required readings and journal articles posted at D2L), and prior to the seminar, each student should prepare one case study of intercultural conflict/miscommunication/relations. The case study should carefully delineate the problem areas. The analysis should draw upon the reading and any other materials and experiences. The case study should be written up in 4-6 pages in text (typed, double space, Times New Roman 12 font, 1 inch margin, APA style). The emphasis of the case study should be upon personal experience rather than an extended discussion that features technical knowledge. In other words, the case study should highlight your reflection and critical analysis of the intercultural interaction based on the insights you gained through the reading rather than a review or a summary of the readings. The assignment is both an intellectual exercise and a diagnostic tool for the professor – diagnostic in the sense of the areas of emphasis for the lecture content. **I prefer the case study to be turned in on the first day of class, but I will accept it (based on when the student enrolled and other pertinent factors) up to the last day of class.**
For the **reflection essay**, you should read Child of the Jungle (2007) or Fadiman (1998). The essay should be written up in 4-6 pages in text (typed, double space, Times New Roman 12 font, 1 inch margin, APA style). You should apply the theoretical concepts you have come across in the readings to critically analyze the intercultural interactions presented in the reading. The objective of the paper is to demonstrate that you can provide critical analysis of a given situation discussed in the book. You can explore the causes for conflicts, discuss the perspectives from different cultures/individuals/values, or explore possible solutions for these intercultural conflicts. **I prefer the reflection essay to be turned in on the first day of class, but I will accept it (based on when the student enrolled and other pertinent factors) up to the last day of class.**

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>Case Study</td>
<td>See above instructions</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection Essay</td>
<td>See above instructions</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>Last class session</td>
<td>60%</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. 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
Elaine Hsieh, Ph.D.

Education
2004 Ph.D. in Speech Communication, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Current Positions
• Advanced Programs professor since 2005
• Associate Professor, Department of Communication, University of Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
• Language Perspectives of Communication
• Interpersonal Communication
• Qualitative Research Methods
• Cross-cultural Communication

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
• Language and Social Interactions
• Interpersonal Communication
• Health Communication
• Intercultural Communication
• Language Perspectives

Representative Publications and Presentations

Representative Honors and Awards Received
• 2011 Norman Campus Vice President for Research Award for Outstanding Research Impact, University of Oklahoma.
• 2010 Featured Scholar, the Fifth Convening of Interpreter Trainers, Scholars and Researchers, Healthy House and the University of California, Merced, CA.
• 2008 Top Young Scholar Paper Award, Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, Lexington, KY
• 2001-08 Nine Top Paper awards received at various divisions (e.g., Language and Social Interaction Division and Human Communication and Technology Division) at the annual meetings of the National Communication Association Convention and International Communication Association.

Major Professional Affiliations
National Communication Association; International Communication Association