



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	COMS
Course Number:	260
Descriptive Title:	Introduction to Intercultural Communication
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	Communication Studies (Speech Communications)
Course Disciplines:	Communication Studies (Speech Communications)
Catalog Description:	This course examines the study, practice, and application of general communication theories; cross-cultural communication styles; and cultural, ethnic and individual identity development, including African American, Native American, Asian, Latinx, LGBTQ+, and other non-dominant cultures. Intercultural communication is enhanced through assignments that facilitate competence and minimize prejudice and discrimination in various cross-cultural communication contexts.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for English 1A
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3 units
Grading Method:	Letter
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	X
Effective Date:	Prior to 7/1992
Transfer UC:	X
Effective Date:	Prior to 7/1992
General Education:	2C - Social and Behavioral Sciences
ECC	4B - Language and Rationality - Communication and Analytical Thinking
Term:	
Other:	Approved
CSU GE:	D3 - Ethnic Studies D7 - Interdisciplinary Social and Behavioral Science
Term:	
Other:	Approved
IGETC:	4C - Ethnic Studies 4G - Interdisciplinary, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Term:	
Other:	Approved
Student Learning Outcomes:	<p>SLO #1 Identify/describe theories/concepts related to intercultural communication.</p> <p>SLO #2 Apply theories/concepts to different cultural contexts.</p> <p>SLO #3 Prepare and present various cultural contexts to a selected country/culture.</p>
Course Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze cultural, micro-cultural, environmental, socio-relational, and perceptual contexts and their influence on intercultural communication. 2. Discuss how different cultures use verbal and non-verbal communication. 3. Identify and be able to demonstrate a selected culture's norms and preferences in various cultural contexts. 4. Identify various cultural contexts such as individualism, collectivism, high-and-low-context communication, time orientation, power distance and uncertainty avoidance. 5. Discuss various micro-cultures including Hispanic/Latino, African-American, Asian, Middle-Eastern, Native American, European American, and LGBTQ+. 6. Analyze the impact of the environment, perception, and socio-relational context on intercultural communication. 7. Identify the influence of uncertainty, intercultural communication apprehension, empathy, similarity, acculturation, and culture shock on intercultural communication. 8. Understand and explain factors that influence cultural and individual identity development.
Major Topics:	<p>I. The Necessity of Intercultural Communication (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Need for Intercultural Communication B. Fundamental Assumptions About Intercultural Communication <p>II. The Cultural Context (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Individualism-Collectivism B. High-and-Low- Context Communication C. Value Orientation D. Power Distance E. Uncertainty-Avoidance <p>III. The Micro-Cultural Context (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Hispanic/Latino B. The African-American C. The Amish D. The Hmong E. The Arab-American <p>IV. The Environmental Context (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Environments and Information Load B. Culture and the Natural Environment C. Cross-Cultural Comparisons of Housing D. Privacy E. Monochronic Versus Polychronic Time Orientation <p>V. The Perceptual Context (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Culture and Cognition B. Stereotyping C. Ethnocentrism <p>VI. The Socio-Relational Context (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Dimensions of Group Variability

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Role Relationships C. Social Stratification D. Hierarchy, Sex and Gender Roles Across Cultures <p>VII. The Verbal Code (6 hours, lecture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Relationship Between Language and Culture B. Structure of Human Language C. Language and Ethnic Identity <p>VIII. The Non-Verbal Code (6 hours, lecture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Definition B. Relationship Between Verbal and Nonverbal Codes C. Channels of Nonverbal Communication D. Dimensions of Cultural Variability <p>IX. Developing Intercultural Relationships (9 hours, lecture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Understanding Construction of Cultural Identity B. Personal, Social and Cultural C. Uncertainty Reduction and Intercultural Communication Apprehension D. Empathy and Similarity in Relationship Development E. Marital Relationships <p>X. Intercultural Communication in Organizations (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Intercultural Management B. Clashing Cultural Concepts on the Job C. Misinterpretation of Common U.S. Phrases D. Intercultural Relations E. Conflict in Organizations <p>XI. Acculturation and Culture Shock (6 hours, lecture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Acculturation and Stress B. A Model of Acculturation <p>XII. Intercultural Competence (6 hours, lecture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Business Communication B. Intercultural Training Programs C. Practice in the Real World
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
Primary Method of Evaluation:	Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Complete chapter assessments and discuss what the scores mean to you and how it will influence your communication with others.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	View an assigned media clip demonstrating cross-cultural communication and answer the questionnaire on differences between the cultures in terms of power distance, verbal and non-verbal communication, direct/indirect communication, stereotypes, and ethnocentrism.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Prepare and present material for a selected micro-culture and country. Presentations must include various cultural context, norms, celebrations, and challenges.
Other Evaluation Methods:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essay Exams Objective Exams Other Exams Quizzes Reading Reports

	<p>Written Homework Field Work Class Performance Homework Problems Term or Other Papers Multiple Choice Completion Matching Items True/False Presentation</p>
Instructional Methods:	<p>Demonstration Discussion Group Activities Multimedia Presentations Lecture Role Play/Simulation Internet Presentation/Resources</p>
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	<p>Study Answer Questions Skill Practive Required Reading Problem Solving Activities Written Work Observation of or participation in an activity related to course content</p>
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	<p>Lustig, M. W., & Koester, J. <i>Intercultural Competence: Interpersonal Communication Across Cultures</i> (8e). Pearson. 2021.</p>
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold	

the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English 1A
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	<p>This course involves reading college level textbooks, developing papers, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills.</p> <p>Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.</p>
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	
Date:	
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Fariba Sadeghi-Tabrizi
Date:	11/01/2023
Last Board Approval Date:	06/17/2024
Effective Term:	FALL 2025