INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION  
COM 3461  
A Global Learning Designated Course¹  
Reference: 17709  
Spring 2015  
Section U01  
Tuesday- Thursday  
12:30pm-1:45pm  
SIPA 103

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Gain a thorough understanding of culture and cultural identity
- Examine the relationship between culture and communication
- Explore intercultural communication in different contexts
- Critically analyze your own cultural perceptions and their influence on your communication interactions

GLOBAL LEARNING COURSE OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

- Have become aware of the interrelatedness of local, global, international and intercultural issues, trends, and systems as they pertain to intercultural communication. (Global Awareness)
- Have acquired the ability to develop a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural communication issues. (Global Perspective)
- Be prepared to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving involving intercultural communication. (Global Engagement)

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This syllabus is a contract of understanding between professor and student. If the assignments and grading system are not acceptable, then the student needs to negotiate a change by midnight Sunday on the second week of class or accept the rules as written.

CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This Code of Academic Integrity was adopted by the Student Government Association on November 28, 2001 and reflects the values articulated in the Student Code of Standards.

¹ This is a Global Learning designated course that counts toward your Global Learning graduation requirement.
Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of Florida International University.

As a student of this university:

- I will be honest in my academic endeavors.
- I will not represent someone else's work as my own.
- I will not cheat, nor will I aid in another's cheating.

All students are deemed by the university to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Code of Academic Integrity’s procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the FIU Student Handbook. Students have the right to due process in all disciplinary situations. For additional information concerning student rights and responsibilities, please contact FIU’s Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Note: Intensive auditing of the course will be conducted to prevent academic misconduct.

**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS’ MINIMUM GRADE POLICY, TURNITIN.COM, AND GRADEMARK**

All written assignments must be submitted to Turnitin.com by the posted deadline. Assignments submitted by any other means or after the deadline will not be accepted and evaluated without proper supporting documentation.

The first week of this course you will be required to register with Turnitin.com. The Class ID and Password will be provided to you. If you have difficulties creating your Turnitin.com account, please review the following video:


Once your assignment has been uploaded successfully to Turnitin.com, you will receive a confirmation receipt. Please keep this confirmation number for future reference. Within a few hours your assignment will be assigned an originality/similarity percentage. For further information as to how the similarity/originality percentage is calculated and why it is important, please review the following video:

[http://www.turnitin.com/static/videos/or_vid.html](http://www.turnitin.com/static/videos/or_vid.html)

The written comments on your assignment are accessible using the GradeMark function within Turnitin. If you do not know how to access the written comments using the GradeMark function, please review pages 15-16 of the Turnitin.com Student Manual:


**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**STUDENT CODE OF STANDARDS**

A University is a learning community following a tradition more than 1,000 years old. Florida International University is such a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge
through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. As a member of this community:

- I will respect the tradition of academic inquiry, the University’s rules of conduct, and its mission.
- I will respect the opinions and differences of all members of the FIU community.
- I will practice civility and demonstrate conduct that reflects the values of the institution.
- I will be diligent and honest in my personal and academic endeavors.

The FIU Student Handbook outlines the Student Code of Conduct regarding students with disruptive behavior.

Website: [www.fiu.edu/~sccr/docs/disruptive_brochure.doc](http://www.fiu.edu/~sccr/docs/disruptive_brochure.doc)

**POLICY FOR ASSIGNING AN INCOMPLETE "I" GRADE**

An incomplete grade is a temporary symbol given for work not completed because of serious interruption not caused by the student's own negligence. An incomplete must be made up as quickly as possible, but no later than two consecutive semesters after the initial taking of the course or it will automatically default to an "F" or the grade that the student earned in the course. There is no extension of the two semester deadline. The student must not register again for the course to make up the incomplete. Students who have incomplete grades on their records must remove the incomplete by the end of the fourth week of the term in which they plan to graduate. Failure to do so will result in a cancellation of graduation.

Incompletes are awarded only if the student has completed most of the course work. If a student misses a significant portion of the course work, he/she should drop the course. If the drop period has ended, the student may petition for a withdrawal—this requires the student to un-enroll in all of their courses for that semester.

Incompletes are not to be used because a student took on too many credits and they cannot complete everything that is now required of them.

In such cases where the course instructor determines that it appropriate to award a student a grade of "I" (incomplete) the following steps must be followed.

Using an Official University Form the course instructor will report the following:

1. The grade earned by the student to date
2. The missing work and the percentage of the final grade it represents (this requires the details of the specific missing assignment)
3. The date the instructor expects the missing work to be submitted or in the case of an examination made up
4. The justification for awarding the grade of "I"
5. Have the student sign the form
6. Submit this form to the Department Chair and Dean and maintain a copy for instructor records and provide a copy for the student
7. Upon satisfying the requirements for a grade the instructor will sign off on the form and attach it to the change of grade form she or he will submit.
RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS
The University's policy on religious holy days as stated in the University Catalog and Student Handbook will be followed in this class. Any student may request to be excused from class to observe a religious holy day of his or her faith.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. One element of this legislation requires that all qualified students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation please contact the Disability Resource Center.

University Park Campus, GC 190
Voice: (305) 348-3532
TTY: (305) 348-3852
Fax: (305) 348-3850
Email: drcupgl@fiu.edu

UNIVERSITY LEARNING CENTER
One of the university resources available to you is the University Learning Center. The center is there to assist you in all your learning needs. They offer tutoring, support for writing papers, studying for your classes, and preparing for your exams. They also offer online support. I urge you to utilize this resource, which is available to all FIU students. You can find more information at http://learningcenter.fiu.edu or GL 120 (305) 348-2441 on the main campus or ACI 160 (305) 919-5927 on the Biscayne Bay campus.

CLASSROOM ETHICS
This class will be based on discussion and interaction between students. Different opinions and perspectives are encouraged. I want this classroom to be a space where you can all safely voice your ideas and opinions. To provide such an environment, the students are expected to show each other respect. Differences of opinions, beliefs, and ideas will be discussed in a nonjudgmental, respectful, and open manner. Profanity is unacceptable.

As for cell phones, ipads, and other electronic equipment... Please turn them all off or the very least make sure they are silent. When you are in the classroom, I expect you to be in the classroom mentally as well, which means no text messaging or playing games. If you wish to use your laptop for taking notes, you may do so as long as your wireless connection is disabled.

COURSEWORK:
In this course, you will be evaluated on your participation and performance on a number of assignments. All assignments require studying and applying the knowledge in the book.
Therefore you need to purchase your code for Pearson and start studying the book as soon as semester starts.

**Attendance and Participation:**
Attendance is crucial in this class. Our exploration of the subject depends on our class discussions. You will learn from each other as much as you will learn from the material and me. As college students you need to develop the critical thinking skills that will allow you to analyze what you learn and apply it to your lives. The foundation of the class is discussion and interaction between you and your classmates. Therefore, attendance is a vital part of the class. You are expected to come to each class and be on time. Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester. If you come to class late or leave early, you will be marked as absent. Attendance alone is insufficient for creating a vivid and effective classroom setting. For that, you need to show great participation. You need to be a part of the class discussions and show me that not only you have read and understood the material, but also you are questioning and analyzing the concepts. **Please take notice that I expect you to come to class having read the material.**

**Global Learning Outcome:** Your participation in the class will help develop your global awareness, perspective, and engagement. You will learn from one another about different cultural practices and identities. You will gain a different perspective about culture and the world in general. Through discussions and interaction with one another, you will learn to engage with those whose culture and cultural perspectives are different than your own.

**Exams:**
You have two exams in this class. Both exams will be available on Pearson My Lab and Mastering. The exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions, which will evaluate your understanding of the book. You will have a 24-hour window, in which to take the exams; and two hours to complete each exam, once you start. Please note that you will be taking the exam outside our class time, which means we WILL be meeting in class in our regular time on the day of the exams.

**Cultural Exchange Project:**
This is a semester long project, most of which will be the conducted out-of-class. You will pair with another student in class. You and your partner should be unfamiliar with each other’s cultures; in other words, you should belong to significantly different cultural groups (i.e. different nationalities, ethnicities, or religions). You will take turns introducing each other to your own cultures. You and your partner may attend a festival, visit a temple, or simply go to a restaurant specific to your culture; and then conduct a similar activity specific to your partner’s culture. During this intercultural contact, ask each other questions- in other words, interview one another- to gain an insight about the culture and the event or activity you experience. After each contact you will write a report. One report focusing on what you learned about your partner’s culture: values, traditions, understandings…etc. (*Cultural Exchange Analysis*). The other report focusing on what you shared about your own culture (*Personal Cultural Analysis*). After each report is submitted, you will peer-review your partner’s report and write an evaluation about it.

**Cultural Exchange Analysis:** 70 points  
**Personal Cultural Analysis:** 70 points  
**Peer Review:** 60 points (30 points each)
Global Learning Outcome: This project aims to fulfill global learning objectives of awareness, perspective, and engagement. This project gives you an opportunity to engage in intercultural exchange and intercultural communication. Furthermore, through this project you are encouraged to critically think about culture: your own culture, another culture that is different than yours and the interaction between two people belonging to each. Pay attention to similarities and differences, difficulties of interaction, and how you can overcome specific obstacles while communicating with one another.

Group Presentations:
There are two group presentations in the class. You will be working with the same group of students throughout the semester and you will be assigned a country for your presentations. First presentation will focus on introducing your classmates to your assigned country. You will talk about where the country is, give us examples of famous places/people/artifacts associates with it, and provide us a general understanding about it. Second presentation will focus on the cultural specifics: explore certain traditions, values, perspectives of your assigned country, and explain cultural characteristics, which you think will be unfamiliar to your peers. For each presentation you need to utilize at least 15 outside sources.

Global Learning Outcome: This project aims to enhance your global awareness, perspective, and engagement. In order to succeed, you need to, first and foremost, understand your assigned country’s culture thoroughly. Besides being aware of the country’s culture, you also need to understand specific values, traditions, and perspectives. A part of the project is to help your classmates learn and understand your assigned country’s culture, which you think will be unfamiliar to them. In order to determine what is and isn’t familiar to your audience, you also need to analyze your audience’s culture. You need to determine your audience’s perspective, so you can help change and/or enhance that perspective. The project also gives you an opportunity for global engagement, since you will be working with group members, whose culture and cultural understanding will be different than your own.

With each presentation, please turn in a page with the names of all group members and the sections for which they were responsible. This does not mean you will get individual grades; on the contrary, there will be a group grade. One cannot get a higher grade than their group members; however, if they did not pull their weight and did not perform as well as other group members, then their grade will be lower than the group grade.

Extra Credit:
You may earn extra credit in this course by engaging in intercultural activities and/or interactions. You may visit a cultural center, attend a cultural festival, or take part in any other cultural activity. During your visit, you need to interact with someone belonging to that culture and gain an insight. Afterwards, you will write about the event, the interaction you encountered, and what you learned as a result. You can submit up to 4 extra credit works, each of which will earn you 5 points.

Global Learning Outcome: the extra credit work will give you an opportunity for global engagement by attending cultural events/activities and by interacting with members of the specific cultural group regarding the events/activities.
**GRADING:**

Please pay attention to requirements for the assignments. Satisfying all requirements of an assignment does not entitle you to get an A for that assignment. Completing an assignment by fulfilling all requirements translates to satisfactory work, which earns the student C grade, as per university rules. Completing all requirements and doing them well earns the student B grade. The grade A is reserved for work that is above and beyond.

Please make sure you follow your grades and know where you stand in class throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to know your grade. There will be opportunities for extra credit, however, please don’t wait until the very end of the semester to notice that you may be in trouble.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>A  = 93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A- = 90-92.9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B+ = 87-89.9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B  = 83-86.9</td>
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<td>B- = 80-82.9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C+ = 77-79.9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C  = 70-76.9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>D  = 60-69.9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>E  = 0-59.9</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<tr>
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Total: 700 Points