

HONR 203: S/ SEMINAR IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES: NEGOTIATING INTERCULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS

Spring 2014

Dr. Meredith Harrigan, Communication

Class: MW 8:30 – 9:45

Classroom: Doty 302E (Digital Seminar Room)

Office Hours: M 10:30-12:30 Office: Blake B 120

W 10 - 11

“Learning means keeping the mind open and active to receive all kinds of experience”

~Gilbert Highet

Course Summary:

This course will explore the relationship between communication and culture in order to provide students with theoretical knowledge and practical tools necessary to communicate mindfully across a number of cultural and technologically mediated contexts. This course will emphasize international communication and feature globally networked online learning and collaboration with students at Alytus College in Alytus, Lithuania.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course one should be able to:

1. articulate how communication affects and reflects culture
2. articulate the relationship among culture, communication, and identity
3. explain cultural differences in value orientations and nonverbal codes
4. use multiple paradigms, methodologies, theories, and models to explain issues relevant to intercultural communication
5. demonstrate an in-depth understanding of communication processes associated with cultures previously underexplored
6. demonstrate mindful communication in cross-cultural interactions

Required Reading:

Martin, J. N. & Nakayama, T. K. (2013). *Intercultural communication in contexts* (6th ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.

Recommended Reading:

APA 6th edition manual

Professor's Assumptions:

1. Communication is a constitutive process.
2. Communication affects and reflects relationships.
3. Communication is a jointly enacted process.
4. No one form of communication is a panacea.
5. Human beings are choice makers.
6. Choice making is often constrained by contextual factors including communication.

Grading Scale:

A.....	93-100	C+.....	77-79
A-.....	90-92	C.....	73-76
B+.....	87-89	C-.....	70-72
B.....	83-86	D.....	60-69
B-.....	80-82	E.....	59 and below

Means of Assessment:

Exam 1.....	20%
Exam 2.....	20%
Intercultural Collaboration Project.....	30%
Retrospective Sensemaking Paper.....	15%
Narrative Project.....	15%

Exams: There will be two exams. The first exam will be a unit exam. The second exam will be comprehensive and include all topic areas discussed throughout the semester including content areas explored during the Intercultural Collaboration Project such as Lithuanian culture. Possible question formats include multiple choice, true or false, matching, and short answer. You will be responsible for material discussed in the text, class readings, and class lectures. I will detail the structure of the exam and the chapters and lecture dates for which you will be responsible prior to each exam.

Intercultural Collaboration Project: This project was designed to provide you with first-hand experience in intercultural communication by working in teams comprised of Alytus College and Geneseo students. Students will utilize *myCourses*, an online course management system, as well as other synchronous and asynchronous tools as they work to complete the project. Completion of this project will require a variety of work including but not limited to creative work, presentations, papers, reflective posts, and engaged interaction with team members.

Retrospective Sensemaking Paper: This project was designed to encourage reflection and forethought. Specifically, you will be challenged to use course material as a lens for making sense of your experiences with the Intercultural Collaboration Project and planning appropriate courses of action for future intercultural collaborations.

Narrative Project: Guided by, but not connected to, the Voices Project, each student will be asked to create and explain a personal narrative that reflects course material and his or her culture-related experiences.