

**University of Calgary
Department of Anthropology**

**DEST 485
Intercultural Communication
Fall 2014
T/Th 2:00 – 3:30**

Instructor: Dr. Marcia Epstein
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Web Page: See D2L

Office Hours: By appointment,
Tuesdays & Thursdays



Course Description

This seminar course examines intercultural communication at the personal, organizational, societal and international levels, including issues of language, power, identity and influence. An attempt will be made throughout to develop the intercultural communication competence of students to prepare them for potential career trajectories.

Objectives of the Course

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- approach intercultural dialogue with greater awareness and sensitivity;
- be better able to understand their own cultural perspectives as well as those of others;
- apply techniques to assess and navigate effectively within situations of cultural diversity;
- understand reasons why communication breakdown occurs in international and intercultural settings;
- grasp the impact globalization is having on human communications today.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Cellphones and pagers must be turned off during class unless you are a health care or law enforcement professional, or responsible for the care of a family member.

Computers are welcome as long as they are used appropriately. Research and note-taking* are appropriate during class. Social sites, Twitter, games, YouTube and e-mail are not.

**Be aware that recent research shows that taking lecture notes on a keyboard produces results that are inferior to handwriting:*

http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/?&WT.mc_id=SA_MB_20140604

and

<http://pss.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/04/22/0956797614524581.abstract>

Textbooks and Readings:

Rogers & Steinfatt, *Intercultural Communication* (at Bookstore)

Assignments and Evaluation

Topic abstracts (2)-----	10%	
Group Seminar Presentations (2)-----	40%	Due Oct 9-21, Nov.20-27
Midterm Exam -----	15%	Oct.23
Final Exam -----	20%	Dec: TBA
Participation: see below -----	15%	

Instructions for assignments:

Seminar group formation: Each group of 3 or 4 members will include a mix of majors from the DEST, COMS, and Anthropology (and other) programs. This will enable cross-pollination of perspectives.

Seminar presentations: Each group will prepare two audio-visual presentations to the class of approx. 15 minutes in length, and hand in:

- a detailed script with full documentation of sources
 - a statement from each member of what you learned from the research
- Guidelines for content will be given in class and posted on D2L.*

Participation:

-Discussion questions will be posted on D2L; involvement in the discussion process and/or posting of questions will be counted as part of your participation score.

-Each student will be required to evaluate and comment constructively on the presentations of two other seminar groups, and to post the comments on D2L..

Guidelines for how this is to be done will be posted on D2L: all comments must be kept thoughtful and polite.

Examinations: Questions will be drawn from material in the text, from seminar presentations, and potentially from relevant issues in the news that are discussed in class. Some questions will involve speculative thinking (e.g. *In situation X, what should I say?*)

All assignments must normally be completed or a grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Note: You will be graded on the results of your work. Hard work does not merit an A unless it produces outstanding results.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: Yes

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

If you need an extension, ask ahead of time: they're possible with a good reason.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and

organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading System

Work in this course will be graded using percentage grades (point system). The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in Communication and Culture:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Department grade scale equivalents	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	00 - 49.99%	0%

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor Taylor Family Digital Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:
<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/ethics/cfieb>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

9/9 **Introduction of concepts:** *What is culture, anyway? How do we form cultural identities? How do we learn and speak about them?*

9/11 **Context & Contact**

Read: R&S ch. 1

Formation of project groups, round 1: mixing cultures

9/16 **Why study cultural communication?**

Read: R&S ch.2

9/18 **Culture, ethnocentrism, intercultural**

Read: R&S ch. 3

Formation of project groups, round 2: finding focus

The rest of the schedule will be posted on D2L at the beginning of September. It will include guest lectures and panel discussions with professionals in intercultural communications. Please have a look at the schedule before classes start.