

## **COMS 3370.01 (CRN # 22806)**

### **Intercultural Communication**

3 credit hours

Spring 2018

MW 12:30 – 1:50

Classroom: DRCB 326

Dr. Terry M. Thibodeaux

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Office Hours: MW 2-3; TRF 10-11; others by appt.

### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course is a study of the theory, research, and practice of communicating within and across cultures. Research in intercultural communication will be studied with an emphasis on application to the student. Special emphasis will be given to exploring the Cajun culture of Southern Louisiana and its relationship to the Acadian culture of Northeast Canada.

### **Required Texts**

Jandt, F.E. (2016). *An Introduction to Intercultural Communication: Identities in a Global Community*. (8<sup>th</sup> Ed.) Los Angeles: Sage.

Davidson, A., & Thibodeaux, T. M. (2008). *Catherine's Cadeau*. Huntsville, TX: Texas Review. [provided by instructor]

### **General Course Policies**

1. ATTENDANCE. Attendance is essential for class participation and is checked each class period. No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences. Each class period is worth points toward the participation grade. As per university policy, each student may be absent three class hours without penalty. For every three hours of absences beyond the third hour absent, the course grade may be lowered by one letter grade.

If a student enters class after the instructor finishes taking roll, that student is considered absent. It is the tardy student's responsibility to notify the instructor of his/her attendance before leaving that class period; otherwise, the absence stands. Two tardies = one absence.

2. GRADING SCALE. All grading is done on a total points basis, with a total possible of 1000 points for the class. Final grades will be determined by total number of points earned, using the following 8% scale: A=920+; B=919-840; C=839-760; D=759-680.

3. PARTICIPATION. Twenty percent (20% or possible 200 points) of the final grade comes from class participation-- participation in class discussions, cultural paper presentations, *Catherine's Cadeau* chapter summaries, etc.

4. EXAMS. Four exams will be administered covering content from class lecture/discussion, and assigned readings. Each will be a 150-point exam. (Total: 60% of grade or 600 possible points)

5. CULTURAL ANALYSIS PAPER. Each student is required to write an 8 to 10 page paper discussing the 10 most important characteristics of a culture of their choice (and must be approved by the instructor). Any reputable sources are acceptable, either online or traditionally published. Sources MUST be cited in the paper. (Wikipedia is an example of an unacceptable source for this assignment.) More detail will be given in class. (Worth 200 points toward grade or 20% of final grade.)

6. LATE WORK. There are NO make-ups for scheduled presentations missed. Missing a scheduled presentation results in ZERO credit on that presentation. Credit for any late work is given at the discretion of the instructor. Any tests or assignments accepted late will incur a standard penalty of 10% per day late. The phone number or e-mail address listed above is to be used to explain extenuating circumstances for any missed or late work.

7. BLACKBOARD COURSE WEB PAGE Students are required to use the Blackboard (Bbd) course homepage for this class. Assignments, due dates, handout information, changes in class schedule, etc., will be posted there as needed. It is highly encouraged that you check the Course homepage regularly. This will save you time, work, and stress.

8. OPTIONAL FIELD TRIP. Students will be given the opportunity to take a supervised, but optional field trip to Lafayette, LA during the semester. First-hand experience of the Southwest Louisiana Creole and Cajun cultures is a highlight of this field trip. More detail will be given in class. For more information, see the festival website:

<http://festivalinternational.org/music/>

9. TECHNOLOGY & ELECTRONIC DEVICES. Cell phones, tablets, e-notebooks, computers, and any other electronic devices, should be used only for the class purposes (in note-taking, etc.) Otherwise, they must be turned off on entering the classroom, since they pose a distraction to others in the class. Any student repeatedly disrupting the class by use of any electronic devices may be dismissed from the class resulting in an absence for that period. Repeated offenses may result in the student being dropped from the class.

10. CAMPUS CARRY. Please see the following web site for information about this state law that went into effect August 1, 2016: <http://www.shsu.edu/katsafe/campus-carry/>

11. The following four sections can be found at <https://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

[www.shsu.edu/syllabus](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus)

## Tentative Class Schedule

<u>Date/Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Text Reading</u>
Jan 17	Intro to course; <i>CC Reading assignments</i>	Ch 1
Jan 22/24	Defining Culture and Communication	Ch 2
Jan 29/31	Perception; Intercultural Competence	Ch 3
Feb 5/7	Barriers to Intercultural Com; <b>EXAM 1</b> (Ch 1-3) <i>SHSU Cajun Mardi Gras Festival – Feb. 8</i>	Ch 4
Feb 12/14	Nonverbal Communication	Ch 5
Feb 19/21	Language as a Barrier	Ch 6
Feb 26/28	Dimensions of Culture	Ch 7
Mar 5/7	Dominant US Cultural Patterns; <b>EXAM 2</b> (Ch. 4-7)	Ch 8
Mar 12 – 16	<b><i>Spring Break</i></b>	
Mar 19/21	Comparative Cultural Patterns: Arab Culture	Ch 9
Mar 26/28	Culture & Women	Ch 10
<b><i>Cultural Analysis Paper Due – Apr 2</i></b>		
Apr 2/4	Immigration & Acculturation <i>SSCA Convention (Nashville, TN) – April 4-8</i>	Ch 11
Apr 9/11	<b>EXAM 3</b> (Ch's 8-10); Cultures Within Cultures	Ch 12
Apr 16/18	Contact Between Cultures	Ch 13
Apr 23/25	Future Challenges; Culture Paper Reports begin	Ch 14
<b><i>Festival International Lafayette – Apr 27-29</i></b>		
May 1/3	Continue Culture Reports	
<b>Final Exam Period</b>	<b>Monday, May 7, 1:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>EXAM 4</b> (Ch 10-12)
	-finish Culture Paper reports (mandatory attendance)	