COMM 350:

Intercultural Communication

Spring 2013 • Section #73091 • Madeleva Hall 209 • T/Th 2:00-3:15p

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*“We must support each other and empathize with each other*

*because each of us is more alike than we are unalike.”* –Maya Angelou

**Welcome!** This syllabus has been designed to give you a preview of the course and will answer many questions about policies. Please refer to these materials throughout the semester. I believe you will find your experience in this classroom to be worthwhile, enjoyable, and valuable to your future coursework and employment opportunities. I look forward to working with each of you over the next 16 weeks.

Required Texts:

Jandt, F. E. (2012). An introduction to intercultural communication: Identities in a global community (7th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications. ISBN: 9781412992879

Case Studies (TBD)

**Learning Objectives:** This course examines communication processes that shape diverse communication contexts while increasing understanding of the growing interdependence of nations and peoples. It allows students to develop individual abilities to apply a comparative perspective to cross-cultural, social, economic and political experiences. **Prerequisite: COMM 103.** By the end, students should be able to:

1. Describe and analyze historical and cultural elements which influence relations of peoples in their contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Analyze specific intercultural communication problems, illustrating the historical, cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
4. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.
5. Become more willing, self-reflective, flexible, and open communicators in intercultural communication interactions.

**Participation &Ethical Communication Responsibility:** As human beings and active collegiate-level participants, it is important to recognize and respect each others' rights guaranteeing freedom of speech and empathetic attention. Members of this class will be held responsible for conducting themselves as respectful members of a learning community. The initiatives of this course may challenge your views, attitudes, and beliefs while also encouraging you to express yourself. However, racist, sexist, or other oppressive/violent language will not be tolerated. I strongly encourage you to express your opinions and question the opinions of others as you listen, discuss, and debate all topics in a respectful manner. Also, do not speak or whisper during instructor/peers’ presentations. Questions may be answered by a peer or the instructor by raising one’s hand. With this policy we will find that our classroom setting will be quite enjoyable and beneficial to everyone participating in the course. To insure participation points: attend every class, be considerate of others, be prepared, participate actively and complete all assignments on time. In short, be respectful.

**Response & Availability Policy:** Please utilize email to contact me as a primary method. Please refrain from calling/texting my cell phone unless it is an emergency. I may not respond. When emailing, please realize that I teach several classes (just like you attend more than just this class) and receive many emails. I will respond to you as quickly as I can but this could take longer than you anticipate. Incessant emailing will not be answered. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours of your email; however, the weekends are my free time as well, so I will not guarantee as speedy of a response rate then. My customary office hours are listed above, but other meeting times are available by appointment.

**Disability Policy:** If you have a specific learning and/or physical disability that require accommodation, please let me know by the second week of the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. Also contact the Disabilities Resource Office on campus in 103C Madeleva Hall (574-284-4262) or at: www3.saintmarys.edu/students-with-disabilities

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and applicable rules of the Department of Education, the mission of the DRO is to provide equal access and opportunity to qualified students with disabilities. Our goal is to increase awareness of disability issues and provide opportunities for students with documented disabilities to fully integrate into our community.

**Writing Policy:** It is expected that all assignments in this course be word-processed in 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font, 1 inch margins, double-spaced, spell-checked, grammatically correct, with page numbers, and stapled. Please use paragraphs, introductions, conclusions, and transitions accordingly. Your name, the course number, my name, and the date should also appear on a title page separate from the rest of the document. Accurate APA or MLA formatted documentation and citations will be standard in this course; please refer to the appropriate style manual for stylistic guidelines. In terms of content, all papers should be focused, well-organized, and free of punctuation errors. I expect all writing to be nothing less than a model of brevity, clarity, and style. If you have questions about a writing assignment, please feel free to contact me to set up a time to meet and work through your questions. Writing assistance is also available and highly recommended in the Writing Center located in 103A Madeleva Hall (574-284-4710) or at: www3.saintmarys.edu/writing-center

**Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:** All work must be original, and each student is expected to uphold the standards of academic honesty. Presenting the work of another as your own, whether through direct copying, plagiarism, forgery, cheating, unintended paraphrasing, or inadequate citation practices constitute plagiarism. If you don’t know how to give credit where it is due regarding citations, please see me. An assignment that is plagiarized in whole or in part will receive a failing grade, the student producing it will receive a failing grade, and the assignment will be turned over to the administrative supervisors to determine further action. Please remember that plagiarism is grounds for dismissal from Saint Mary’s. Any violation of this code will be vigorously pursued. Saint Mary’s policy about plagiarism can be found in the Student Handbook: www3.saintmarys.edu/student-handbook

**Assignment Submission Policy:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class (and in hard copy format) by the assigned due date as indicated on the course calendar unless otherwise specified, negotiated, and/or agreed. In terms of late work: Except under the most extreme circumstances (and documentation of those circumstances is required), **no late work will be accepted**. If you encounter an emergency situation of some kind, it is best to communicate with me about it earlier rather than later. If I accept your late assignment due to an extreme circumstance, you will be eligible to receive partial credit only. In addition, late assignments may receive little or no written feedback. Please note that grades/feedback of your submitted assignments will be handed back to you as promptly as possible. Also, as a rule, upon receiving the assignment grade it is suggested that you **wait over 24 hours to object if you do not agree with the assessment**.

**Cell Phone/Technology/Device Policy:** Cell phones should be turned off (not on vibrate) before class begins. In addition, iPods are not to be used in the classroom. Personal computers may be utilized for note-taking, but if you are found to be send/receiving text messages, listening to music/viewing videos, browsing nonacademic websites, instant messaging, or your cell phone goes off, **you will receive a 10 point deduction from your overall grade** for the course. Also, if you have any of these items out during a major presentation or exam, I reserve the right to give you a zero for that particular assignment. Merely turn unnecessary technology off as a means of respect.

**Attendance/Tardiness Policy:** Attendance and active participation are required (**MANDATORY**) at every single session in order to help you achieve the goals of this course and accomplish your personal academic goals. Thus, your regular attendance and informed active participation are expected. The only absences that will be considered excused are death in the family, severe verified/documented personal illness, religious holidays, and participation in University sponsored activities (e.g., intercollegiate sports, etc.)All doctors’ notes must be signed by the doctor on official letter-head/prescription pad. Notes that are not dated, signed, or verifiable will not be accepted. Please note: **Arriving more than 10 minutes late to class constitutes as an absence.** If you are absent for an exam or presentation, you can request to make up the exam/presentation; only extenuating circumstances will be considered.

**Grading Scale, Point Breakdown, Assignments & Exams:**

**Major Assignments:** The course grade will be based on the following components:

Exam #1 60 points

Exam #2 60 points

Bibliographic Research 20 points

Short Paper 20 points

Discussion Leader 50 points

Term Project 150 points

Participation/In-class Assignments 100 points

**TOTAL 460 points**

**Grading Scale:** All assignments will receive a raw numerical score. You can determine your grade at any point during the semester by adding points earned, dividing by points possible and applying the percentage to Saint Mary’s grading scale.

A 94-100% B- 80-83 D+ 67-69

A- 90-93% C+ 77-79 D 63-66

B+ 87-89% C 74-76 D- 60-62

B 84-86% C- 70-73 F 59-below

**Rounding & Evaluation Criteria:** Grades in this course will **not** be rounded up to the nearest whole percentages. This is a departmental policy and is non-negotiable. Student grades will be determined through the professor’s evaluation of the following major assignments. **No** “Incomplete” grades will be assigned. Grades are based on in-class participation (which includes attendance), chapter presentation, group exercises, exams and final project. The grading policy is based upon the principle of participation. Group conflicts and intra-group animosity often result from group members who expect others to do their work, although it may be necessary for group members to occasionally "cover" for a member. A class objective is to learn that group work requires input from each member. Group members have the right to inform instructor that a member has not participated and should not earn the group points for the project. I am the final decision-maker regarding disputes and grading decisions because of lack of participation by individual members, etc.

**Exams:** Exams are designed for you to demonstrate basic understanding and application of selected concepts and terminology introduced in the text and lecture. The two exams are short answer/essay, multiple choice, and true/false. See class schedule for exam dates. When time is available, we may review for upcoming exams.

**Assignment Requirements**: Separate handouts describing the requirements of each component will be posted on Blackboard and reviewed in class throughout the semester. The course requirements (meaning **all are to be completed** to receive full credit) are listed below:

**Participation/In-class assignments:** In-class assignments vary depending on the course material covered. They can be either group or individual work. In-class assignment help you understand the course contents and test your understanding of the course materials, usually at the end of the class.

**Bibliographic Research:** This assignment gives you an opportunity to explore what is being researched in the field of intercultural communication. It also allows you to examine one intercultural communication topic or issue of your interest.

**Short paper:** The paper is a short analysis and/or application of course concepts. More details to come.

**Discussion leader:** You will be assigned with four or five of your classmates to lead one designated class discussion. For each discussion, readings and other references will be given to you prior to the class so that you are prepared to lead the discussion. Grades and comments will be sent to you through email after you’ve completed all the requirements for the assignment.

**Term Project:** You are to engage in a minimum of **10 hours of service** in the community in which you work directly with someone from a cultural background different from your own. The objectives of this project include providing authentic service to meet a community need, applying the principles of intercultural communication to your interactions with people of another cultural background, reflecting on your knowledge of and skills in working with people of another cultural background, and articulating the benefits and challenges of service learning and civic engagement.

**Course Calendar**

The course calendar is **tentative**, meaning I reserve the right to modify the agenda. In addition, you are responsible for checking your Saint Mary’s email account and/or Blackboard on a regular basis for course updates, reminders, etc. Assignments and readings are expected to be completed on the allotted day. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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| **Week 1**  **(Jan 13-19)** | **DISCUSSION TOPIC/ASSIGNED READING** | **ASSIGNMENTS DUE** |
| Tuesday | Syllabus/Intro to course/**Assign Groups** | Chapter 1 |
| Thursday | Defining Culture & Identities | Chapter 1 (cont) |
| **Week 2**  **(Jan 20-26)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | Understanding Face-to-Face and Mediated Communication**/**  **Assign Bibliographic Research** | Chapter 2 |
| Thursday | Understanding Face-to-Face and Mediated Communication | Chapter 2 (cont) |
| **Week 3**  **(Jan 27- Feb 2)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | Culture's Influence on Perception | Chapter 3 **GROUP #1** |
| Thursday | Culture's Influence on Perception | Chapter 3 (cont) |
| **Week 4**  **(Feb 3- Feb 9)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | Barriers to Intercultural Communication | Chapter 4 |
| Thursday | Barriers to Intercultural Communication | Chapter 4 (cont) |
| **Week 5**  **(Feb 10- 16)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | Nonverbal Communication | Chapter 5 **GROUP #2** |
| Thursday | **BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESEARCH DUE** | Chapter 5 (cont) |
| **Week 6**  **(Feb 17- 23)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | Language as a Barrier**/Assign Short Paper** | Chapter 6 (cont) |
| Thursday | Language as a Barrier | Chapter 6 |
| **Week 7**  **(Feb 24- March 2)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | Dimensions of Culture | Chapter 7 **GROUP #3** |
| Thursday | Dimensions of Culture | Chapter 7 (cont) |
| **Week 8**  **(March 3- March 9)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | Exam Review |  |
| Thursday | **MIDTERM EXAM** |  |
| **Week 9**  **(March 10- 16)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | **SPRING BREAK** | **NO CLASS** |
| Thursday | **SPRING BREAK** | **NO CLASS** |
| **Week 10**  **(March 17- 23)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | Dominant US Cultural Patterns**/Assign Term Project** | Chapter 8 **GROUP #4** |
| Thursday | Dominant US Cultural Patterns/Group Work | Chapter 8 (cont) |
| **Week 11**  **(March 24- 30)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | Comparative Cultural Patterns: Arab Culture | Chapter 9 |
| Thursday | Comparative Cultural Patterns: Arab Culture/Group Work | Chapter 9 (cont) |
| **Week 12**  **(March 31- April 6)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | Culture and Gender | Chapter 10  **GROUP #5** |
| Thursday | Culture and Gender/Group Work | Chapter 10 (cont) |
| **Week 13**  **(April 7- 13)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | Contact Between Cultures**/SHORT PAPER DUE** | Chapter 11 |
| Thursday | Immigration and Acculturation/Group Work | Chapter 12 |
| **Week 14**  **(April 14 - 20)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | Cultures Within Cultures | Chapter 13 |
| Thursday | Identity and Subgroups/Group Work | Chapter 14 |
| **Week 15**  **(April 21- 27)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | Group Work |  |
| Thursday | Group Work/Exam Review |  |
| **Week 16**  **(April 28- May 4)** |  |  |
| Tuesday | **TERM PRESENTATIONS** | **Projects Due** |
| Thursday | **TERM PRESENTATIONS** | **Projects Due** |
| **Week 17**  **(May 5- May 11)** |  |  |
|  | **FINAL EXAM** | **Wed, May 8, 4:15p** |