COM 371-2: Intercultural Communication
Schedule # 20932
Fall 2014

Professor: Carmen M. Lee, PhD
Email: clee@mail.sdsu.edu
(Email is the best way to reach me!)
Office Hours: Tues., 12:45-1:45 p.m.,
Wed., 10:00-12:00 p.m., & by appt.

Course Description
The major objective of this course is to provide an overview of the study of communication and culture. Both cross-cultural (i.e., comparisons of communication across cultures) and intercultural (i.e., communication between members of different cultures) aspects of communication will be examined. Interethnic communication in the United States (e.g., communication between Latino(a) Americans and European Americans) also will be discussed. The focus will be upon understanding how we can improve the effectiveness of our intercultural communication, manage conflict successfully, and develop relationships with members of other groups.

Course Learning Outcomes
Specific learning outcomes include, but are not limited to: (1) identification and illustration of how culture, in and of itself, influences communication, and how it interacts with social and psychological factors to influence communication; (2) specification of cultural similarities and differences in communication behavior; (3) recognition of the impact that cultural issues have on communication effectiveness; (4) ability to deduce when cultural issues are influencing the development of interpersonal relationships; (5) knowledge of ethical issues in communicating with someone from a different culture/ethnic group; (6) cultural awareness; and (7) application of acquired knowledge in order to transcend differences and build community.

General Education Requirement
Courses that fulfill the 9-unit requirement for Explorations in General Education take the goals and skills of GE Foundations courses to a more advanced level. Your three (3) upper-division courses in Explorations will provide greater interdisciplinary, more complex and in-depth theory, deeper investigation of local problems, and wider awareness of global challenges. More extensive reading, written analysis involving complex comparisons, well-developed arguments, considerable bibliography, and use of technology are appropriate in many Explorations courses.

This is an Explorations course in Social and Behavioral Sciences. Completing this course will help you learn to do the following with greater depth: (1) explore and recognize basic terms, concepts, and domains of the social and behavioral sciences; (2) comprehend diverse theories and methods of the social and behavioral sciences; (3) identify human behavioral patterns across space and time and discuss their interrelatedness and distinctiveness; and (4) enhance your understanding of the social world through the application of conceptual frameworks from the social and behavioral sciences to first-hand engagement with contemporary issues.

In order to develop these abilities in all our students, San Diego State University’s General Education program will emphasize the following seven essential capacities: (1) construct, analyze, and communicate arguments; (2) apply theoretical models to the real world; (3) contextualize phenomena; (4) negotiate differences; (5) integrate global and local perspectives; (6) illustrate relevance of concepts across boundaries; and (7) evaluate consequences of actions. ~Taken directly from the General Catalog regarding General Education Requirements

Required Readings:

The textbook is accompanied by an Online Learning Center that provides interactive resources such as chapter outlines, sample quizzes with feedback, crossword puzzles using key terms, and Internet activities. The link is: http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0078036771/student_view0/
Additional Readings/Materials:
All additional materials will be made available on Blackboard (Bb).

Initial Expectations
I assume that you will take responsibility for what you learn from the course and attempt to make the course as personally relevant as possible. More specifically, I assume that you will attempt to integrate what you learn from lectures, discussions, and readings with your everyday experiences. I also assume that you will actively, and respectfully, participate in discussions in the classroom. Hence, it is expected that you will come to class having read the assigned readings as presented in the course outline. Finally, I assume that you will complete all course requirements.

Course Requirements

Responsible attendance and participation is expected.
It is expected that students will be active and present to participate in class. Good class participation involves coming to class on time, volunteering answers to questions that are insightful and provide contrasts and integration, actively listening to others’ contribution to discussion, and moving the discussion along toward a shared understanding. Students who do miss a class meeting are expected to have read the material and actively find out what they missed. You should approach another classmate for missed lecture notes and, if clarification is needed, meet with your Instructor. Instructor lecture notes or PowerPoint slides are not provided to students in this course. If a student is missing a class on the day an assignment is due, the student should make arrangements for that assignment to be turned in on time.

1. Exams
There will be three (3) exams given throughout the course. The exams will consist of: true/false, multiple-choice, and matching questions. Exams are NOT cumulative. There is a ‘Study Guide’ (on Blackboard) for each exam which should assist you in: (a) navigating required readings, taking lecture notes, viewing videos, etc., and (b) studying for the exam. There will be a review prior to each exam. The review will consist of students asking questions to verify lecture and reading content and not serve as a re-lecturing of course material. All exams are to be taken in class on the designated exam dates. Your exams will not be returned to you, but you are welcome to come during office hours or make an appointment to peruse your exam if desired. All exams will be destroyed at the end of the semester.

NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. In the rare event that an extreme emergency arises (i.e., you were in the hospital, there was a death in the family, etc.), it is your responsibility to: (1) inform your Instructor prior to the scheduled exam time, and (2) provide the Instructor with written documentation of the emergency (e.g., medical note from a certified physician) that can be verified. If your excuse can be verified, your score will be based on the average of your total on the other two exams. If you do not have a legitimate, verified excuse, you will receive a zero (0) on the exam you miss. Exam I will be held on Sept. 30, 2014; Exam II will be held on Oct. 28, 2014; Exam III will be held on Dec. 11, 2014 (1:00-3:00 p.m.).

2. Dyadic Research Assignment
You will write a joint paper with a person from your own class section that is from another “group.” Your paper will revolve around the development of your relationship with each other. More specifically, it will focus on a minimum of four (4) interactions you have with each other, and your individual and collective assessment of your interactions. Your task for the interactions is to get to know each other. Interactions should be face-to-face, in person (not via Skype or any other computer-mediated communication) for a minimum of 20 minutes, preferably longer. The four interactions should be completed by the week of the second exam (by Oct. 31). We will divide into dyads on Tuesday, September 9, 2014. Please make sure you attend class this day. Do not make arrangements with someone to be partners prior to this date. The instructor will announce the criteria for dyad formation on this date. A more detailed description of the paper assignment can be found on PAGES 7-10 of this syllabus. The dyadic paper assignment is due (in electronic format) on Friday, December 5, 2014 (by 11:59 p.m.). A Dyadic Research Paper assessment rubric, as well as other relevant content, is located on Blackboard (under ‘Dyadic Research Paper’).

IMPORTANT: Dyadic partners who fail to contribute equally to the dyad may receive deductions up to a grade of zero. If you have a dyadic partner who is not pulling his/her weight, contact me immediately. If you do not contact
me well in advance, please do not complain about your partner’s lack of work on the assignment. Given enough lead time, I can assist in the situation.

3. Individual Web-based Journaling
Keeping a diary or journaling our interactions with others is one way which we can assess the development of relationships. After each interaction with your assigned partner, you will be responsible for completing a web-based journal ALONE. Each journal should take you no more than 20 minutes to complete. The journal will then serve as a guide in helping you decide which concepts/issues to discuss in your joint paper. Journal links can be found on your Blackboard site under ‘Journals’. In order to encourage your completion of your interactions in a timely manner, journal entries must be completed by the following dates: Journal #1, Sept. 26 (suggested Sept. 19); Journal #2, Oct. 10 (suggested Oct. 3); Journal #3, Oct. 24 (suggested Oct. 17); and Journal #4, Nov. 7 (suggested Oct. 31). It is your responsibility to ensure that your journal was ‘submitted’ properly on Blackboard. Each journal is worth 20 points. There is a 5 point deduction for each day your journal is late.

IMPORTANT: It is highly recommended that you complete interactions and journals in advance of the due dates (by the suggested completion dates) in order to allow yourself enough time to write your dyadic paper (5 weeks minimum).

EXTRA CREDIT: Students may obtain extra credit from participation in departmental research IF research opportunities are made available. Extra credit cannot be guaranteed as it is dependent on the NEED of research participants in departmental research. If extra credit opportunities are made available, students can receive 2 points for each half-hour of research participation (max. 10 points). Research opportunities are presented on the SONA Research Recruitment System which can be accessed through the School of Communication Research Participation website, https://sites.google.com/site/commsdsuresearch

Assessment
You will be assessed on the following requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
<th>Point Equivalent</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>09/30/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>10/28/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam III</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>12/11/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyadic Interaction Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>12/05/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web-based Journaling (4)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal #1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td>09/26/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal #2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/10/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal #3</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/24/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal #4</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>11/07/14</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>400 pts. possible</strong></td>
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Grading
The following scale will be used to assign final course grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>372-400</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>292-307</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360-371</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>280-291</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>348-359</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>268-279</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>332-347</td>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>252-267</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>320-331</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>240-251</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>308-319</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>0-239</td>
<td>≤59</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Plagiarism/Cheating
These behaviors will NOT be tolerated. Engaging in either plagiarism or cheating behavior will minimally result in a failure (automatic zero) for that assignment (i.e., paper or test) and could potentially result in a failure of the course. A detailed description of university policies regarding these issues can be found in the General Catalog (San Diego State University General Catalog, 2014-2015, p. 479). The School of Communication Policy on Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism can be found on the Blackboard site (under ‘Syllabus’).

Incompletes (I)
Incompletes will be given only when all University requirements pertaining to them are met (San Diego State University General Catalog, 2014-2015, p. 469).

Consultations
You are more than welcome to email me, attend office hours, or set up an appointment time. If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact your Instructor. Finally, all grade issues (e.g., discussion about a score/grade) must be handled in person (during office hours or during a scheduled appointment). No grade issues will be discussed via email.

Turnitin.com
Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You may submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included. Another option is that you may request, in writing, that your papers not be submitted to Turnitin.com. However, if you choose this option you will be required to provide documentation to substantiate that the papers are your original work and do not include any plagiarized material (ITS according to CSU General Counsel and approved by the Center for Student’s Rights and Responsibilities at SDSU).

Intellectual Property
My syllabus, lectures, and handouts are my personal copyrighted intellectual property, which means that anything other than personal use (e.g., organized recording, duplication, or distribution) on your part represents a violation of copyright and fair use laws.

Recording Policy
Students may NOT record any portion of a classroom lecture, discussion, or review without the prior and explicit written permission of the course instructor. The unauthorized use of any form of device to audiotape, photograph, video-record or otherwise reproduce (in whole or in part) lectures, course notes, or teaching materials provided by the instructor may constitute copyright infringement in violation of federal and state law. Students registered with Student Disability Services (SDS) who are unable to take or read notes have the right to audio record class lectures for their personal study only. Lectures recorded for this purpose may not be shared with other people without the consent of the instructor. Furthermore, permission granted for recording of a lecture, discussion, or review also requires the observation of privacy guidelines and regulations for students in the class whose presence or statements might also be recorded.

Additional Resources:
Counseling & Psychological Services: (619) 594-5220 or http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/cps/index.html
The Counseling Center offers counseling for personal & career concerns, self-help information, and referrals for additional mental health services. Counseling & Psychological Services Counseling Center is located in Calpulli Center, Room 4401.

The Center for Intercultural Relations: (619) 594-7057; http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/intercultural/ccc.html
The Center for Intercultural Relations serves as a support and advocacy network in order to help foster intellectual inquiry, identity development, social change, and acceptance of all people and cultures. The center is now located in the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union, Suite 250.
Student Disability Services (SDS): (619) 594-6473 or www.sa.sdsu.edu/sds/
If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated. Student Disability Services is located in Calpulli Center, Suite 3101.

Student Computing Center: (619) 594-3189 or http://www.rohan.sdsu.edu/~scc
The Student Computing Center Help Desk in the Love Library is familiar with Blackboard and can answer questions on how to access and use your Blackboard course. Moreover, the Computing Center offers open access to computers with relevant programs (e.g., Internet, Blackboard, Word Processing). It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to a computer that can perform the necessary functions for completion of assignments.