University Policies

1- Student works products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of University program, or course assessment. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification.

2- Michigan Tech. has standard policies on academic misconduct and complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) of 1990. For more information about reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call the Dean of Students office at (906)487-2212, or go to http://www.mtu.edu/provost/faculty-resources/syllabus-policies. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head/chair, or the Affirmative Action Office at 487-3310.

3. ● COLLABORATION/PLAGIARISM RULES.

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- The instructor of this course reserves the right to modify this syllabus if pedagogical reasons for doing so arise.

5- LAP TOP COMPUTER USE IS NOT ALLOWED in class.

6. CELL PHONES, BLACKBERRIES, iPODS, or any other electronic devices are not to be used in the classroom. Calculators, or other devices are strictly prohibited. Information exchange on these devices during class
is also prohibited and violates the Academic Integrity Code of Michigan Tech. Any electronic devices must be turned off while you attend class.

6. PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE CLASS REQUIREMENTS MUST BE DISCUSSED with me in 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. Do not expect any ANSWER 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 up 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 discuss why and how cultures are multifaceted, complex and different or unique on their own, and why and how and in what respects we perceive them to be different. We will approach our ideas, concepts and discussions about culture/s and communication through personal reflection and experiences of OUR OWN perceptions, interpretations and REPRESENTATION of the world, and its different cultures, ours included. 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 of inter/cultural interactions/encounters or situations: political, ideological, economic, sociological, historical, aesthetic, anthropological, ethnographic...

A personal commitment to an open dialogue conducted in a respectful and critical manner is indispensable when we consider beliefs, values and behaviors which might not correspond to those that have been instilled in us through our own process of socialization, education, 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, films or documentaries that may help us to illustrate particular aspects and notions of intercultural communication in different social contexts.

At the end of this course, it is expected that participants will have an acquired/increased awareness and knowledge about her/his and others's cultures, as well. It is also expected that the student increases his/her own cultural sensitivity as to develop other cultural attitudes such as
those of empathy, and ability to devise and use creative strategies that will allow him/her to become a better intercultural reader, interpreter and communicator within and or outside his/her own culture. 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


STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1- Attend class regularly. Be advised, that MISSING CLASSES WITHOUT A VALID JUSTIFICATION IS TAKEN SERIOUSLY as a negative factor affecting your participation in this class, hence, affecting your final grade calculation too.

Again, remember that any valid 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 before coming to class, and prepare to responsibly and respectfully participate in class discussions or presentations.

3- Complete assignments, a middle term essay or exam, and a final paper based on your close readings of the class textbooks, class or office discussions and videos or movies screened during the course.

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 paper topic.

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

OTHER SOURCES OUTSIDE THE ONES USED FOR THIS CLASS MUST BE NEGOTIATED AND APPROVED BY ME BEFORE YOU DECIDE TO USE THEM.

4- DEADLINE FOR YOUR FINAL EXAM OR WRITTEN PAPER (TO BE DECIDED IN CLASS): last day of the class.
Grading

Class attendance, participation/short assignments ....30%
MIDTERM Exam or written assignment............................................30%
AND FINAL Exam, or WRITTEN paper...........................................40%

REMINDER: Class participation must demonstrate that you are doing your assigned readings, taking notes from your readings, class lectures, movies/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 from discussions about them.

Finally, regular attendance to class and participation must be reflected in your final paper.

Grading Scale
90-100... or 3.6/4.0 = A
85-89.... or 3.4/3.56 = AB
80-84.... or 3.2/3.36 = B
75-79.... or 3.0/3.16 = BC
70-74 ....or 2.8/2.96 = C
65-69.... or 2.6/2.76 = CD
60-64.... or 2.4/2.56 = D
Below 60 or 2.4..........................

TENTATIVE GENERAL SCHEDULE

Weeks 1 through 4: Sadri and Flammia. Intercultural Communication video "Better together than A-P-A-R-T."

Week 1- Introduction to the class. Chapters 1, and 2

Week 2- Chapters 3, 4 and 5

Week 3- Chapters 6, 7, and 8

Week 4- Chapters Chapters 9 and 10

Readings from: Blasco et al.Intercultural Alternatives

Week 5- Introduction and Chapter 1

Week 6- Chapters 2 and 3

Week 7- Chapter 7

"Mind Walk"