

Syllabus Fall 2023 (Draft)
COMM 365: Intercultural
Communication and Culture

Instructor: Heather Strobe, Associate
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Office: JRH, room 224
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00am-1:00pm
Monday/Wednesday 1:00pm-2:30pm
Thursday/Friday by appointment
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Required Text: Your textbook is available for first day access through
our BlackBoard site. Please create your account to
access text.
Intercultural Communication: A Contextual Approach
(2018).
By Neuliep, James. 8th Edition. (Online version)

***Communication 365- Intercultural Communication** provides the students and instructor the opportunity to consider the influences of culture through many contexts and situations. This course supports the mission of developing undergraduates with strong communication skills through international reach. The class includes both face to face and online assignments.*

Course Description: This course provides an overview of intercultural communication-communication with individuals from different cultural backgrounds. COMM 365 fulfills the K-SC category of Colonnade.

Colonnade Learning Objectives:

Learning Objective 1:

Students will demonstrate knowledge of concepts and principles for understanding the challenges and opportunities of intercultural encounter between people from different ethnic/racial, national, and co-cultural backgrounds in today's interdependent world.

Learning Objective 2:

Students will examine diverse values that form civically engaged and informed members of society and demonstrates the ability to understand and analyze how culture shapes the development of self and others through various modes of communication and ethos.

Course Objectives

This class is about communication in intercultural relationships on a macro and micro level. Students will be able to:

*Understand the role and impact of culture in the communication process.

*Apply major intercultural theories and concepts to everyday communication situation

COMM 365: introduces concepts and principles from the communication discipline for examining, analyzing, and evaluating challenges and opportunities of engaging cultural differences in people's face-to-face and mediated communication interactions in today's increasingly interdependent and interconnected world. Students will examine on the one hand, how people from different ethnic/racial, national, and co-cultural backgrounds shape and are shaped by values, norms, institutions, and practices of societies they are brought up in, and on the other, how history, religion, language, technology, political and economic institutions influence their intercultural encounters. By analyzing how and why tensions and dissonance often attend interactions between people who are culturally different, students will utilize communication to embrace difference and evaluate communication processes and approaches for addressing challenges posed by diversity, multiculturalism, and intercultural encounters in domestic and international contexts. Ultimately, the aim of the course is to help students develop their intercultural communication competence critical for ameliorating tensions, working through conflicts, and fostering productive relationships in exercising their shared responsibility as global citizens.

COURSE LEARNING

Attendance:

To be successful in this class, your attendance is a necessity!

Attendance is straight forward- you are either in class or you are not. Plus- class is way more fun if you're there! This class depends on your participation and mutual support of all class members. Your "participation" grade will be affected by your class attendance. When you miss class, you miss the opportunity to engage in activities and discussions that are part of your learning experience. If you choose to miss class, then please be adult about your absence. It is YOUR responsibility to find out about missed class information. You will need to contact another student or look on Blackboard for any missed information (not always available for class lectures). Please do not rely on me to provide you with class lecture or discussion notes if you miss class. I will consider emergencies and hospitalization of the STUDENT enrolled in the class. I encourage you to create informal networks in class. Ask another student in class for their number or email, so you can check with them about missed information. Please, please refrain from asking any professor these words..." did I miss anything important?" or "are we going to do anything important in class today?"

An excused absence is defined as:

1. Illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student's family for whom the student is a caregiver.

This includes absences due to the necessity to quarantine for the recommended time due to positive test for Covid-19 or direct exposure to someone who tested positive for Covid-19 and in accordance with CDC guidelines or as required by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and/or the Warren County Health District. If you are instructed to quarantine by WKU or the health department officials, you should forward any documentation to your instructor for their records of your being excused and plan for how you will continue your learning remotely.

2. The death of a member of the student's immediate family (parent, grandparent, sibling, child, or grandchild – including step-relationships for each).

3. Trips for members of student organizations sponsored by an academic unit, trips for university classes, and trips for participation in intercollegiate academic or athletic events.
4. Major religious holidays that require the religious participant to refrain from normal daily activity or work.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Don't do either! I expect each student to do "their" best work and always maintain high ethical standards. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this class. If you have concerns or questions about plagiarism, please ask me. I use a plagiarism detection tool, Safe Assign, to confirm that you have used sources accurately in your class projects. All assignments are subject to submission for text similarity review to this plagiarism detection site. You are expected to upload your paper onto Safe Assign by 11:59am the day it is due.

WKU Policies and Information

Let make sure we are all on the same page as we enter this semester together.

Contacting Instructor (me)- My office is in FAC, room 284. Please feel free to email to set up a day and time for us to talk. I am happy to meet at alternative times for those students that have conflicts with my scheduled office hours.

Email: This is the best way to reach me is email. I will check my email 3 times a day, M-F, and usually once over the weekend. You can expect to hear from me within 24 hours M-F. If it has been longer than 24 hours, then please resend your message. Your email should include a *brief heading* related to your question or course content. (*Example: COMM 365: homework question*). This helps me while I am reading through the many emails, I receive daily. In your email, make sure you include the following: *a greeting, message, a closing statement and your name*. including these elements will help make a good impression on whomever you email.

Title IX Policy

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) (#0.070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Executive Director, Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, 270-745-6867 or Title IX Investigators or Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center at 270-7453159.

Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC)

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Grade Complaints

The first step in resolving a complaint about grades is for the student to attempt to resolve the problem directly with the course instructor. See the Student Handbook, available at <http://www.wku.edu/handbook/> for additional guidance.

REMIND APP

Please download the app and follow these steps to enroll in our class. This is one more way you can contact me outside of email.

Send text to – 81010 Text message- @com365

Semester Assignments

Assignment descriptions and rubrics will be discussed on the first day of class.

| Assignment | Possible Points | Your Points |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Group Project | 50 | |
| Interview Report | 60 | |
| Final Group Paper | 60 | |
| Artifact Assignment | 30 | |
| Exam #1 | 100 | |
| Exam #2 | 100 | |

| | | |
|---|------------|--|
| Exam #3 | 100 | |
| Participation Activities: <i>Including but not limited to: In-class assignments, Quizzes, Activities, Chapter Assignments, etc.</i> | 225 | |
| Total | 500 | |

Paper Descriptions

Interview Report

You need to conduct a 30-min interview with 1 person who are foreign-born for this assignment. The purpose of this assignment is to learn about their intercultural experience broadly defined. They should be someone you do not know well. They cannot be your best friends, close friends, or your foreign-born professors. You will need to use an interview guide comprised of 15 or more open-ended questions for your interviews (see below for sample interview guide).

INTERVIEW REPORT INSTRUCTIONS

You will write a 4-page interview report based on the interview. The report paper should cover the following three areas: 1) a short background information about your interviewees, 2) a summary of what you learned from the interviews, and 3*) your reflections about the interviews from an intercultural communication perspective. Make sure to incorporate direct quotes from your interviewee and describe interesting moments in the conversation to back up your claims. Also, weave in at least 10 terms from course readings where relevant, making sure to underline them.

Final Group Paper:

Assignment task - In this course, you've been exposed to both content and activities that relate to intercultural encounters and communication. Some of the content and activities include course textbook, instructor lecture, watching video clips and foreign movies, interviewing foreign-born persons, and attending extra-credit events just to name a few. Your task is to reflect and analyze how such content exposure and activities have affected the development of your intercultural communication competence.

Assignment write-up - The case study paper should be framed as an investigation on whether the COMM 365 course fosters the development of your intercultural sensitivity (see Bennett's DMIS) and intercultural communication competence (see your textbook). The paper should be organized as follows:

Grading Scale

Grades are calculated according to the following scale:

90-100% = A: An "A" means "superior" performance. "A" work goes above and beyond what is required to produce truly exceptional results.

80-89% = B: A "B" means "very good" performance. "B" work is better than the average.

70-79% = C: A "C" means "average" performance, producing what was expected.

60-69% = D: A "D" means work is below average.

59% or less = F: An "F" means you have failed to meet the minimum requirements for passing.