



South Central College

COMM 130 Intercultural Communication

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Description	The focus of intercultural communication is to develop and improve the knowledge needed to understand culture, communication, how culture influences communication, and the process of communication between people from different cultures or co-cultures. The course also focuses on practicing the skills needed for effective intercultural interactions. (Prerequisite: Accuplacer Reading Score of 78 or above or completion of READ 0090) (MNTC Goal Areas 7, 8: Human Diversity, Global Perspectives)
Total Credits	3
Total Hours	48

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type	Credits/Hours
Lecture	3/48

Institutional Core Competencies

Communication - Students will be able to demonstrate appropriate and effective interactions with others to achieve their personal, academic, and professional objectives.

Cultural Competence - Students will be able to demonstrate an attitude of personal curiosity, a rising knowledge of cultures, and an evolving range of skills for living and working among others with other worldviews and ways of life.

Course Competencies

1. Explore how cultural identity shapes, and is shaped, by communication.

Learning Objectives

Examine the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States (U.S.), history and culture.

Describe the varying social identities.

Articulate the connection between history and social identities.

Identify content and strength of social identities as it relates to out-group communication.

2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.

Learning Objectives

Describe the dominant American culture.
Differentiate between low and high power distance cultures.
Discuss the relationship between power and resources.
Identify cultural racism.
Articulate ways dominant cultures uses co-cultural differences to maintain unequal power distribution.

3. Analyze own attitudes, behaviors, concepts, and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.

Learning Objectives

Compare/contrast stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, and racism.
Articulate own biases toward out-groups.
Analyze accuracy of personal biases.
Provide examples of diversity.
Identify personal ethnocentrism and stereotypes.

4. Explain the need for intercultural communication competency in a global and ever-changing world.

Learning Objectives

Recognize limitations of culture on the individual.
Practice perspective taking.
Identify origins of conflicts and misunderstanding.
Use uncertainty reduction/anxiety reduction strategies.
Demonstrate mindful communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

5. Analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

Learning Objectives

Compare/contrast patterns of thought, value, belief, and behavior (verbal and nonverbal) exhibited in different cultures.
Explain dynamics of cultural patterns.
Describe the influence of world view on inter and intracultural relations.
Articulate relationships between family and culture.
Describe the influence of history on culture.
Analyze the effect of a language on culture.

6. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious, and linguistic differences.

Learning Objectives

Identify universals and differences among all human groups.
Describe the cultural patterns of various cultures.
Describe major world religions.
Explain language differences between cultures and co-cultures.
Describe functions varying and alternative languages serve for co-cultures existing in the U.S.
Articulate relationship between biology and culture.

7. Explain the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

Learning Objectives

Define world citizen.
Explain the importance of practicing effective intercultural communication as a world citizen.
Value differences among people.

8. Assess personal intercultural communication competency.

Learning Objectives

Define intercultural communication.
Describe the complexities of engaging in intercultural communication.
Describe the changing nature of the world and its influences on intercultural communication.
Define culture and co-culture.

Identify symptoms of culture shock and the correct balance between thresholds of anxiety and uncertainty.
Identify the cultural, socio-cultural, and psycho-cultural filters present when communicating with out-groups.

9. Define the role of perception and bias in intercultural communication interactions.

Learning Objectives

Define perception.
Analyze components of culture affecting perceptions.
Question our perception of others.
Practice perception-checking techniques.

10. Use verbal language effectively in intercultural communication.

Learning Objectives

Select appropriate communication choices for specific audiences.
Articulate the influence language has on culture.
Speak mindfully.

11. Use nonverbal communication effectively with other cultures.

Learning Objectives

Recognize importance of studying nonverbal cues.
Describe the function of nonverbal cues for cultures.
Identify the various nonverbal codes operating in communication.
Distinguish own nonverbal cues in relation to one's culture.
Interpret others' nonverbal cues in relation to their culture.

12. Practice active listening in intercultural and intracultural situations.

Learning Objectives

Listen mindfully.
Observe attentively.
Describe the importance of attending to nonverbal communication while listening.
Ask relevant questions.

13. Articulate the skills needed to manage various intercultural communication contexts.

Learning Objectives

Define effective intercultural communication in the business setting.
Describe effective communication skills for the health setting.
Articulate varying cultural approaches and expectations to education.
Practice effective intercultural communication in a variety of contexts.

14. Practice effective oral and written communication skills.

Learning Objectives

Write with clarity so others can understand.
Participate appropriately in group discussions.
Participate effectively in groups with emphasis on listening, critical and reflective thinking, and responding.
Conduct research in an ethical manner using material from diverse sources and points of view.

SCC Accessibility Statement

South Central College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you have a disability and need accommodations for access to this class, contact the Academic Support Center to request and discuss accommodations. North Mankato: Room B-132, (507) 389-7222; Faribault: Room A-116, (507) 332-7222.

Additional information and forms can be found at: www.southcentral.edu/disability

This material can be made available in alternative formats by contacting the Academic Support Center at 507-389-7222.

