



## COMM 4510: Intercultural Communication

Course Number 81477

Course Syllabus, Fall 2014

Individuals with disabilities who need to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Student Center 255, 678-466-5445, [disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu).

### **Instructor Contact Information:**

Dr. Shelley McGinnis

phone: (678) 466-4712

fax: (678) 466-4769

e-mail: [smcginnis3@clayton.edu](mailto:smcginnis3@clayton.edu)

internet: <http://faculty.clayton.edu/mcginnis>

**Office:** Arts and Sciences Building, Room G116

**Office hours:** 3:30 – 4:45 TR

**Classroom:** Arts and Sciences Building, Room G121

**Class times:** TR 6:30 – 7:45 pm

**Textbook:** *Intercultural Communication*, by Everett M. Rogers and Thomas M. Steinfatt.

**Credit Hours:** 3.0 semester credit hours

### **Catalog Description:**

Intercultural Communication is a course dedicated to theories and practices of communicating across cultures. The students will learn how other cultures deal with conflict, context, and communication.

**Course Prerequisites:** COMM 1110 with a minimum grade of C.

### **Computer Requirement:**

Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student's academic program. Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU's Official Notebook Computer Policy, please go to <http://www.clayton.edu/hub/itpchoice/notebookcomputerpolicy>.

**Computer Skill Prerequisites:**

Students should be able to use:

- Windows operating system
- PowerPoint™, Microsoft Word, and Outlook™
- Desire2Learn
- A Web browser and conduct research through library databases

**In-class use of Notebook Computers:**

Student notebook computers will be used in the classroom in this course for presentations. Computers will be necessary to access course materials and to communicate with your instructor.

**Program Learning Outcomes:**

General Education Outcomes:

The following links provides descriptions of the communication and core curriculum outcomes.

[http://www.clayton.edu/Portals/5/core\\_curriculum\\_outcomes\\_clayton.pdf](http://www.clayton.edu/Portals/5/core_curriculum_outcomes_clayton.pdf)

CMS outcomes: <http://a-s.clayton.edu/vpa/cms/>

This course may be evaluated for how it contributes to the first program outcome below.

Graduates of the B.A. program in Communication and Media Studies will demonstrate this characteristic:

1. Communicate effectively using multiple channels of communication.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

After completing this course successfully, students should be able to:

1. Understand the reciprocal effects of intercultural perceptions on policy, and of policy on intercultural perceptions, in international history
2. Understand the way communication functions in intercultural settings
3. Understand how culture affects the communication process
4. Understand the role of historical, political, and religious factors in creating cultural stereotypes, perceptions, fears, desires, and misunderstandings

**Evaluation:**

In-class exercises	30
Cultural identity paper	10
Midterm exam	20
Group project	20

**Grading:** Grades are based upon the percentage of total points using the standard college scale:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = < 60

**Mid-Point Progress Report:**

The mid-term grade in this course will be issued by **October 9**. Based on this grade, students may choose to withdraw from the course and receive a grade of "W." Students pursuing this option must fill out an official withdrawal form, available in the Office of the Registrar or online, by mid-term, which occurs on **Friday, October 10**. This is the last day to withdraw without academic accountability.

**Course Schedule:**

The tentative course schedule for COMM 4510, Intercultural Communication, is provided below. Text chapter references are to Rogers and Steinfatt, *Intercultural Communication*.

Date	Topic	Reading	Due
August 19	Introduction, course overview		
August 21	Understanding cultural differences		In-class exercise
August 26	Context and contact	Chapter 1	
August 28	Context and contact cont'd		
September 2	The study of intercultural communication	Chapter 2	
September 4	Intercultural communication cont'd		
September 9	What is culture?	Chapter 3	

September 11	Cultural effects on communication		In-class exercise
September 16	Film: <i>Twelve Angry Men</i>		
September 18	Finish film; cultural deconstruction: United States		In-class exercise
September 23	Cultural universals		In-class exercise
September 25	Communication	Chapter 4	
September 30	Film: <i>An Idiot Abroad</i>		<b>Cultural identity paper due</b>
October 2	Review		Bring questions
October 7			<b>Midterm Exam</b>
October 9	Verbal communication	Chapter 5	
October 14	<b>Fall Break</b>		
October 16	Self-disclosure		In-class exercise
October 21	Nonverbal communication	Chapter 6	
October 23	Nonverbal cont'd		
October 28	Assimilation and sojourning	Chapter 7	
October 30	Returning home		In-class exercise
November 4	Becoming more intercultural	Chapter 8	
November 6	Stereotypes and attributions		In-class exercise
November 11	Watch <i>Do the Right Thing</i>		
November 13	Finish film; analysis		In-class exercise
November 18	The global village	Chapter 9	
November 20	Global village cont'd		
November 25	Group workshop		<b>Bring an outline</b>
November 27	<b>Thanksgiving</b>		
December 2			<b>Group presentations</b>

December 4	Review		Bring questions
December 11			<b>Final Exam</b>

## Course Policies:

### General Policy

Students must abide by policies in the [Clayton State University Student Handbook](#), and the [Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities](#).

### University Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting. Instructors establish specific policies relating to absences in their courses and communicate these policies to the students through the course syllabi. Individual instructors, based upon the nature of the course, determine what effect excused and unexcused absences have in determining grades and upon students' ability to remain enrolled in their courses. The university reserves the right to determine that excessive absences, whether justified or not, are sufficient cause for institutional withdrawals or failing grades.

### Course Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected for all class periods. Attendance is required for examination periods, in-class exercises, and presentations. In the event that there is an unavoidable reason for an absence, please contact the instructor ahead of time via e-mail. Students may be required to document reasons for absences. Students with excessive absences (excused or unexcused), i.e., more than six class periods, may be administratively withdrawn from the course.

### Missed Work

Without valid excuse, a grade of zero points will be assigned for missed work.

*Presentations:* Speakers are expected to present on the date assigned. Those who, due to serious illness or other extreme circumstances, are unable to present at the scheduled time must contact the instructor via e-mail before appointed date. This contact does not guarantee that the excuse will be accepted, but does guarantee that the excuse will be considered. Being unprepared to speak is not an excuse for not giving a speech as scheduled.

*In-class assignments:* These activities and assignments that occur in class, by their very nature, cannot be made up.

*Exams:* Student must contact the instructor via e-mail or telephone before the test is administered if serious illness or other extreme circumstances prevent the student from taking the test.

### Academic Dishonesty

Any type of activity that is considered dishonest by reasonable standards may constitute academic misconduct. The most common forms of academic misconduct are

cheating and plagiarism. All instances of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the work involved and may involve more serious consequences. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Student Life/Judicial Affairs. Judicial procedures are described beginning on page 14 of the [Student Handbook](#) (Procedures for Adjudicating Alleged Academic Conduct Infractions).

### **Disruption of the Learning Environment**

Behavior which disrupts the teaching-learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom setting, more serious examples include belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. A student who fails to respond to reasonable faculty direction regarding classroom behavior and/or behavior while participating in classroom activities may be dismissed from class. A student who is dismissed is entitled to due process and will be afforded such rights as soon as possible following dismissal. If found in violation, a student may be administratively withdrawn and may receive a grade of WF.

A more detailed description of examples of disruptive behavior and appeal procedures is provided at:

<http://www.clayton.edu/Portals/5/DisruptiveClassroomBehavior.pdf>

### **Other Policies**

- Cell phones must be turned off prior to the beginning of class.
- All assignments listed on this syllabus must be typewritten and submitted to D2L (not via e-mail) by due date (see late assignment policy).
- Students may only use laptops and electronic devices in class for instructional purposes (taking notes, giving a presentation, etc.)