Hu 3261 Communicating Across Cultures  
Fall 2012 /M//W/F 2:05-2:55/Fisher 125  
Instructor Dr. Ciro A. Sandoval  
Off. Hours Walker 322/ M//W/F/ 11:00-11:55* - 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 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/proposal/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 UNEXCUSED 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 UNEXCUSED unattended classes or about assignments given on such unattended classes.

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

We will consider several approaches and views to culture/s and communication across them. We will consider/discuss why and how cultures are multifaceted, complex and different or unique on their own existence, and why and how we perceive to differ from the so called our and others cultures. We will approach our ideas, concepts and discussions about culture/s and communication through personal reflection about OUR OWN perceptions, interpretations and representations of "our" and diverse cultures and our/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 participants will have acquired/increased awareness and knowledge about theirs, and other cultures, as well as increased cultural sensitivity that may help them to develop cultural empathy, and ability to devise and use creative strategies that allow them to become better intercultural readers, interpreters and communicators within their own culture, and across their various perceived cultural differences and or similarities as well. More specifically, it is expected that the students of this class 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 MISSING CLASSES WITHOUT A VALID JUSTIFICATION IS TAKEN SERIOUSLY. i.e., as a negative factor affecting your performance and participation in this class, hence, affecting your final grade calculation too.

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 the class and prepare to responsibly and respectfully participate in class discussions or presentations.

3- Complete a middle term or assignments, and a final paper based on your close readings of the class textbooks, class or office discussions and videos or movies we might watch during the semester.

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.

REMAINDER: 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 this class FINAL PAPER.

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

Grading

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

/MIDTERM AND FINAL Exam, or WRITTEN paper.............. 60%

REMAINDER: 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. most of them 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 7: Introduction and readings from the first listed book by Holliday et al; video "Better together than A-P-A-R-T."

Weeks 8 through 14: Alternated readings from: Blasco et al. Intercultural Alternatives

and from Todorov's book Morals of History and presentation on a chosen topic or chapter from this book.

Other video screenings.