

ENGE2710 Language and Intercultural Communication

Term-2, 2022-23

Time/Venue: TBA

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Course Description

This course introduces the fundamentals of intercultural communication with the aim of helping students interact more appropriately and effectively with people who have a different linguistic and cultural background. Through exposure to current language and intercultural communication theory and research, students develop a deeper understanding of what it means to be an interculturally competent communicator and are encouraged to become more open-minded and actively engaged in intercultural interactions. Topics include: the concept of culture; language & cultural socialization; cultural variations in verbal and non-verbal communication; language, culture, and identity; identity formation and development; intercultural relationships; prejudice and stereotypes; intercultural transition and adjustment; study/residence abroad; and language, interculturality & global citizenship. This interactive course will consist of lectures, readings, discussions, intercultural reflections exercises, a language and cultural identity narrative, a midterm examination, and an intercultural-global citizenship video project. This course should be of interest and use to both local and international students.

Topics/Fundamental Concepts

1. Introduction to course/ Defining culture and communication
2. The dimensions of intercultural communication
3. Cultural patterns and communication: beliefs, values, and worldview
4. Language, cultural, and ethnic identities, cultural biases and intercultural contact
5. Verbal and non-verbal communication in intercultural interactions
6. Constructive intercultural conflict management
7. Language socialization and identity (re)construction during study/residence abroad
8. Intercultural adjustment and adaptation
9. Intercultural competence in interpersonal relationships
10. Language and intercultural communication in the global workplace
11. The development of intercultural, global citizenship

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- describe core elements in language and intercultural communication and theories of intercultural (communicative) competence, intercultural adjustment, and identity construction/negotiation;
- explain how culture influences their own life (e.g., values, beliefs, communication styles);
- discuss cultural diversity and identify constructive ways to meet the challenges of intercultural communication;
- recognize diverse ways of communicating in different cultural situations;
- assess their cultural self-awareness and communication style and set realistic goals to enhance their intercultural communicative competence (e.g., ability to communicate effectively and appropriately with people from other cultures) and global citizenship identity;
- explain why intercultural competence development is best viewed as a lifelong process.

Required and Recommended Readings

Required text:

Jackson, J. (2020). *Introducing language and intercultural communication* (2nd ed.). Routledge.

Recommended material:

Ting-Toomey, S., & Chung, L. (2012). *Understanding intercultural communication* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.

*Additional readings and supplementary materials will be provided (e.g., links to selected YouTube videos, intercultural narrative excerpts).

Assessment Scheme

	Assessment	Task nature	Weight
1	Attendance and contribution in class	Participation	10%
2	Language & cultural identity narrative	Essay	15%
3	In-class midterm examination	Examination	40%
4	Intercultural-global citizenship project	Project	35%

Attendance and Participation (10%)

You are expected to be prepared for and attend classes regularly and on time. Active participation in class is essential. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Absenteeism, tardiness, and the submission of assignments after the due date will result in a lower grade. Late assignments will be penalized 20% of the grade. No assignments will be accepted after one week beyond the due date.

Language & Cultural Identity Paper (15%)

You will be required to write an 8-10 page (double-spaced) paper that describes your language and cultural background and how you think it influences your communication with others. Your narrative should be descriptive and analytical. Please use headings and sub-headings to guide the reader; cite sources using APA format. Specific guidelines will be provided.

In-class Examination (40%)

The examination must be taken on the day assigned. A make-up exam will be given *only* in the case of an excused absence, such as a verifiable illness. The examination will consist of multiple-choice questions and short essays.

Intercultural-Global Citizenship Project (35%)

Throughout the course we explore many topics related to language, interculturality, and global citizenship. For this video project, *you* will decide on an intercultural topic that is relevant to the course and especially meaningful/interesting to you (e.g., preparation for studying abroad, intercultural transitions, ways to adjust to diverse cultures of learning, identity reconstruction, intercultural friendship/romance, global citizenship). You will seek out a minimum of three individuals who have a different linguistic and cultural background from yourself; with their consent, you will gather their views about your chosen topic. Record your own ideas about what the topic means to you, making connections to course concept. Specific guidelines will be provided. (A video-making/editing workshop will be offered to enhance your digital literacy skills.)

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic_honesty/. **Your paper must be submitted to VeriGuide.** Fill in the declaration form and attach it to your essay.

Feedback for Course Enhancement

In the middle and end of the semester, you will be invited to provide feedback on the course via a questionnaire. Your feedback is highly valued and will be used to revise the course. You may also offer suggestions at any time.

Overall Grading Criteria

A (Excellent)	Your work is excellent and shows exceptional command of the material, considerably exceeding the criteria for a “B.” You present a creative, critical analysis that shows a thorough understanding of the subject and makes significant use of sources in addition to the required course readings. There is ample evidence of originality, reflection, analysis, and intercultural sensitivity. Both the organization of your work and your writing style are outstanding and reveal considerable insight into the relation between form and content. This grade honors an excellent piece of work that goes well beyond expectations. It recognizes that you have made a special effort and that this effort has succeeded.
B (Good)	Your work demonstrates a good understanding of the material but lacks the depth and outstanding quality of an “A.” It is generally well organized and shows some creativity/intercultural awareness. Both the content and the form display an effort in avoiding errors, though there are some minor ones. You combine a good and critical understanding of the subject with evidence that you did some research beyond the required readings. This grade recognizes your effort in doing a job that exceeds the minimum requirements and includes some independent thought.
C (Fair)	Your work reveals sufficient understanding of the material. Rather than presenting original ideas in a creative manner, it does little more than summarize the material and provides little evidence of reflection, analysis, and intercultural awareness/sensitivity. Content and form do not go beyond basic expectations and/or display substantial errors. Usually, this grade is given for acceptable but non-exceptional work that doesn’t show much effort to do more than meet the minimum requirements. This grade also covers work that is done well in some respects but very weak in others.
D (Pass)	Your work is not sufficient and reveals less than adequate understanding of the material, or it may be fairly incoherent and misapply most of the relevant material. Content and/or form do not adequately meet basic expectations. There is little evidence of intercultural awareness or sensitivity. This grade is assigned when your work shows serious problems in one or more areas.
F (Fail)	Your work does not meet the most minimal standards. It reveals no understanding of the material, lack of basic academic skills/knowledge, or completely incomprehensible writing. There is very little evidence of intercultural awareness or sensitivity. All in all, your work is not acceptable.