

Course Outline for: COMM 1131 Intercultural Communication**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #7A - Human Diversity, Race, Power, and Justice in the United States
Goal #8 - Global Perspective

Intercultural communication skills are increasingly valuable in today's global society. Develop your own intercultural competence by examining how cultural identity, shaped by historical and societal power dynamics, influences communication across diverse groups. By analyzing core cultural aspects—values, beliefs, language, and nonverbal behaviors—you'll understand their impact on marginalized groups and cross-cultural relations. The course emphasizes the importance of intercultural communication as a vital skill for global citizenship and prepares you to engage effectively in an interconnected and rapidly changing world.

B. Date last reviewed/updated: March 2025**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. Definitions of culture
2. Cultural values, beliefs, and norms
3. Cultural identity (nationality, race, class, gender, etc.)
4. Cultural biases (discrimination, stereotyping, prejudice, ethnocentrism)
5. Verbal (linguistic) and nonverbal communication
6. Intercultural communication competence
7. Culture shock

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain how cultural identity, shaped by historical, societal, and power dynamics, evolves. (Goal 7Aa, 7Ad)
2. Explain how cultural identity influences communication within diverse groups, particularly those marginalized or excluded. (Goal 2b, 7Aa, 7Ad)
3. Describe how fundamental aspects of cultures (e.g., values, beliefs, language, nonverbal behaviors), have shaped the experiences and contributions of different groups, particularly those marginalized or excluded. (Goal 7Ad, 8b)
4. Analyze how one's attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry impact intercultural interactions. (Goal 2c, 2d, 7Ac, 8b)
5. Demonstrate the skills needed to successfully communicate with diverse individuals in various intercultural contexts. (Goal 7Ae, 8b)

6. Analyze how cultural stereotypes (socioeconomic status, gender, political values, and race) perpetuated in the media continue to influence relations between individuals and societies. (Goal 2b, 2c, 8a)
7. Evaluate one's own intercultural communication competence across several dimensions (attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs). (Goal 2d, 7Ac, 8d)
8. Explain the need for intercultural communication competence as a global citizen in an ever-changing world. (Goal 8d)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Speeches
2. Self-reflection papers
3. Tests
4. Journals
5. Application papers
6. Case studies
7. Group assignments
8. Service learning
9. Research papers

F. Special Information:

None