Syllabus

HU 585 (23302 R01)  Winter 1999-2000
Advanced Intercultural Communication

Tu. 2:05-4:35 p.m.
139 Walker AHC

Instructor  Office  Tel./E-mail  Office hours
Dieter Adolphs  340 Walker AHC  487-3259  Mo./Fr., 11:05-5:55 a.m.
dadolph  We., 1:05-5:55 p.m.

Books
Beyond Culture by Edward T. Hall
Intercultural Communication: A Reader by Larry A. Samovar & Richard E. Porter (ed.s)
Communicating Across Cultures by Stella Ting-Toomey
A Tramp Abroad by Mark Twain
Notes from a Small Island by Bill Bryson

Course Description:

This course does not dwell on theory, but introduces you to the question of how we communicate with people from different cultural and social backgrounds. Strong emphasis will be placed on both, conceptualizing intercultural communication and applying these concepts to practical situations.

Every class member should try to apply concepts of intercultural communication to her or his special interest. You are strongly encouraged to give one class presentation related to our readings or to someone's (inter-) cultural experience. This presentation could be the basis for a term paper.

We will read the following books:

- Intercultural Communication: A Reader by Larry A. Samovar and Richard E. Porter (editors). This recently updated collection contains essays by various authors on the subject of intercultural communication. (Selected essays.)

- Beyond Culture by Edward T. Hall. This is a "classic" text by the "other"—not Stuart, the Cultural Studies guy—Hall, that "provides us with simple but logical comments on culture and its influence on behavior. Leading us from his first experiences as anthropologist to the creation of his well- known communication theory (high- & low-context communication)."
Communicating Across Cultures by Stella Ting-Toomey. "This book presents an integrative theory that draws inspiration from social identity theory, symbolic interactionism, and the communication discipline. [...] Especially strong in its discussions of the functions of language, the book presents excellent examples of communication across cultures as well as practical advice on how to improve communication."

We also will read excerpts from primary texts that describe intercultural experiences, including two - rather humorous - accounts by Americans who traveled to and lived in Europe:

- *A Tramp Abroad* by Mark Twain. "In April 1878, Mark Twain and his family entourage sailed to Europe so Twain could write one of six books in his head. The trip turned into a walking tour of Europe, and this wonderful travelog is the result, filled with Twain's usual wit and insight."

- *Notes from a Small Island* by Bill Bryson. "Bill Bryson is an unabashed Anglophile who, through a mistake of history, happened to be born and bred in Iowa. Righting that error, he spent 20 years in England before deciding to repatriate: 'I had recently read that 3.7 million Americans according to a Gallup poll, believed that they had been abducted by aliens at one time or another, so it was clear that my people needed me.' That comic tone enlivens this account of Bryson's farewell walking tour of the countryside of the green and kindy island that had for two decades been my home."

The course structure consists of the following elements:

a) reading and class discussion of the books by Hall and Ting-Toomey, selected essays from *Intercultural Communication: A Reader*, and excerpts from Twain's and Bryson's accounts.

b) e-mail discussions of our readings and class meetings.

c) one report per student on a selected essay from *Intercultural Communication: A Reader*

d) one short midterm paper (4-5 pages)

e) three or four small group projects (oral presentations)

f) one written report from every small group (8-10 pages)

Course Requirements:

1. Regular attendance and active participation
2. Weekly contributions to our e-mail discussions
3. Active Participation in small groups
4. Two papers (midterm and small group report)
Please note: MTU complies with all federal and state laws regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students, (2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head, or the Affirmative Action Office (3310).

Preliminary Schedule and Assignments

(Please note that this schedule is tentative and may be changed. If any such changes are made, you will receive a printed update during our regular class meetings.)

Week 1
Tuesday, 30 Nov.
Viewing the film, Voyager

Week 2
Tuesday, 7 Dec.
Introduction to HU585
Discussion of Voyager, Twain (introduction and pp. 1-103),
and Hall (pp. 1-69)

Week 3
Tuesday, 14 Dec.
Discussion of Hall (pp. 71-140), Twain (pp. 344-75 and 386-402),
and Intercultural Communication: A Reader, pp. 1-58

Week 4
Tuesday, 21 Sept.
Discussion of Bryson (pp. 1-110), and Hall (pp. 141-240)
Report 1 (Int. Comm. Reader, part 2)
(or 12/16?) Report 2 (Int. Comm. Reader, part 3a)

Week 5
Tuesday, 11 Jan.
Discussion of Bryson (pp. 235-352), and Int. Comm. Reader (pp. 119-
128 and 170-79)
Reports 3 and 4 (Int. Comm. Reader, parts 3b and 4)
| Week 6 | Tuesday, 18 Jan. | Discussion of Ting-Toomey, preface and pp. 1-83  
|        |                 | Reports 6 and 7: *Int. Comm. Reader*, part 6a/b |
| Week 7 | Tuesday, 25 Jan. | Discussion of Ting-Toomey, pp. 84-141  
|        |                 | Report 8: *Int. Comm. Reader*, part 7  
|        |                 | Report 9 *Int. Comm. Reader*, part 8 |
| Week 8 | Tuesday, 1 Feb.  | Discussion Ting-Toomey, pp. 145-230  
|        |                 | Small Group Report 1  
|        |                 | Possible film/presentation |
| Week 9 | Tuesday, 8 Feb.  | Discussion of Ting-Toomey, pp. 233-276  
|        |                 | Small Group Report 2  
|        |                 | Possible film/presentation |
| Week 10| Tuesday, 15 Feb. | Discussion of final readings  
|        |                 | Small Group Report 3  
|        |                 | Course evaluation |