Hu 3261 Communicating Across Cultures

Summer 2007/M/Tu/W/Th 12:35-1:55 (Fisher 127)
Instructor Dr. Ciro A. Sandoval
Off Hours Walker 322/ M/Tu/W/ 2:00-3:00- and by appointment
Tel/ 487-3257/ Email/ casandov@mtu.edu

Notes:
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General Objective
To examine personal inter/cultural communicative experiences while rethinking held assumptions about one's and other's cultures, both within national and international settings. In order to pursue these objectives we will emphasize approaches to communicating across cultures that involve self-reflection, and questioning of particular interpretations and assumptions of social and cultural interactions across "cultural borders" and in different contexts (political, ideological, economic, social, historical, anthropological, ethnographical, among others). We will pay attention to particular interpretations which are generally assumed to be natural, normal, universal, or thought to be part of common sense, and therefore present everywhere we go, for purposes or reasons other than touristic ones. Accordingly, we will encourage a personal commitment to an open dialogue about different topics/subjects about diverse cultural, ethnic and other groups within national borders and beyond, in a respectful and critical atmosphere that favors understanding of different or diverse cultural points of view, and encourages honest, open expression and communication about, within and across cultural borders.

Particular Objectives.
To examine fundamental concepts and elements of communication in different types of societies and cultures, in a respectful, self critical and friendly atmosphere that accommodates discussion of readings and videos viewed during this course, and from exercises and presentations meant to illustrate particular aspects and theoretical notions of communication across cultures. At the end of the class, it is expected that the students develop personal cultural awareness and strategies that allow them to become better communicators across cultures different than their own. More specifically, it is expected that students develop the capacity to analyze/ judge different communication contexts and
styles and adapt strategies for understanding and negotiating intercultural situations that might arise in different places, contexts or circumstances.

**Texts**
1. Bennett Milton J. *Basic concepts of Intercultural Communication. Selected Readings*
2. Hall, Eduard T. *Beyond Culture*

**Student Responsibilities**
1. Complete the assigned readings for each class and prepare to responsibly and respectfully participate in class discussions, activities and presentations
2. Attend class regularly. Be advised that attendance and ACTIVE participation accounts for 50% of your grade in this course.

**Grading**
Your final grade will depend on:

- Class attendance, preparation and participation...50%
- Final Exam, or final project assignment ............... 50%

**Grading Scale**

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<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>85-93</td>
<td>AB</td>
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<td>80-84</td>
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<td>74-79</td>
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<td>60-64</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>below 59</td>
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**TENTATIVE GENERAL SYLLABUS**

- **Weeks 1 through 3** *Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication*
- **Weeks 4 through 5** *Beyond Culture*
- **Weeks 6 through 7** *Peripheral Visions*