

# 892-226 Intercultural Communication

## Course syllabus

### Course instructor

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### Course objectives

After completing the course, you should be able to:

- (a) Identify types of culture and areas of possible difference between them.
- (b) Discuss the role culture plays in communication between individuals and groups.
- (c) Analyse how culture is reflected in present-day events and debates in particular societies.

### Course contents

| Week | Unit title                           | Contents   |
|------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1    | <b>Course introduction</b>           |  |
| 2-3  | <b>Unit 1: Understanding culture</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What culture is and what it is not</li><li>• Different types of culture</li><li>• Visible and invisible culture</li></ul>                                    |
| 4-5  | <b>Unit 2: Culture and tradition</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The nature of cultural change and what lies behind it</li><li>• The role traditions play in culture</li></ul> Case study: Social class in the United Kingdom |
| 6-7  | <b>Unit 3: Culture and values</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The role of values in culture</li><li>• How values develop in different communities</li></ul> Case study: The culture war in Trump's America                 |
| 8    | <b>Review</b>                        |  |
| M    | Midterm exam                         |  |

|       |  |   |
|-------|--|---|
| 9-10  | <b>Unit 4: Culture and migration</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture and individual identity</li> <li>• Cultural mixing and social change</li> </ul> Case study: The Thai Chinese community |
| 11-12 | <b>Unit 5: Culture and global empire</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture and (post)colonialism</li> <li>• Culture and globalization</li> </ul> Case study: Global brands                        |
| 13-14 | <b>Unit 6: Subculture and counterculture</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainstream and alternative culture</li> <li>• Cultural appropriation</li> </ul> Case study: Hip Hop in the US                  |
| 15    | <b>Review</b>                                |   |
| F     | Final exam                                   |   |

### Course assessment

#### Activities and weighting

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Attendance<br><i>I will check attendance ten times randomly during the semester. If you are present, you will gain 0.5%.</i>  | 5%  |
| Participation in discussion activities<br><i>I will give chances for you to volunteer and participate as often as possible. Each time you volunteer, you gain 1%.</i>                 | 5%  |
| Group assignment – Cultural analysis<br><i>Effective work in consultations – 10%, Online presentation – 10%, Report – 10%</i>   | 30% |
| Midterm exam (written)<br><i>Written exam covering topics from the first part of the course.</i>  | 30% |
| Final exam (spoken)<br><i>Each student will have a 15-minute one-on-one discussion about the topics in the second part. You will be able to see part of the questions in advance.</i> | 30% |

Grading criteria

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>%</b> | <b>Exams</b>  | <b>Assignments</b>   | <b>Participation</b>  |
|--------------|----------|---|--|---|
| A            | 87.5%    | The student performs exceptionally well both when relating knowledge and when asked to apply it, with practically no flaws. | The assignment is exceptional in the sense that it examines all sides of an issue, including more complex ones, with high quality. | The student attends class regularly and is a valuable, critical contributor to in-class discussions.                |
| B+           | 80%      | The student demonstrates very good command of relevant areas as well as ability to apply knowledge, with minimal errors.    | The assignment is very good and provides evidence of significant investment, including some examination of more complex issues.    | The student attends class regularly and contributes to in-class discussions, in some cases on their own initiative. |
| B            | 73%      | The student demonstrates good command of most relevant areas, though errors appear in relation to more advanced tasks.      | The assignment is good and demonstrates that the student has invested time in it, even if it avoids examining advanced topics.     | The student attends class regularly and contributes relevant points discussions when called upon.                   |
| C+           | 66.5%    | The student demonstrates average command of relevant knowledge, with significant flaws in some areas.                       | The assignment demonstrates sufficient investment but is largely superficial and exhibits flaws in some areas.                     | The student generally attends class and sometimes contributes relevant points to the discussion when called upon.   |
| C            | 61%      | The student demonstrates below average command of relevant knowledge, with flaws present in several areas.                  | The assignment demonstrates below average quality and investment and is flawed in different areas.                                 | The student generally attends class but rarely contributes relevant points, including when called upon.             |
| D+           | 55.5%    | The student demonstrates poor command of relevant knowledge with serious flaws in several areas.                            | The assignment demonstrates poor quality, insufficient investment and contains serious flaws in key areas.                         | The student often misses class and rarely contributes.  |
| D            | 50%      | The student only demonstrates sufficient knowledge to avoid failing the exam.   | The assignment only demonstrates sufficient investment and quality to avoid being failed.  | The student often misses class and never contributes.   |
| E            | 0-49%    | The student demonstrates little or no relevant knowledge.   | The assignment is completely insufficient or was not handed in.  | The student skips class or arrives late almost constantly.  |

### **Course policies**

I ask that you inform me in advance wherever possible of any upcoming absence or failure to meet deadlines. If sufficient valid evidence (e.g. medical certificates, faculty letters) is provided, I am happy to discuss alternative arrangements. If no evidence is provided:

- Each absence will be punished by a 0.5% deduction. Additionally, if late arrivals become commonplace they will be treated as absences.
- Late assignments will be punished by a deduction of 25% if submitted up to one week late and will not be accepted after one week.

**Any work found to have been plagiarised from the internet or from another student will be awarded zero points.**