Hu 3261 Communicating Across Cultures
Fall 2010 /M/W/F 12:05 Fisher 127
Instructor: Dr. Cirilo A. Sandoval
Off. Hours Walker 322/ M/ W/ F/ 10:00-10:55 - and by appointment
Tel/ 487-3257/ E mail/ casandov@mtu.edu

Notes:
1. "MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability 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 at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head/chair, of the Affirmative Action Office at 487-3310."

2. The instructor of this course reserves the right to change the content and schedule of the present syllabus, if pedagogical reasons or special circumstances call for a change.

3. ACADEMIC Integrity. Students who cheat, plagiarize, or fabricate information as well as students who help others cheat, plagiarize, or fabricate information, can receive sanctions ranging from warning to special failing grade to expulsion from the University, depending on the severity of the offense. See the MTU Student Handbook or the Academic Integrity Policy: www.admin.mtu.edu/usenate/propose/02/18-02.htm

4. ABSOLUTELY NO LAP TOPS ALLOWED in class, except with a written note to me from the Dean of Students.

5. ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES set to ring in class.

6. ANY PERSONAL ISSUES OR PROBLEMS OF ANY KIND SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BY PRIOR APPOINTMENT IN MY OFFICE. Please, no emails asking to solve personal issues online.

7. IF YOU MISS CLASS, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to find out what you missed in class by contacting either other classmates or ME PERSONALLY and in my office hours of by appointment. I WILL NOT ANSWER THIS INFORMATION BY EMAIL.

General Objective

We will consider approaches and views to culture/s and communication across them. We will consider/discuss why and how these cultures are different from our "own" culture and/or among others. We will approach our ideas, concepts and discussions about culture/s and communication with/among them through self-reflection and interpretation/s of
their/our perception of reality and possible inter/cultural interactions/encounters that might/take place in different contexts (political, ideological, economic, sociological, historical, aesthetic, anthropological, and ethnographical). A personal commitment to and open dialogue conducted in a respectful and critical manner is expected in dealing with beliefs, values and behaviors which might not correspond to those that have been instilled in us through our own process of socialization and cultural production.

Particular Objectives.

To examine basic concepts and elements of culture and intercultural communication that we will encounter as we read, or watch videos we chose as to illustrate particular aspects and notions of intercultural communication. At the end of this course, it is expected that the students will have developed a cultural empathy/sensitivity and strategies that allow them to become better intercultural communicators. More specifically, it is expected that the students will develop the capacity to analyze and evaluate different communication contexts and adapt strategies for understanding and negotiating intercultural situations that might arise in different places, contexts or circumstances.

Texts and Materials

2- Blasco, Maribel et al. Intercultural Alternatives.
3- Bindé, Jérôme. The Future of Values. 21st-Century Talks.

Student Responsibilities

1- Attend class regularly. Be advised that faltering attendance (beyond three Excused absences) will SIGNIFICANTLY affect your final grade. Any excused absence must be accompanied by a written note from either the Dean of Students Office, a physician or other instructor.

2- Complete the readings and assignments for each class and prepare to responsibly and respectfully participate in class discussions or presentations.

3- Complete either, a final written exam, OR final paper (to be decided by majority vote). If majority of class participants decide that a final paper is to be submitted to complete grade requirements (instead of final exam), you MUST submit EITHER a written proposal or prospectus of paper topic (at least two weeks prior to final deadline) OR MEET WITH ME PERSONALLY IN MY OFFICE to discuss the topic of your paper.

REMINDER: PAPER TOPIC and references must be generated from class readings, videos and discussion. No internet sources allowed.

DEAD LINE FOR YOUR FINAL WRITTEN PAPER: December 8 (in class)
Grading

Class attendance, participation/short assignments ....40%

Final Exam, or written paper..............................60%

REMEMBER: Class participation must demonstrate that you are taking your assigned readings seriously, that you are taking notes, in class and from your readings, and that you are responsibly thinking about your written assignments, from the very beginning of the class. This means that your question in class must be relevant and pertinent to your class work, i.e. must come from your readings and thinking. Finally, this kind of participation must be reflected in your final paper.

Grading Scale
94-100 or 3.7-4.0 = A
85-93 or 3.4-3.7 = AB
80-84 or 3.2-3.36 = B
74-79 or 2.96-3.16 = BC
69-73 or 2.76-2.92 = C
65-68 or 2.6-2.72 = CD
60-64 or 2.4-2.5 = D

TENTATIVE GENERAL SCHEDULE

Weeks 1/2/3. Introduction to Cross-Cultural Communication; video "Better together than A-P-A-B-T."
Readings: Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication

Weeks 4/5. Readings: Intercultural Alternatives

Weeks 6/7. Readings: The Future of Values

We will complement assigned readings with illustrating videos or poems.