Michigan Technological University: Summer 2002

HU 3261

Intercultural Communication

Syllabus

Instructor: Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs
Room: Fisher Hall, Room 125
Time: Mo., Tu., We., Th., 8:15 to 9:50 a.m.
Telephone: 487-3259 (work); 482-3182 (home)
E-Mail: dadolph@mtu.edu
Office: Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Room 340
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:45 a.m. to 12:15
(Other times by appointment)

Books/Readings:
* Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication, ed. by Milton Bennett
* Do's and Taboos Around The World (3rd Ed.), ed. by Roger E. Axtell
* Max Frisch, Homo Faber: A Report

Course Description:

This course will use Milton Bennett's collection of articles, Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication, and the book, Do's and Taboos Around The World (3rd Ed.), to introduce students to the question of how we communicate with people from different cultural and social backgrounds. These books pay close attention to cultural patterns, attitudes, values, and nonverbal behaviors.

We will move on with a discussion of specific questions of Intercultural Communication, based on oral reports on articles from various readers. Finally, we will investigate artistic depictions of cross-cultural experiences in Max Frisch's novel, Homo Faber, as well as a number of movies.

Every member of this course is strongly encouraged to voice her or his personal opinion and to actively participate in small group and general discussions. The course requirements are:
a) regular attendance and active participation (26 points)
b) regular reading assignments (13 points)
c) ten short reading responses ("log sheets;" 20 points)
d) two oral reports (20 points)
e) optional abstract for final paper (5 bonus points)
f) final paper (4 to 6 pages; 21 points)
Grading Scale:

- A: 92-100%
- A/B: 87-91.9%
- B: 82-86.9%
- B/C: 77-81.9%
- C: 72-76.9%
- C/D: 67-71.9%
- D: 62-66.9%
- F: 0-61.5%

This course can be taken for partial fulfillment of the general education distribution requirements, and it can also count towards MTU's Modern Language and Area Study Certificate and Advanced Certificate.

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 (487-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (487-3310).

Also: this course description and all schedules are tentative and may be changed. If any such changes are made, you will receive a printed update during our regular class meetings.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1

**Monday, 20 May**  
Introduction to HU3261

**Tuesday, 21 May**  
Basic Concepts, pp. ix-xii and 1-34  
Beginning of the film, The Emigrants

**Wednesday, 22 May**  
Further viewing and discussion of the film, The Emigrants  
Basic Concepts, pp. 35-52

**Thursday, 23 May**  
Conclusion and discussion of the film, The Emigrants  
Basic Concepts, pp. 1-52  
Report A1: Basic Concepts, pp. 111-130 (__________)  
Two reading/viewing responses due on Tuesday (28 May):  
1. The Emigrants;  
2. At least one essay from Basic Concepts