

CMS 321W Intercultural Communication Lincoln Campus

7-Day Seminar Syllabus 3 Credits
Sunday, 27 July—Saturday, 02 Aug 2008

Instructor: Dr. Don Dickerson 402-770-1149; Don.Dickerson@doane.edu

This seminar **begins** Sunday, 27 July 2008 at 1:00 PM and **ends** Saturday, 02 Aug 2008.

→ Special Note: You are required to meet for a ½ hour class meeting on Wednesday, 28 May 2008, from 5:30 PM—6:00 PM. Check bulletin board for location. You will receive details about course requirements and what to do for your pre-seminar work. You will also receive your class notebook that has various articles to read. I expect you to read the contents before the seminar begins on 27 July 2008. [The notebook is included in your fees for the course. No formal text. Please send an e-mail to me, Dr. Don Dickerson, at Don.Dickerson@doane.edu immediately after you have formally registered for this course. [Formal registration occurs Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 22-24, 2008.] I want my class database set up before May 28.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Communication among cultures in the interpersonal and organizational context. Differences in communication behaviors due to nationality, ethnicity, and social status are explored. Students study their own cultures, as well as the cultures of others, to develop greater awareness of patterns of thinking, beliefs, assumptions, values, and cultural norms, which influence communication (verbal, nonverbal, and listening) behaviors. Various guest speakers will present. This course fulfills the Cultural Perspectives requirement of the Doane Plan.

CMS 321 Intercultural Communication

The What? Want an exciting and challenging adventure to discover better communication skills that affect you, the people you know and work with, and the rest of the world? Come join us for a life-changing experience! For personal and professional growth, this class makes a significant difference. Our goal: it's about opening and expanding our minds to explore cultures, groups, nations, and how we can communicate better. It's recognizing our connectedness and our common humanity.

The Why? So we can collaborate to build a better and happier community not only around us, but also globally.

The How? In every class guest speakers present a topic to open our minds, invite discussion, and help us remove our scotomas, leading us to improved intercultural communication. Some past topics include: people with disabilities; Spanish-speaking cultures; GLBTI people (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex people); religion/government relations; Asian cultures; Muslims; HIV infected people; gender communication; critical listening skills, and others. The richness of shared experiences and stories of class members, along with our knowledge and talents, will enhance our ability to communicate with people more effectively, whoever they are.

This class is so good we will let it fulfill a major requirement for Organizational Communication majors and either the International/Multicultural requirement or a Liberal Learning requirement for the Doane Plan.

The Who? It's about us and the various relationships we have with people everywhere. They come from all walks of life, with many experiences, from many backgrounds and cultures, and many talents to share, as do we. How we connect with others lies at the heart of intercultural communication. We and all others are "The Who."

READINGS (Required)

A class notebook (referred to as "CN") on related topics pertinent to the course description will await your pickup **at the 5:30 PM, May 28th first class meeting**. Read the contents before the seminar begins. [The price of the notebook is included in your fees for the course. This class requires no formal textbook.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop a greater awareness and understanding of various types of people in cultures and sub cultures, in order to communicate and connect more effectively with them.
2. To foster an attitude of open-mindedness and a willingness to invest time in understanding the benefits of valuing diversity and the commitment to honor it;
3. To learn and practice listening skills to communicate more effectively;
4. To examine fears, prejudices, stereotypes, and myths regarding classes of people, cultures, sub cultures, different professions, or other ways that create scotomas;
5. To know how xenophobia, ethnocentrism, and scotomas block effective communication and disconnect us from others, and to determine practical ways to break down these barriers and confidently replace them with what can work..

“It ain’t what you don’t know that gets you into trouble. It’s want you know for sure that ain’t so.” (Mark Twain)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and active participation in class discussion and activities.
2. A pre-seminar online paper due by e-mail (as a Microsoft Word document attachment) by or before Saturday, 19 July 2008. **You will receive this online assignment** when you send me an e-mail. Do this on the same day you formally register. **Check out “Assignments and Attendance” below**. When you e-mail me, **please include both home e-mail, work e-mail (if permitted), and any other**. **Please also include phone numbers and best times to reach you**. Your chances of being reached electronically with assessed work or other communication increase with more options for me to reach you. **You will do all assignments online**.
3. A post seminar online assignment **due by e-mail (as a Microsoft Word document attachment) by or before Saturday, 10 August 2008**. **You will receive instructions for this during the seminar.**

4. Dr. Don Dickerson's e-mail address is Don.Dickerson@doane.edu

See assignments section below for explanation of other course requirements.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance. Attendance is an expectation, not an option. It should be clear from the course description, course objectives, and course requirements that class participation is critical to learning. Points for attending class are stated below under "Assignments." **If you miss a class**, you must negotiate with the professor for any makeup work, should you choose to do that. Otherwise, you lose all points for that missed class.

**For personal and professional growth,
this class makes a significant difference.**

Assignments and Attendance 650 Points

1. Class attendance. Possible points for class attendance 400. See box below for break down. Class attendance includes "active participation." That means being actively involved in class discussions and activities. This is a communication class. Consequently, communication is critical. Therefore you need to show participation by your questions, comments, and/or shared experiences. **We will we have guest speakers for each class.** Thus, your presence and active contribution are important not only for you personally, but also for others.

Point Spread for Class Attendance CMS 321 Intercultural Communication

- Sunday 1 pm—7 pm, worth **65 points**
- Monday—Friday 6-10:30 PM (50 points each) for **a 250 point total**. Class meets from 6 PM sharp to 10:30 PM.
- Saturday 9 am—5 pm, worth **85 points**
- Each class fully attended merit the points stated. **Attendance total possible points 400.**

2. Personal growth in class worth 50 points The professor will assess your open-mindedness and how well you dealt with your ethnocentrism, xenophobia, and scotomas; that is, how well you dealt with these in your class participation and in your written reflections on guest speakers. You will learn about these terms on the first day of class.

3. Pre-seminar work worth 100 points. I will e-mail you the pre-seminar assignment soon after you have contacted me by e-mail, immediately after formal registration. **Please be sure to contact me by e-mail not later than Saturday, 24 May 2008.** To do the pre-seminar work, you need to view a movie (video) and respond to questions about it and this course.

4. Post-seminar work worth 100 points. The post-seminar assignment will be explained in class. See due date under "Course Requirements" above. **The post seminar assignment will focus on significant learning for you from the guest speakers or topics covered in presentations.**

Letter grade and numerical values

A+ = 98-100	B+ = 89-91	C+ = 80-82	D+ = 71-73	F = 64 and below
A = 95-97	B = 86-88	C = 77-79	D = 68-70	
A- = 92-94	B- = 83-85	C- = 74-76	D- = 65-67	

**“Diversity should be celebrated like a garden
in which a thousand flowers can blossom.” (Valentine Gana Afuh)**

**Join us in an exciting adventure as we learn to communicate
more effectively with people who come from a variety of groups and places.**