

CZS50 Intercultural Communication

Lecturer: **Zdeněk Janík**

Outline of the course

The aim of the course is to enhance students' intercultural awareness and improve their communication skills in intercultural settings. Students will explore how various cultures worldwide, including their own, are defined through verbal and non-verbal language, symbols and meanings assigned to the symbols, cultural values and perception of those values. The importance of international understanding and intercultural communication inside as well as outside the school context is emphasized. At the end of the course, students should be able to recognize aspects of intercultural communication; improve their communication strategies used in intercultural settings; apply various dimensions of culture in intercultural conflicts. Students should also develop positive attitudes towards other cultures and improve their skills as intercultural speakers of English.

The course uses all the advantages of an e-learning environment: all study materials, readings, and activities for students are fully web-based.

Course structure

Date	Topic
September 19	Culture and Communication
September 26	Culture and Identity
October 3	Cultural Awareness and Cultural Differences
October 10	Explaining Differences and Similarities across Cultures in Europe and Elsewhere
October 17	Cultural Values
October 24	Seeing the Others: Developing Stereotypes and Making Judgments
October 31	National Culture and Cultural Diversity
November 7	Women and Men in Conversation: Social Identities Affecting Communication
November 14	Western, Japanese, and Other Styles of Conversation
November 21	Differences in Cultural Values, Communication and Learning Styles in an Intercultural Classroom Setting
November 28	Effective Intercultural Communication
December 5	Conclusion

Course Requirements:

1. ACTIVE CLASS PARTICIPATION

Read all the study materials. Follow 'Assignment for class discussion' and instructions in each of the topics to get ready for class.

80% class attendance.

2. WRITE 6 REFLECTIVE JOURNALS

By doing certain activities and answering questions in the Reflective Journals students relate the knowledge they obtain in this course with their own experience of intercultural communication.

You are asked to write a minimum of one page in each of the Reflective Journals.

The Reflective Journals are in the topics 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, and 11.

Check the **deadlines!** You will have a week to write each Journal.

Points will be deducted for late submission.

The minimum pass for the Reflective Journals: 42 points (out of 60), i.e. 70%

3. DO 3 TESTS/QUIZES

In topics 1, 4, and 6. The quizzes are designed for students to test their understanding of the topics. Scores students gain from doing the quizzes **will not** count towards the overall evaluation of their work. However, students must complete all the tests by **December 6!**

4. PARTICIPATE IN 4 ON-LINE DISCUSSION FORUMS

There are 4 discussion forums in topics 2,3,5, and 7. Your contribution should have at least 3 sentences (1 paragraph is an optimum).

Check the **deadlines** for the discussion!

5. WRITE AN ESSAY

For instructions see topic 12.

The deadline is December 18, 2011.

The minimum pass for the essay is 28 points (out of 40), i.e. 70%

Further details

All documents, discussion and working materials are available at <http://moodlinka.ped.muni.cz/course/view.php?id=1923> (for login use UCO and your secondary password). Then use "CESP_ICSFall" as an entrance key.

Literature:

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- Bennet, Milton J. *Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication*. Maine: Intercultural Press, 1998.
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- Byram, Michael and Fleming, Michael (eds.). *Language Learning in Intercultural Perspective: Approaches through drama and ethnography*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- Campbell, Neil, Kean, Alasdair. *American Cultural Studies: An introduction to American culture*. Second edition. New York: Routledge, 2006.
- D'Andrade, Roy. *A Study of Personal and Cultural Values: American, Japanese, and Vietnamese*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.
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- Hofstede, Gert J., Pedersen, Paul B., Hofstede, Geert. *Exploring Culture: Exercises, Stories and Synthetic Cultures*. Maine: Intercultural Press, 2002.
- Janík, Zdeněk. "Intercultural Communication Learning." In *Intensive Programme TiFoLa: Teaching in Foreign Languages*. Brno: Paido, 2005.
- Melucci, A. *The playing self: person and meaning in the planetary society*. Cambridge: CUP, 1996.
- Samovar, Larry A., Porter, Richard, E. (eds.) *Intercultural Communication*. 10th Edition. Belmont, USA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2003.
- Strom, M.S. *Holocaust and Human Behavior*. Massachusetts: Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, 1994.
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