CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Course Objectives

- To gain an understanding of the major concepts and issues pertaining to communicating inter-culturally
- To develop a keen sensitivity of cultural differences and better understanding of yourself and others
- To acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes that can enhance intercultural competence

Required Textbook:

Course Description

As an introduction to intercultural communication, this course covers important topics in understanding how cultures communicate and interact, including basic concepts of culture and communication, cultural patterns, cultural identity, verbal and nonverbal communication, communication in different intercultural settings, etc.

The course features active interaction between the instructor and students and among students. Course material will be presented through a variety of lectures, discussions, readings and videos.

You will be expected to reflect on your own cultural assumptions, your intercultural experiences and explore other cultures in various forms throughout the course. You are also expected to actively engage in group discussion and oral presentations in class.

Class Instruction and Requirements:

Students are expected to complete required readings, participate in discussion, and complete projects. Different views, comparative study or personal experience is highly valued.

For each class meeting, lectures only serve as an introduction to students’ discussion and therefore students are expected to apply their understanding and learning into case study and role play.

Evaluation

- Attendance & Participation 20%
- Presentation 20%
- Final Project 60%

Note: It is expected that each student conducts him/herself as a responsible college student that understands the strong relationship between regular attendance, learning and doing well in class. An attendance sign-in sheet will be passed around each week. In cases of medical excuses or special emergency, the student should notify the instructor. Up to three absences without notification will result in dropout of the
Course Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Note</th>
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| WEEK 1   | Course introduction  
Communication  
Culture  
Culture Shock |                       |
| WEEK 2   | Intercultural Adaptation  
Video Appreciation  
Discuss: How to adapt to a new culture? |                       |
| WEEK 3   | Deep Structure of Culture  
Cultural Identity  
Discuss: How is one’s identity developed? |                       |
| WEEK 4   | Understand Cultural Differences:  
Hall’s high/low context  
Hofstede’s five cultural dimensions  
Case study |                       |
| WEEK 5   | Verbal communication |                       |
| WEEK 6   | Nonverbal communication  
Video Appreciation |                       |
| WEEK 7   | Interpersonal communication  
Small group communication  
Leadership |                       |
| WEEK 8   | Intercultural Conflicts Management  
How intercultural conflicts occur  
How to handle them |                       |
| WEEK 9   | Class presentation |                       |
| WEEK 10  | Class presentation | Final Paper Due       |

The course topics are subject to changes in actual teaching.

Class contact hours:

This class meets for 40 plus hours over the 11 week semester, with about 4 hours of class each week for ten weeks and one exam week. This course is equivalent to a 3 credit course at the College of Staten Island.