Hu 3261 Communicating Across Cultures
Summer 2011 /M/T/W/R 11:05/12:20/ Fisher 125
Instructor Dr. Ciro A. Sandoval
Off. Hours Walker 322/ M/ W/ R/ 1:00-1:55-- and by appointment
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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 the 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 class 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.admn.mtu.edu/usenate/propose/02/18-02.htm

4. ABSOLUTELY NO LAP TOPS ALLOWED in class.
5. ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES set to ring in class.

6. ANY PERSONAL ISSUES OR PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE CLASS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BY PRIOR APPOINTMENT IN MY OFFICE. Please, no emails asking to address personal issues or inquires on the classes that you miss.

7. Excused absences must be backed by a written note from the dean of students or from your advisor.

8. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to find out what you missed in ANY class that you do not attend, by contacting either other classmates or ME PERSONALLY during my office hours or by appointment. I WILL NOT ANSWER any EMAIL dealing with issues of unattended classes.

General Objective

We will consider approaches and views to culture/s and communication across “cultures”. We will consider/discuss why and how these cultures are multifaceted, complex and different from our “own” culture, or
how our own culture is different to others cultures. We will approach our ideas, concepts and discussions about culture/s and communication with/among them through personal reflection, interpretation and representations of theirs and our own cultures as well as through our/their perception of reality. We will examine possible inter/cultural interactions/encounters that might/take place in different contexts (political, ideological, economic, sociological, historical, aesthetic, anthropological, and ethnographic). A personal commitment to and open dialogue conducted in a respectful and critical manner is indispensable 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 approaches, concepts and elements of culture and intercultural communication that we will encounter as we read, or watch videos that may help us to illustrate particular aspects and notions of intercultural communication. At the end of this course, it is expected that the students will have acquired knowledge and awareness that help them to develop a cultural empathy/sensitivity, and strategies that allow them to become better intercultural readers, interpreters and communicators within their own and across various cultures perceived as other's cultures. More specifically, it is expected that the students will develop the capacity to analyze/ and evaluate different communication contexts and reproduce strategies for understanding and negotiating intercultural situations or encounters that might arise in different places, contexts or circumstances.

Texts and Materials


3- Normal Class Notebook

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1- Attend class regularly.

Be advised that MISSING CLASSES WITHOUT A VALID JUSTIFICATION IS TAKEN SERIOUSLY AND WILL SERIOUSLY 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 ARE ALLOWED IN YOUR FINAL PAPER

4- DEAD LINE FOR YOUR FINAL WRITTEN PAPER: last day of Summer 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, regular attendance to class and 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 2.4-2.72 = CD
60-64 or 2.4-2.5 = D

TENTATIVE GENERAL SCHEDULE

Weeks 1/2/3/4 Introduction and readings from the first listed book by Holliday et al; video "Better together than A-P-A-R-T."

Weeks 5/6/7- Readings: Intercultural Alternatives