HU 5050—Theories of Interculturality / Fall 2013/ TR:3:30/4:50 /Fisher 325
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Office Hours M/W/F/2:00/3:00 and by appointment (Walker 322)

Course Description and Objectives

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1- Student work 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 or equal access to educational 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

2. COLLABORATION/PLAGIARISM RULES

Students who cheat, plagiarize, or fabricate information, as well as students who help others to 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 offence. See the MTU Student Handbook or the Academic Integrity Policy: www.admin.mtu.edu/usenate/propose/02/18-02.htm

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

4. Laptop computers use in class is not allowed.

5. 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 are also prohibited and violate the Academic Integrity Code of Michigan Tech. Any electronic device must be turned off while you attend class.

6. No food, no drinks are allowed in class

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

As the title of this course announces, we will be doing a critical overview of theories of Interculturality from/within different critical perspectives. We will consider theoretical, critical, philosophical and cultural perspectives of the very concepts of Culture/s and interculturality from within and across philosophical and anthropological frames, with special emphasis on ethnological and sociological critical views, while focusing on linguistic and cultural translation used as both literary or critical instruments across European and non-European culture/s.

We will be reading and analyzing different critical views by representative thinkers of such different critical
theories and or/ movements within different intercultural contexts, again, European, and no European. Accordingly, we will select readings from anthologies dealing with problems of cultural translation, such as “The Translatability of Cultures” by Sanford Budick and Wolfgang Iser, as well as single authored books dealing with particular critical perspectives on cultural hegemony and globalization such as Wim Van Binsbergen’s *Intercultural Encounters*, and more philosophically oriented views of interculturality such as those postulated by Ram Adhar Mall’s “Intercultural Philosophy.”

Obviously, as the very title, and nature of the course indicate, its goals have to be pursued from an interdisciplinary philosophy or way of thinking which allow us to carve different, positive as well as negative connections, within a globalizing new world order, such as those presented by Timothy Reiss’s *Against Autonomy*. This demands, accordingly, a non hegemonic, non-ethnocentric and more democratic universal philosophy or way of thinking, one that can be subsumed under new paradigms of interpretation such as the one that encompasses Gadamer’s “Hermeneutics of difference.”

**Students Responsibilities for this class:**

- Complete the readings assigned for each class before hand.
- Keep written track of main ideas and concepts to be further elaborated in class, or as to prepare for a presentation and discussion.

  Write a final formal paper, 10-12 pages (not including required bibliography) to be handed in at the end of the class. [This paper can be on a topic that you select from the readings done for this course. We can comment this paper among ourselves before you decide to compose, if you so desire.

We can decide together about an informal presentation on a specific topic or book chapters of interest to you at mid-term.

Write your comments on assigned readings and or prepare some questions, also from your commented on close readings on concepts or possible developments of one or more of the themes/topics presented by the readings of the different authors.

**Grade Percentages: TBA (through discussion the first day of class)**

**Readings Schedule**

Here follows the tentative selection of readings from each of the books selected for this class. As it reads, “tentative” means that as the course develops, we may decide to change the order of readings or skip some of them and move on to others, depending on how the discussion goes, and the interest that specific topics, concepts may elicit.

For those registered for the class, if you have the time to read the introduction FROM Binsbergen’s Intercultural Encounters, please do so! This will provide for some initial background for discussion, and setting the tone of the class.

**Weeks 1/2/3**

Wim van Binsbergen’s “Intercultural encounters”

- Introduction, “African, anthropological and historical lessons towards a philosophy of interculturality”

- Chapter 2. “Can anthropology become the theory of peripheral class struggle”?

- Chapter 4: “Reflections on the future of anthropology in Africa.”

- Chapter 9: “Sensus communis or sensus particularis? Emmanuel Kant in Africa

- Chapter 12: “Some philosophical aspects of cultural globalization, with special reference to Mall’s intercultural
Chapter 13: “ICT *Information Communication Technology* and intercultural philosophy: an African exploration.”

Chapter 15: “Cultures do not Exist: exploding self-evidences in the investigation of interculturality.”

Weeks 4/5/6

Sanford Budick and Wolfgang Iser: The Translatability of cultures. Figurations of the space in between

1- “Crisis of alterity: cultural untranslatability, and the Experience of Secondary Otherness”
2- “Visual Syncretism: A Case Study”
3- Translation Studii [sic] and Renaissance: from vertical to horizontal translation
4- “The Curse and blessing of Babel; or, Looking Back on Universalisms”
5- “Emerson's Constituional Amending: Reading “Fate”
6- “Discovering America: A Cross-Cultural Perspective”
7- “The Black Hole of Culture: Japan, Radical Otherness and the Disappearance of Difference (or, “In Japan everything normal”)”
8- “Border Crossings: Translating theory: Ruth”
9- “Cross-culture, Chiasmus, and the Manifold of Mind”
10- “Memory and Cultural Translation”
11- “Remarks on the Foreign (Strange) as a Figure of Cultural Ambivalence”

Weeks 7/8/9

Rom Adhar Mall's Intercultural Philosophy

Chp. 1: intercultural philosophy: A conceptuclar clarification
Chp. Toward a Theory of an Analogous Hermeneutics
Chp. 4: Intercultural Philosophy and Postmodernity
Chp. 5: An intercultural philosophy of Unity without uniformity
Chp. 6: Two metaphors of Time-Arrow and Time-Cycle
Chp. 9: The Concept of the Absolute—An Intercultural Perspective
Chp. 10: Europe in the Mirror of Cultures—On the Myth of the Europeanization of Humanity: A Non-European Discovery of Europe

Weeks 10/11/12/13/14

In class presentations and readings from Timothy Reiss’s Against Autonomy