COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course we will examine cultural groups with whom people identify by birth or choice, and how a group’s culture influences communication within and beyond the group. The goal is to improve intercultural communication competence in the following ways:

- Consider how culture shapes our perception of the world and our ways of communicating
- Compare U.S. communication characteristics with those of other nationalities
- Understand the stresses and challenges associated with cross-cultural adaptation
- Acquire the knowledge and skills to communicate competently in our multicultural society
- Identify communication strategies to reduce stereotyping, prejudice, and ethnocentrism

PROFESSOR – DR. PAUL WITT

817-257-6683   P.Witt@tcu.edu   Moudy South room 327 after class or by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


IMPORTANT POLICIES

Classroom Courtesy – When you enroll in this course, you agree to participate in discussion about sensitive socio-cultural issues such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and religion. If you hear a classmate express a view that you consider offensive or uninformed, practice restraint and use your best communication skills to balance his/her views with your own. Be slow to criticize or judge the opinions of others. Let’s make our class an open, respectful, and safe place to share differing perspectives.

E-mail - Check your TCU e-mail regularly, and visit http://personal.tcu.edu/~pwitt to download course information, syllabus, and handouts you missed in class.

Late Work – Written assignments are to be typed and turned in at the beginning of class, whether or not you are present. Allow enough time to compensate for computer/printer problems. Late work will receive half credit if turned in one class day late. Late work will not be accepted after that.

Plagiarism – Turning in a paper you did not write or using content you did not cite constitutes plagiarism and may result in failure of the course or possible suspension from the University.
EVALUATION AND GRADING

Your grade will be determined by your performance in the following areas:

**20% Presentations** – You will make a 3-minute individual presentation “My Personal Crest” about cultural influences in your life (10 points), and a 15-minute group presentation about a cross-cultural movie you will study as a group (10 points). Presentations will be graded on content, preparation, verbal and nonverbal presentation skills, and feedback from group members about your involvement and contribution to the project.

**35% Papers** – You will write two 4-page viewpoint papers (10 points each) and a 5-page cross-cultural report (15 points) on aspects of your own culture and that of others. Papers will be graded on how well you apply concepts from the course, as well as the quality of your written expression.

**45% Tests** – Five quizzes (5 points each) will test detailed information about the communication concepts and principles presented in the textbook and in class. Quizzes will be scored according to the grade-point scale found on the course website. It is essential that you be present on quiz days, as make-ups are not possible. The final exam (20 points) will be a comprehensive, open-book, take-home exam. You should plan to spend a considerable amount of time completing this important exam.

**Attendance** – You are expected to be in class every day. If you miss more than 2 classes, your final course grade will be reduced as follows: miss 3 classes lose 5 points; miss 4 classes lose 10 points.

**Course Grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____</td>
<td>_____ /25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. June 8</td>
<td>Personal Crest Presentation</td>
<td>____ x .10 = _____ /10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur. June 9</td>
<td>Viewpoint Paper 1</td>
<td>____ x .10 = _____ /10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur. June 16</td>
<td>Viewpoint Paper 2</td>
<td>____ x .10 = _____ /10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. June 27</td>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>____ x .10 = _____ /10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. June 28</td>
<td>Cross-Cultural Report</td>
<td>____ x .15 = _____ /15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur. Aug. 7</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>____ x .20 = _____ /20</td>
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Adjustment for _____ absences - _____

**Course Grade** = _____/100