Hu 3261 Communicating Across Cultures
Summer 2012 /M/T/W/R 11:05/12:20/ Fisher 125
Instructor Dr. Ciro A. Sandoval
Off. Hours Walker 322/ M/T/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 modify the class syllabus, if pedagogical reasons or special circumstances require that the instructor of the course do so.

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/proposed/02/18-02.htm

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

6. PERSONAL ISSUES OR PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE CLASS REQUIREMENTS MUST BE DISCUSSED at my office BY PRIOR APPOINTMENT.

PLEASE, no emails inquiring ABOUT the CONTENT OR ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE classes that you MIGHT miss. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to find out what you missed in ANY class that you miss without any valid/accepted excuse by contacting either, other classmates, or ME PERSONALLY during my office hours, or by appointment. NOT ANSWER will be given to any EMAIL inquiring about what you missed from unattended classes or about assignments given on such unattended, unexcused classes.

7. - Excused absences must be backed by a written excuse/note from the your doctor, your advisor of from the Dean of Students.
GENERAL OBJECTIVES

We will consider approaches and views to culture/s and communication across them. We will consider/discuss why and how cultures are multifaceted, complex and different from each other, and why and how our/your own culture differ from others cultures. We will approach our ideas, concepts and discussions about culture/s and communication with/among them through personal reflection about OUR OWN perceptions, interpretations and representations of diverse cultures and their world or reality REPRESENTATION. We will examine basic or central concepts and issues about and across cultures and modes/styles of communication that may take place in different scenarios and inter/cultural interactions/encounters or situations:political, ideological, economic, sociological, historical, aesthetic, anthropological, 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, discuss 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/increased awareness and knowledge about theirs and other cultures as well as increased cultural sensitivity that also help them to develop cultural empathy, and ability to develop and use creative strategies that allow them to become better intercultural readers, interpreters and communicators within their own culture, and across various perceived cultural differences and or similarities as well. More specifically, it is expected that the students will develop the capacity to analyze/ and evaluate different communication contexts and re/produce strategies for understanding and negotiating intercultural situations or encounters.

Texts and Materials


3- Tzvetan, Todorov. "The Morals of History" (paperback edition)
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1- Attend class regularly.

Be advised that this Summer course is designed to cover, in a period of seven weeks, the same amount of time and materials as in any regular Semester class (4 classes of 1 hour and 20 min. per week) so, missing just one class in the summer is equivalent to missing two classes in a row in a regular semester schedule. MISSING CLASSES WITHOUT A VALID JUSTIFICATION IS TAKEN SERIOUSLY. i.e., as a negative factor affecting your performance and participation in this class, hence, in your final grade calculation.

Again, remember that any excused absence must be accompanied by a written note from either the Dean of Students Office, a physician or other instructor or advisor.

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

3- Complete a middle term and a final written exam, OR a final paper (to be decided by majority vote in class).

If a majority of class participants decide that a final paper is to be submitted as a requirement to complete the final grade (instead of final exam), you MUST SUBMIT, EITHER a written proposal or prospectus for your final paper at least two weeks prior to the final deadline, OR, visit MY OFFICE in order to discuss your final's paper topic.

REMINDER: Your ENTIRE PAPER, TOPIC and references must be generated from class ASSIGNED readings, videos and discussions.

NO INTERNET SOURCES, or OTHER OUTSIDE THE ONES USED FOR THIS CLASS ARE ACCEPTED FOR the FINAL PAPER class.

4- DEAD LINE FOR YOUR FINAL WRITTEN PAPER: last day of the Semester classes.

Grading

Class attendance, participation/short assignments ....25%

/MIDTERM AND FINAL Exam, or WRITTEN paper...75%

REMINDER: Class participation must demonstrate that you are taking your assigned readings seriously, that you are taking notes from your readings, class lectures, videos watched, and discussions, and that you are responsibly thinking about your written assignments, from the very beginning of the class. This means that your questions in class must be relevant and pertinent to your
class work, i.e. must come from your readings and thinking and discussing about them.

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 2.6-2.72 = CD
60-64.... or 2.4-2.5 = D

TENTATIVE GENERAL SCHEDULE

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

Weeks 5 through 7: Readings: Intercultural Alternatives Other video screenings.

READINGS from Todorov’s book “Morals of History” will be assigned as the course develops.