AEC 3073 INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION
Ms. Mary Rodriguez

Spring 2015
AEC 3073 - Section 2D38
General Education Categories:
Social & Behavioral Sciences (S) and International (N) or S and Diversity (D)
Three (3) Credit Hours

Tuesday (5th and 6th period) 11:45- 1:40pm
Thursday (6th period) 12:50- 1:40pm
Room: Turlington 2333

Instructor: Ms. Mary Rodriguez
Rolfs Hall 310
Phone : 352- 273- 2614
mary.rodriguez@ufl.edu
Office hours: By appointment

(2nd ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Thomson Learning

Additional Materials: Course assignment descriptions, additional readings, and other critical
documents will be posted on the course Web site on Canvas.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The course seeks to increase knowledge of the sociological, anthropological, psychological and
linguistic perspectives of intercultural communication and to improve skills and abilities in this
area. Learners will examine values and beliefs, perceptions and practices, attitudes, and verbal
and nonverbal behavior to identify and understand differences in communication patterns
among individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. The course provides learners with an
opportunity to enhance their own cultural competence in communication through practical
application of intercultural communication principles and concepts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of the course learners should be able to:
1. Recognize the broad range of theoretical, philosophical, linguistic, anthropological and
   practical issues involved in intercultural communication and cultural competence
2. Develop appropriate and effective skills in the field of intercultural communication,
   particularly in the areas of cultural knowledge and sensitivity
3. Describe the essential role that culture plays on people’s perceptions, beliefs,
   communication patterns and behavior
4. Recognize and interpret underlying cultural values, messages, and implicit cultural meanings
   expressed in intercultural communication
5. Understand and discuss the relationship of ethics with both communication and culture
6. Analyze and evaluate their own cultural patterns and preferred communication style in relation to other cultures, domestic and international
7. Develop a cross-cultural understanding of the US society
8. Enhance their intercultural communication proficiency.

COURSE FORMAT: This course is highly interactive. It includes lectures, class discussions, videos, small-group activities, guest speakers, in-class exercises, written assignments, web-based assignments, and exams. Also, this is a blended learning course; use of the Internet, email, and Canvas is essential.

COURSE WEBSITE: This course uses an *E-Learning System: Canvas*. It is *essential* for all students to access Canvas at least once a week in order to keep up with readings and other assignments, as well as to check for any announcements. To log in, open your Internet browser, navigate to [https://lss.at.ufl.edu](https://lss.at.ufl.edu), click the “e-Learning in Canvas” button.

The course’s Canvas site will be used to distribute course and supplemental materials including course information, additional readings, announcements, and grades; as well as to send and receive emails. If you encounter any difficulties, please contact the computer help desk at helpdesk@ufl.edu or 352-392-HELP (4357). If you miss completing an assignment because of computer issues, you will need to submit a copy of a UF Help Desk ticket as proof of your technical issues. Otherwise, any missed assignments will receive zero points.

GRADING SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>POINTS REQUIRED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>900 - 1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>860 - 899</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>800 - 859</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>760 - 799</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>700 - 759</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>660 - 699</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>600 - 659</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>599 and under</td>
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For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Group project</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Exams (3 @ 150 pts. each)</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Intercultural experiences (3 @ 50 pts. each)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Short assignments, unannounced quizzes, class activities</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>11.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Class attendance and participation (44 periods @ 2 pts. each)</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>8.8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000 points</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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DESCRIPTION AND EXPECTATIONS OF ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Group Project**  
You will be assigned to a group of four other class participants the 4th week of classes. The group will select, research, and provide an oral report on an intercultural communication topic of interest to the group and approved by the instructor. Groups need to determine the project’s topic by **February 10**. A general outline of the project is due **February 24**. Class time will be provided to work on the presentation. However, **outside-class group meetings are necessary to complete this assignment**. Presentations are scheduled from **March 17** through **April 21**. Groups will submit an electronic copy of their presentation including a bibliography consisting of at least five (5) sources other than the textbook. Group presentations are limited to 25 minutes followed by a 5-minute Q&A section. This assignment is worth a maximum of **200 points**. You and your collaborators will receive the same exact number of points - out of **140 possible ones (70% of the grade)** - as determined by the instructor.

The remaining **60 possible points** (30% of the grade) will be determined by an anonymous evaluation of your performance by each of the other members of your team. Therefore, each of you will receive the points earned collectively (out of 140) added to the points given to you by your colleagues (out of 60). Two hundred (**200**) is the maximum number of points that anyone may earn in this assignment.

**The grading criteria for this assignment will be available on the course website. Please see Canvas for the detailed rubric.**

2. **Exams**  
Three (3) written exams of 150 points each will be given throughout the semester: **February 5, March 12, and April 29**. There will be a review and discussion of each exam on the class preceding the exam. The exams will take place during class time. Should there be an excused
absence, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor no less than a week before the exam to schedule a makeup time.

3. **Intercultural Experiences**
Throughout the semester you will have several opportunities to attend various cultural events. You will attend three (3) cultural events and submit an electronic report submitted on Canvas for each assignment, on January 29, March 19, and April 14 respectively. The written report should consist of no more than two (2) typed, double-spaced pages.

**The grading criteria for this assignment will be available on the course website. Please see Canvas for the detailed rubric.**

4. **Short Assignments, Quizzes, Class Activities**
Throughout the semester the instructor will have unannounced quizzes, short assignments due within a week, and in-class activities worth a specific number of points; for a total of 112 possible points. **There will be no make-ups for unannounced quizzes or in-class activities.**

**The grading criteria for these short assignments will be available on the course website. Please see Canvas for the detailed rubric per assignment.**

**COURSE POLICIES**

Class Attendance and Participation: This course requires attendance and active participation since it relies extensively on discussion and other class interactions. Please contact Ms. Rodriguez **PRIOR** to the scheduled class time if you are ill or have an emergency. Much of the course material will be absorbed through class discussions, small group exercises, and other learning activities. Therefore, you are expected to complete all assigned readings **before** class and to engage in discussions **during** class. There will be 44 two-point attendance/participation opportunities over the course of the semester. Since class consists of two periods on Tuesdays and one period on Thursdays, you will earn 4 and 2 points respectively for a total of 88 possible points. Your participation grade is based upon three components: (1) your attendance in class, (2) the quality of your participation in class, and (3) completion of assignments. You will **not** be allowed to make-up any of these points. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Written Assignments: Good writing skills are essential in today’s competitive job market. To project a professional image, make sure all your written assignments are presented in well-developed sentences and paragraphs. All writing assignments should be typewritten, double-spaced; grammatically correct; and free of mechanical, spelling and punctuation errors. Before you submit any written assignment, edit your paper thoroughly and carefully. **All assignments should be submitted through Canvas (lss.at.ufl.edu). Please do not email me any assignment.**
It is your responsibility to store your written assignments so you can provide a back-up copy if an assignment is misplaced.

**Late and Make-up Assignments:** All late assignments will be accepted but will include a penalty of 10% off points per day late (including weekends). Work more than a week late will NOT be accepted. Make-up assignments will be accepted only when you have an excused absence - as defined in the University Catalog - and written documentation. There will be NO make-ups for: in-class quizzes and small-group activities. It is understood that emergencies will occur. If you must miss class, please let me know as soon as possible. In these cases, you may have to turn in the assignment early. Following an excused absence, students may turn in late work without penalty within 3 business days of the absence. You are responsible for getting missed work and notes and all information communicated in class - including handouts, announcements, and changes in dates and assignments.

**Digital Devices:** Basic courtesy is expected from all the members of the course. Out of respect for others NO cell phones are permitted in class. Students should turn off their cellular phones before entering the classroom. Laptops and iPads will be allowed when indicated.

**Communication:** Email is the most direct way to reach the instructor. Using Canvas does not guarantee the email will be read or answered as quickly as possible. Please email Ms. Rodriguez at mary.rodriguez@ufl.edu and include the Course AEC 3073 in the subject of the email. Your emails will be read and answered as quickly as possible. Please have respect for the instructor’s time and do not EXPECT a response from 8pm- 8am.

**STATEMENT ABOUT PLAGIARISM**
Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any plagiarism offense violates the UF Honor Code that all students and faculty have agreed to follow. If caught, you will be subject to punishment according to the standard judicial procedures. A full explanation of plagiarism and its consequences is found at [http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/07b/studentplagiarism.html](http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/07b/studentplagiarism.html).

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**
The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students.

Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code: *We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold...*
ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS
Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results.

SOFTWARE USE
All students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND CLASSROOM ACCOMMODATION
The Disability Resource Center in 0001 Building 0020-Reid Hall (352-392-8565 phone, accessuf@dso.ufl.edu email, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/ website) coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide the documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

CAMPUS HELPING RESOURCES
Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.
University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/
Career Resource Center, CR-100 JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/
Student Mental Health Services, Rm. 245 Student Health Care Center in the Infirmary, 392-1171, www.shcc.ufl.edu/smhs/
   Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)
   Center for Sexual Assault / Abuse Recovery & Education (CARE)
   Eating Disorders Program
   Employee Assistance Program
   Suicide Prevention Program

DISCLAIMER
Serious effort and consideration were used in formulating the syllabus presented by the instructor. While viewed as an educational contract between the instructor and student, unforeseen events may cause changes to the scheduling of assignments, quizzes, exams, etc. The instructor reserves the right to make any changes deemed necessary to best fulfill the course objectives. Students registered for this course will be made aware of any changes in a timely fashion using reasonable means. This disclaimer does not abrogate any student rights as described by University rules and regulations.