

# COMM 211: INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

## Last updated: Spring 2015

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**Instructor:** Jennifer Kienzle

**Office:**

**Office hours:**

**E-mail:**

### Course Description

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**From catalog:** Exploration of culture as a dimension of all communicative activity. Communication between cultural groups in a variety of contexts, e.g. interpersonal relationships, groups, organizations, politics, and international relations.

**Additional description:** To add to the above description, this class will specifically involve active in-person and online discussions, in-person class activities, lecture, student led presentations, and an interactive global part where our class will connect with another classroom from around the globe to discuss many facets of intercultural communication.

### Learning Outcomes

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1. Understand and be able to dissect and describe your own cultural identity through course concepts and theories learned in class.
2. Prepare and be able to deliver your own cultural background (e.g., United States) to an international audience.
3. Understand many facets of intercultural communication through a realm of contexts: business, interpersonal, online, and popular culture.
4. Identify and implement the communication skills necessary to facilitate effective intercultural communication.

### Course Accommodation

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Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate fully in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, (402) 472-3787 voice or TTY

### Book/Reading Requirements

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

**\*Additional readings will be posted on BB**

**Blackboard / Internet Requirement**

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All assignments, grades, current schedule, and resources are located on our Blackboard page. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard continually to make sure you understand upcoming assignments, tasks, dates, etc. Many questions I get from students can be answered by browsing our Blackboard page. Since Blackboard requires an Internet connection, please consider all of your “back-up” Internet connections such as your smartphone, university Internet access, library, and friend’s Internet, etc.

**Assignments**

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**PLEASE NOTE:**

- Your assignments **MUST** be Microsoft Word documents. If you are saving your assignments on your MAC, you must add the .doc or .docx file extension to your document in order for it to be accepted. Assignments submitted as a .txt file or as a .pdf (or anything aside from a .doc/x file) will not be graded until you, the student, resubmit your assignment in the appropriate file format. **IF** the assignment is resubmitted past the due date, points will be deducted for late work.
- No emailed assignments. I will not read or grade any emailed assignments. I also won’t consider an emailed assignment “on-time” for whatever reason you decided to email it.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Individual/Group</b>	<b>Points</b>
Google Form <i>Information about you and the class, submitted using Google Form.</i>	I	10
Global Classroom <i>We will periodically connect with other classes across the globe in real time. This will require us to prepare questions/presentations and also engage in discussion. Point value per global link TBD but will be part of the 100 points. A mix of group and individual work will be involved. **In the event that a global class day is cancelled or disrupted because of technological difficulties, I will assign a substitute assignment, either a journal entry (1-2 page informal paper) or require you to participate in an online discussion via BB. Points for these substitute assignments will count as part of the 100.</i>	I/G	100
Intercultural Research Compilation	I	30

<i>Locate three research articles in (inter)cultural communication and include mini-abstracts of each.</i>		
<p>Reading/Discussion Quizzes</p> <p><i>A total of 3 quizzes will be administered throughout the semester and primarily revolve around assigned readings with some questions based off of class discussion/activities 45 points each.</i></p>	I	135
<p>Popular Culture Mini-Presentation/Discussion</p> <p><i>Each student will individually locate a popular culture artifact online and post it to our discussion board on Blackboard with a brief write-up about the cultural significance of the artifact as well as how communication is influenced. An entire class period will be dedicated to discussing these artifacts in more depth.</i></p>	I/G	30
<p>Cultural Identity Paper (Final Paper)</p> <p><i>Formal paper on your cultural identity, communication processes at play in your identity, and a thoughtful and thorough reflection on how you manage your cultural identity in your career and surroundings. 6-7 pages typed.</i></p>	I	100
<p><b>Total points in class</b></p> <p><i>A maximum of 10 extra credit points will be possible.</i></p>	<b>350 – 405 (TBD based on global classroom)</b>	

A = 93%+ A- = 90-92.9% B+ = 87-89.9% B = 83-86.9% B- = 80-82.9% C+ = 77-79.9% C = 73-76.9% C- = 70-72.9% D+ = 67-69.9% D = 63-66.9% D- = 60-62.9% F = <60%

## **Course Policies**

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### **Technology in the classroom**

We all know there are academic uses of technology and social/personal uses of technology. I ask that you only use technology in the classroom for academic purposes (academic purposes pertaining to this class). If I notice inappropriate usage, I reserve the right to deduct points from your grade.

**Attendance**

You will not pass the class if you do not attend. Crucial information is provided during class lectures, activities, and discussions.

**Late work**

Any work submitted after the due date will incur a 20% per day penalty. Work is counted late the minute after the due date.

**Grade change/dispute**

I handle grade discussions in-person. Please do not e-mail me to change your grade because I simply do not do that. I also follow the 24/7 rule: Wait at least 24 hours after receiving a grade to discuss it and inform me of a grade inquiry within 7 days of that date. I also ask that you prepare thoughtful comments about why you feel your grade needs to be changed. I do not consider grade changes if students are points away from the next letter grade or because they are trying to earn points from previous assignments.

**Missed exams**

Exam make-ups will be accommodated to students with a **valid** reason AND with **documentation** (e.g., doctor's note). You must notify me (via e-mail) of your intention to make up an exam no later than 24 hours after the exam is administered. Documentation must be provided at the negotiated time of makeup.

**Missed presentation and/or discussion days**

Life happens. But please tell me as soon as you can. If a student has a **valid** reason AND **documentation** for missing a presentation or discussion day, then an alternative assignment or presentation day will be discussed. Please do not ask me for a makeup if you honestly know you missed class because of sleeping in, not feeling up to it, or going out of town for personal reasons.

**Plagiarism**

All course work should be original and unique for this class. Do not use work from other courses even if it is your own unless you have spoken to both instructors and have documentation that this has been approved. Plagiarism results in, at minimum, failure on the assignment, but can result in failure of the course and reporting to academic authorities at the university. If you have questions concerning what constitutes plagiarism, please discuss this with me. Not knowing the definition of plagiarism does not excuse you from the consequences.