

Santa Rosa Junior College
Course Syllabus, Fall 2020
COMM 7 Intercultural Communication

Section 1698

Class Meetings: TTh 12:00 - 1:30 online using Zoom

Instructor: Julia McDermott **Email:** jmcdermott@santarosa.edu

Office Hours: TTh 10:30-12:00, alternate times available by appointment

Required Text: Judith Martin and Thomas Nakayama, *Experiencing Intercultural Communication: an Introduction*, McGraw Hill, 6th edition, ISBN-13: 978-1259870569 ISBN-10: 9781259870569

- I. Course Description:** This survey course introduces students to the influence of culture on identity, perception, social organization, language and nonverbal messages in intercultural experiences in the United States. The course examines variations and commonalities in communication patterns across cultures.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and analyze essential aspects of personal cultural identity.
2. Apply appropriate theories to analyze intercultural communication in the United States.
3. Communicate more effectively in intercultural communication situations.

II. Course Requirements:

- A. Reading and Exams: Students are to read each chapter of the textbook as listed on the schedule portion of this syllabus. Other assigned readings will be provided. It is expected that you will have read the relevant material **before** we discuss it in class, so that you can fully participate. There will be two midterm exams and a final exam based on our reading (see schedule).
- B. Exercises/Class Participation: This is a participation-oriented class. I expect you to learn from each other, as well as from me, and to contribute to the learning environment of the class. Participating in class discussions and exercises, giving helpful feedback on other students' efforts, and contributing to a supportive sharing and learning environment are all ways to earn points for participation in this class. Most in-class work cannot be made up if you are absent.
- C. Assignments:
- Cultural Self-Analysis: You will write an essay of approximately 500 words about the cultural space you occupy
 - Fieldwork: You will select from a list of cultural experiences available outside of class and engage in ONE of them. You will write about your experience in a report of 750 to 1000 words.
 - Book Review: You will read a book about race relations/cultural understanding that focuses on one cultural group or experience in the USA. You will collaborate with classmates who read the same book to prepare a summary and review of the book, to answer questions about the book from your classmates, and to facilitate a discussion of the book's main ideas.
 - Film Review: You will select a film from a list provided, watch it and write a 1000- to 1250-word review of how it depicts the cultures presented and intercultural communication.
 - Closing Self-Analysis: You will write an essay of 1000 to 1500 words about what you have learned about yourself this semester, focusing on your awareness of your cultural identity and its effect on how you communicate with others.

A detailed description of each assignment will be provided as we commence the relevant coursework. All course material will be posted on Canvas.

III. Course Policies

- A. Attendance: Regular attendance is essential; this is a participation-oriented class. I know that it is more difficult for many students to feel motivated to attend and participate in a class that meets online, but this class is designed to try to replicate the in-person classroom experience as much as possible. Class sessions will be recorded for students who cannot attend a particular class meeting, but this class is not designed for students who cannot attend sessions regularly. I will keep a record of which students attend class sessions. Missing four or more classes before mid-term, or six or more classes before the withdrawal deadline, means you have missed much more than 10 percent of the total class hours. In accordance with district policy, I may drop you from the class..

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to review the recording for material you missed in class, regardless of the reason for your absence.

I understand that some absences are unavoidable, particularly those due to illness. Prompt and effective communication is the key to making sure that unavoidable absences do not prevent you from succeeding in this class.

- B. Submitting Written Work: All written work should be word-processed in correct standard English, with spelling, grammar and format all checked. All work will be submitted using Canvas.
- C. Communication Outside of Class: I will communicate with all students using the Canvas messaging system. It is your responsibility to keep a current e-mail address in your college records and to check your Canvas in-box or e-mail regularly. You should set up your Canvas notifications to make sure you are aware of new assignments being posted and when assignments are due.

You need to communicate with me via Canvas and email as well. Please observe the following communication policies:

- Be sure that the subject line of your message is accurate; do not use the reply function if your message is not related to that subject.
- If you sent a message to which you expected a reply and you do not receive one, follow up with me about it.
- Please do not send questions that you could have answered yourself with a little effort. If the answer to your question is readily available on Canvas, I will refer you there.

If you choose to send an email message rather than using Canvas, please observe the following additional policies in order to be sure that your email messages are received and given appropriate, timely consideration

- Be sure that your name and which class you're in are clearly visible in the address and/or subject line of your message
- Use the subject line to indicate what your message is in regard to
- Save copies of all sent messages until you are sure they are received; in the event of an error, you can provide a copy with the correct date and time you originally sent the message.

- D. **Class Conduct:** In this class, we deal with some difficult subject matter as we work to understand the world from points of view and experiences that are different from our own. I strive for an environment of respect and encouragement that helps us all learn from each other, minimizes unproductive confrontation, and encourages constructive feedback. This means being engaged in the current class activity, listening and talking when it is appropriate, offering honest but respectful opinions, and respecting the opinions of others. This is more difficult online than in person, but we will do our best to facilitate engagement. There is no place in this class for racist, sexist or otherwise disrespectful language or attitudes. The college's Student Conduct policy applies and can be found [here](#).

Please do your best to be in a private space for class meetings where you will not be interrupted. Mute your microphone when you are not speaking to avoid adding distracting noise to our class session. You are not required to use video when you attend class, but please be aware that using it when possible will greatly help your ability to interact with others and participate in discussion during class.

IV, Grading:

The grade you earn in this course will be based on this scale:

810 points and above = A	720-809 points = B	630-719 points = C
540-629 points = D	539 points and below = F	

Individual component grades will be weighted as follows:

Midterm Exams (2@ 50 points)	100 pts
Cultural Self-Analysis	50 pts
Fieldwork Report	100 pts
Book Review Project	150 pts
Film Review	100 pts
Closing Self-Analysis	150 pts
Final Exam	100 pts
Exercises and Participation	150 pts
900 Points Possible	

Late work, including any late portion of an assignment, may not receive full points. The instructor reserves the right to refuse to accept late work.

V. College Policies

- A. **Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to maintain high standards of personal integrity in their academic work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Ethical behavior as an aspect of communication will be addressed in class. Students are expected to adhere to these criteria; failure to do so will be penalized by the student earning partial credit or no credit for the relevant assignment, depending on the severity of the offense. **A second offense can result in the student failing the course.** Most written assignments are checked for originality using [TurnItIn.com](#). The college's Academic Integrity can be found [here](#).
- B. **Accommodations For Students With Disabilities:** If you need disability-related accommodations for this class, please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to me as soon as possible. You may also speak with me privately about your accommodations. If you have not received authorization from DRD, you should contact them directly.