

COMM 220: Intercultural Communication
Fall OL 2: October 24-December 12, 2013
Day/Time: Thursdays, 6:00pm-10:00pm
Location: P103
Instructor: Wendy Ames
Email: wames@nwc.edu

Hello and welcome! I am Wendy Ames, your COMM 220 Instructor this term. What this means is that I will be the one assessing your participation (a very important part of success in this course) and your written work in order to assign a final grade. To learn more about me please read my profile on the COMM 220 site in BeaconLearning.

If you have any questions or concerns as the course unfolds please reach out to me directly. The best way to do that is to send me a private message on the COMM220 site. You can also do this if you'd like to request a time to talk face-to-face outside of our regular class time. I will check messages on the site regularly, but not at all on Sunday, and will strive to reply to any messages within 48 hours.

Why this course?

- Recognizing your own cultural assumptions and biases is an important and life-long process that will help to deepen your understanding, compassion and appreciation for people from other cultures, backgrounds and belief systems as you live in and engage the world.
- "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself..." —*Mark 12:31*
- This course also fulfills the diversity requirement for the general education core.

Course Objectives

- Students will demonstrate increased willingness to communicate interculturally, and reduced anxiety in such encounters, through pre- and post-test administrations of the Intercultural Willingness to Communicate (IWC) and Personal Report of Intercultural Communication Anxiety (PRICA) scales.
- Students will demonstrate comprehension of the nature of culture, involving worldview, cultural identity, and cultural values, through the chapter readings, quizzes and discussions.
- Students will experience hands-on cultural interchange, including behavior adjustments and growth and expansion of thought, through readings, in-class exercises and cultural encounters with guests and one another.
- Students will demonstrate sufficient critical reading and writing to summarize peer-reviewed research, as well as comprehension of the methods by which social science data on intercultural communication is gathered, through the Article Report assignment.
- Students will demonstrate in the final exam how what they have learned in this course will prepare them for success in future intercultural situations **and** demonstrate in specific ways how their thinking has been shifted or stretched by the intercultural opportunities afforded them during our classroom time together.

Required Textbook

Lustig, M. W., & Koester, J. (2013). *Intercultural competence: Interpersonal communication across cultures*, 7th ed., Pearson Education, Inc.

Northwest Christian University (NCU) Academic Policies

General undergraduate academic policies are found in the *NCU Catalog 2013-2014*, available online at <https://www.nwcu.edu/academics/registrar/catalog>.

The following specific policies relate to this particular course.

Class Attendance: Students are expected to arrive on time for class. Your participation grade will be affected if you are not in class or are late to class, for whatever reason. Excused absences will be allowed for activities such as serious illness, family or work emergencies, and recognized commitments with the University. The professor will determine the validity of the excuse. The student is responsible for knowing all information presented in the class(es) missed. If there are any problems, please let the professor know BEFORE the class.

Missed Quizzes, Tests, and Exams: No make-up exams will be allowed except for circumstances granted a legitimate excuse status. In the event that a student cannot take an exam, he/she must contact the professor BEFORE the absence, and the professor will determine whether a legitimate excuse is warranted. Final exams are not given before their scheduled time during finals week.

Late Papers and Class Assignments: Each instructor sets policies regarding papers and other class assignments that are turned in late. Professors reserve the right to set penalties, including lowering of grades, as well as rejection of late papers.

Note that in COMM 220, I record zeros for all late work or for work that you did not show up to complete in class. No exceptions.

Credit Hour Definition: A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes, and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than: 1) One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or 2) at least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph 1 of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution, including laboratory work, internships, practicum, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

Tutoring Services:

1. For undergrads (ADP and TUGs) and non V-Campus grad programs:

Free online tutoring can be accessed from the main Beacon Learning homepage. Select the 'Brainfuse' link under 'Web Links'. Live tutoring is available 7 days a week from 3pm-1am, or questions and papers can be submitted 24/7. Students can contact tutor@nwcu.edu with any questions.

2. For V-Campus programs:

Free online tutoring is available through Brainfuse under the 'Resources' tab in V-Campus. Live tutoring is available 7 days a week from 3pm-1am, or questions and papers can be submitted 24/7. Students can contact tutor@nwcu.edu with any questions.

Academic Honesty: Our University's mission assumes the highest principles of virtue and ethics in the intellectual life. Plagiarism, cheating, and any other form of academic dishonesty are not acceptable and will not be tolerated. If a student cheats on a test or assignment, he/she will receive a zero for that work and, depending on the severity of the offense, possibly a grade of "F" in the course. All incidents will be reported in writing to the Vice-President for Academic Affairs and to the Vice President for Student Development, who may consider additional actions, including dismissal from the University and/or denial of application for readmission.

Disability Services: If you need academic accommodations based on a documented disability, whether it is psychiatric, learning, physical, or sensory, you must process your request with Ms. Angela Doty, the designated Disability Officer. Contact Ms. Doty in the Pomajevich Faculty Building, by phone at 541-684-7289, or by e-mail at adoty@nwc.edu, and/or refer to the *Disability Services Handbook* (available online) for the policy and detailed procedures regarding disabilities. **Contact should be made prior to the beginning of each semester or within the first two weeks so that the Disability Officer can make reasonable accommodation for each eligible student.**

Specific policies for this COMM 220 class are as follows:

Graded Components to the Course:

- Showing up every Thursday night and actively participating in the discussions, activities and in-class writing assignments is absolutely critical to your success in this course. 40%
- Completing open-book, open-notes, quizzes in class on all of the twelve chapters in the Lustig and Koester textbook. 20%
- Article Report: reading an article from a scholarly communication journal and writing a short paper on its contents. This MUST meet the quality standards of college-level writing. 20%
- Completing an open-book, open-notes, single-question essay for your final exam. 20%
- Please note that 80% of your final grade involves showing up to class on time, prepared and ready to be involved.
- No grades will be dropped for this course.

Spelling and Grammar (for the Article Report and other homework as assigned):

Sometimes students ask if spelling and grammar will affect their final grade. The answer is YES! All written work for COMM 220, a course in communication, must be at the quality of college-level writing. If you are not already an excellent writer, I strongly encourage you to engage with an NCU tutor right away in order to get help with writing and editing in preparation for your Article Report (due November 14th) and to improve the quality of your final exam (December 12th) which together count for 40% of your final grade in this course. See the NCU Tutoring Services information above.

In the first block of the online COMM 220 site (Writing Resources) there is a link entitled "Writing Tune-Up," which includes links to online lessons about common mechanical mistakes in writing. In addition, there is a link entitled "Mechanics Instructions" that you should consult for the schedule of penalties. Right below it, there is another link entitled "Mechanics Drills" that contains links to online exercises. All of these links are part of the greater Purdue University OWL website which you may find useful: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/>. You are not required to complete these activities for the COMM 220 course, but I strongly suggest that you do in order to guarantee the best possible scores on your writing-related work and the final exam.

Please note that I recommend the use of the OWL site as a complement reaching out to an NCU writing tutor for help, but not as a substitute for that help.

Quizzes:

- You will be quizzed on each chapter in Lustig & Koester.
- All quizzes will be taken in class. No exceptions.
- The quizzes will cover both the material from the textbook and any supplemental reading, tasks or exercises that I have given you to complement the text chapters for that week. Questions covering both categories **will** appear on the quiz, so expect it and **be prepared**.
- You may use the textbook during quizzes. You may also use any notes that you have taken thus far in the course or any articles that you have printed out from the COMM 220 site. You may **not** use any other human being as a resource as you take the quiz; consulting another person or their work constitutes cheating.

Article Report:

- The Article Report is due to me on November 14th by the start of class at 6:00pm. No excuses or exceptions.
- More detailed information on the Article Report will be given and explained to you in class.
- **Proofreading your work for this assignment is crucial**, as you will be graded heavily on spelling, grammar and the flow of your writing.
- Keep in mind that APA Style[®] requires that you cite *within* the body of your report, including material paraphrased from the article, *and* that you include a **Works Cited** page at the end of your report. If you omit either one, you may be guilty of plagiarism. For more details see this site: <http://www.apastyle.org/about-apa-style.aspx>

Final Exam:

- You will write in response to a single essay question.
- Once you open the final exam, you will have three hours to prepare and write your answer.
- You will have just one opportunity to take this exam, and that is in class on Thursday, December 12th at 6pm. No excuses or exceptions.
- Spelling and grammar will **not** be graded on the final since it is timed, but please be careful to write coherently so that I can tell what you are trying to say and **most importantly** so that I can understand what you have learned in the COMM 220 course this fall.

Due Dates & Times

Week 1, October 24th – Preparing for Success in COMM 220

Come to the first class on time with any questions you may have and be fully ready to participate actively in the discussion and hands-on activities. Full class participation is critical to your successful completion of this course and your final grade. We will watch the supplemental material (Swallow & Srader video clips) together in class, but feel free to review ahead of time if you would like to do so.

Week 2, October 31 – Introduction to Intercultural Competence & Communication

Read Chapters 1, 2 & 3 in Lustig and Koester text
Review supplemental materials for Chapters 2 & 3 – Van Steenwyk blog spot & two Srader videos
Submit your choice of article for the Article Report (due November 14) on the COMM 220 site by midnight

Week 3, November 7 – Understanding Culture & Intercultural Communication

Read Chapter 4 & 5 in Lustig and Koester text
Review supplemental materials for Chapters 4 & 5 – Geertz obituary & interview
[Guest: Dr. Elaine Acacio, Director of Civic & Community Engagement in Equity & Inclusion, UO](#)

Week 4, November 14 – Cultural Patterns and Identity

Article Report due to me by class time at 6:00pm
Read Chapter 6 in Lustig and Koester text
Review supplemental material for Chapter 6 – HBR article on Africa
[Guest: Dr. Jane Irungu, Dir. of Graduation Success in Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence, UO](#)

Week 5, November 21 – Verbal & Non-Verbal Communication + Code

Read Chapters 7, 8 & 9 in Lustig and Koester text
Review supplemental material for Chapter 9 – Tan article
[Guest: Darren Reiley \(M.A. in Folklore\), Education Consultant and Co-Founder, Peace Village](#)

Week 6, November 28 – NO CLASS THIS EVENING, HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Read Chapters 10, 11 & 12 in Lustig and Koester text
Review supplemental materials for Chapters 10, 11 & 12 – Joy Luck Club clip, Srader video & NPR audio

Week 7, December 5 – Real-World Applications for Intercultural Competence Skills

Review supplemental materials – Cullinan article
[Guest: Dr. Cristine Cullinan, Associate Director of Organizational Development and Training, UO](#)

Week 8, December 12 – Final Exam

Final Exam to be taken in class at 6:00pm sharp.

All assignments are due by the start of class on the date indicated.

Remember to strive to turn things in at least 24 hours in advance of the due date via our COMM 220 site if for some reason you are unable to attend class. Assignments submitted after the due date and time (6pm in class or via the COMM 220 site) will receive a zero grade. No exceptions.

Clarity on your responsibilities and mine in this intercultural environment

The following information is adapted from an article an English professor wrote, under a pen name, which appeared in the June 9, 2006, Chronicle of Higher Education.

Students and teachers have obligations to each other.

Here is what I expect from you:

- You will treat everyone in the course, including me, with the respect due to all human beings.
- You will participate in every course, give your full attention to the material, and conduct yourself in an appropriate manner.
- You will agree to do the work outlined in the syllabus on time.
- You will acknowledge that previous academic preparation (e.g., writing skills) will affect your performance in this course.
- You will acknowledge that your perception of effort, by itself, is not enough to justify a distinguished grade.
- You will not plagiarize or otherwise steal the work of others.
- You will not make excuses for your failure to do what you ought.
- You will accept the consequences - good and bad - of your actions.

Here is what you can expect from me:

- I will treat you with the respect due to all human beings.
- I will know your name and treat you as an individual.
- I will not discriminate against you on the basis of your identity or your well-informed viewpoints.
- I will manage the course in a professional manner. That may include educating you in appropriate behavior.
- I will prepare carefully for every course.
- I will begin and end coursework on schedule.
- I will teach only in areas of my professional expertise. If I do not know something, I will say so.
- I will return your assignments quickly with detailed feedback.
- I will pursue the maximum punishment for plagiarism, cheating, and other violations of academic integrity.
- I will keep careful records of your attendance, performance, and progress.
- I will investigate every excuse for non-attendance of courses and non-completion of assignments.
- I will maintain confidentiality concerning your performance.
- I will provide you with professional support and write recommendations for you, if appropriate.
- I will be honest with you.
- Your grade will reflect the quality of your work and nothing else.
- I am interested in your feedback about the course, but I am most interested to hear what you learned and how that will impact your future, not just how you felt about the course.

Quotes to Ponder for Intercultural Communication

A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging prejudices.

–*William James*

The most important trip you may take in life is meeting people halfway.

–*Henry Boye*

We don't see things as they are; we see them as we are.

–*Anais Nin*

The tango is really the combination of many cultures, though it eventually became the national music of Argentina.

–*Yo-Yo Ma*

Preservation of one's own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures.

–*Cesar Chavez*

No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive.

–*Mahatma Ghandi*

If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place.

–*Margaret Mead*

Tolerance, inter-cultural dialogue and respect for diversity are more essential than ever in a world where peoples are becoming more and more closely interconnected.

–*Kofi Annan*

People can only live fully by helping others to live. When you give life to friends you truly live. Cultures can only realize further richness by honoring other traditions.

–*Daisaku Ikeda*

We will surely get to our destination if we join hands.

–*Aung San Suu Kyi*

Love your neighbor as yourself.

–*Jesus Christ*