

JCOM 368- Intercultural Communication

The Ohio State University Fall Quarter, 2001

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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course serves as an introduction to communication between people from different cultures. Course content focuses on the application of theory and research to intercultural communication. Students in this class should also be able to practically apply the theoretical constructs and content of this course in the development of real issues related to intercultural communication.

Specifically, this course is designed to:

1. Increase understanding of the relationship between culture and communication.
2. Provide a framework for understanding and examining cultural similarities and differences.
3. Explain the role and importance of nonverbal communication in the development of interpersonal intercultural relationships.
4. Describe real and potential barriers to effective intercultural communication.
5. Develop skills to improve intercultural communication competence.
6. Increase awareness of ethical issues related to communication between cultures.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Orbe, Mark P., and Harris, Tina M. (2001). Interracial communication: Theory into practice. Belmont, CA; Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Johnson, Allan G. (2001). Privilege, power, and difference. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company.

Readings as distributed in class throughout the quarter.

COURSE ACTIVITIES:

Class activities will include lectures, videotapes, group discussions, activities, panel discussions, and intercultural situations. Student participation in class discussions is essential to learning the course material. While the course content is theoretical, course assignments and discussions are designed for application of the theories and concepts to your everyday encounters with individuals from other cultures.

ATTENDANCE:

You are expected to be a disciplined, responsive and active member of the class. Excessive absences will affect the student's grade. For each absence beyond two, the student's final grade may be reduced by 5% (5 percent, not 5 points.) Missing class is unwise. You are expected to arrive on-time and stay the entire class. All students are responsible for making sure they have signed in for each class period on that day's roster. Also, students who leave class early will be expected to sign out, noting the time they left. From my experience as a teacher, students who miss class regularly do not do well on my exams. Some of the material on which you will be tested comes from the lectures and is not included in the textbook.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Plagiarism is forbidden by the university. Copying from other students directly from other sources will result in expulsion from the course. For a more exhaustive description of plagiarism and the penalties for cheating, please refer to the university student handbook.

GRADING:

Students' grades will be based upon their performance on the following tasks:

EXAMS: There will be two major exams including the final. Exams will be a combination of essay, multiple-choice, and short answer questions. Exam questions will cover material from the textbook, lectures, and classroom activities.

GROUP PROJECT: Each person in the class will work in groups on a final project due at the end of the quarter. Each group will submit for their final project grade an intercultural training packet. The training should be focused on particular cultures and the development of skills to improve competence in intercultural communication through activities and instructions for seminar-style presentation. Any trainer should be able to conduct training based on your collection and organization of materials into teaching-type modules. Topics must be approved by the instructor early in the quarter (by the fourth week). The purpose of the final packet is for students to apply the material in a practical way. If done correctly, this assignment will serve as a valuable finished product for you. The final packet should be typed, double-spaced and have one-inch margins. Late packets will not be accepted. Students should use a sense of professionalism in putting the final packet together. Because the packet serves as the main project for each student (in lieu of a major paper), all group members must participate equally. The submitted project will become the property of the instructor for use with future classes. Each group member will be given an opportunity evaluate the participation of other members within their group. Lack of participation will not be tolerated. A student's unwillingness to participate in this project will result in a grade of "E" for the project.

FINAL GROUP PRESENTATIONS: Each group will be required to present its intercultural communication training program to the class and invited guests (e.g., Dean, faculty members and staff). Each group will also be responsible for creating invitations and asking guests to attend their presentations. All groups members are required to participate equally – and professionally – in this presentation; no “solo” or “duo” performances. Ideally, this presentation is the culmination of a quarter-long “team” effort.

REACTION PAPERS: Throughout the quarter, three short reaction papers to the readings and/or lectures will be due. The papers should be approximately two pages in length, with 1” margins. (Short does not mean shallow.) Your reaction papers should be an academic reaction to the Johnson book. There are four due dates for reaction papers (see schedule). Students may choose three of the four dates to turn in three scores (I’ll drop the lowest score). Each of the three papers is worth 25 possible points; thus, the total possible points for all reaction papers is 75 points.

POP QUIZZES/CLASS WORK : Students are expected to contribute to class discussions and do the readings as assigned. Sporadically throughout the quarter, pop quizzes will be given and work will be completed in class for which students will receive credit. Absent students will, of course, not be able to make up ‘in class’ assignments if they are not there.

<u>GRADING BREAKDOWN:</u>	(Points)	<u>GRADING SCALE:</u> (points)	
Pop Quizzes/Class Work:	75 points	A = 465-500	C= 365- 384
Reaction Papers	75 points	A-= 450-464	C-= 350-364
Midterm Exam	100 points	B+= 435-449	D+=335-349
Final Exam	125 points	B = 415-434	D = 315-334
Final Project Group Presentations	25 points	B- = 400-414	D-= 300-314
Final Project	100 points	C+= 385-399	F = Below300

TENATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE & DAILY ASSIGNMENTS
(All readings will be discussed on the day listed on the syllabus)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic of Study</u>	<u>Orbe/Harris</u>	<u>Johnson</u>
Wed9/19	Introduction/Syllabus	No readings	
Mon9/24	Studying Interracial Communication	Ch.1	Ch.1,2
Wed9/26	Doing Training in Intercultural Communication	Ch.11	
Mon 10/1	The History of Race	Ch.2	Ch. 3,4
Wed10/3	The History of Race <u>Reaction paper 1 due</u>		
Mon10/08	The Power of Language, Labels, and Naming	McIntosh Reading	Ch. 5
Wed10/10	The Power of Language, Labels, and Naming <u>Reaction paper 2 due</u>	Ch.3	Ch.6
Mon10/15	Development of Racial Identity/Perceptions	Ch..4	Ch.7,8
Wed10/17	Recognizing Multiple Self/Other Identities (The Color of Fear Video) <u>Reaction paper 3 due</u>	Ch.5	Ch.9
Mon10/22	Theoretical Approaches to Interracial Comm	Ch.6	
Wed10/24	Group meetings – Available in office to meet with groups individually		
Mon10/29	<u>MIDTERM EXAM</u>		
Wed10-31	NO CLASS – GROUP MEETINGS (will not be in my office on this day)		
Mon11/05	Interracial Friendships	Ch.7	Ch.10
Wed11/07	Interracial Romantic Relationships <u>Reaction paper 4 due</u>	Ch.8	
Mon11/12	OSU CLOSED-NO CLASS		
Wed11/21	Group meetings – Available in office to meet with groups individually		
Mon11/26	<u>Presentations of Final Projects</u>		
Wed11/28	<u>Presentations of Final Projects</u>		

Final Projects doe no later than Wednesday, Nov. 28 – 7pm in my office.
No late projects accepted – don't even ask!