CMS 321-7 Intercultural Communication
Fall 2013 - Doane College, Grand Island Campus

3 credit hours
8-Week Term (August 19-October 19) on Tuesday evenings from 6:00PM - 10:30PM

Instructor: Amanda Levos ~ amanda.levos@gmail.com ~ cell (308) 398-1997

Course Description
Communication between 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 communicative (verbal, nonverbal, and listening) behaviors.

Text

Learning Targets
- Explain factors that contribute to your cultural lens, identify commonalities and differences with others and reflect upon how culture shapes our perceptions
- Learn about and connect to the lives of individuals from other cultures
- Identify how culture impacts communication
- Examine how language reflects cultural values and affects intercultural communication
- Describe the cultural proficiency continuum that indicates unique ways of seeing and responding to differences and identify ways to support your journey
- Identify strategies to become an effective, culturally aware communicator

In order to meet our learning targets, we will dig deeper into the following topics: communication, culture and the link between them; elements of culture including family, history, and religion; cultural identity; cultural perceptions; language and culture; nonverbal communication; cultural influences on context; and becoming culturally proficient.

Course Expectations
- Take control of your own learning. Engage in thinking about your own thinking. Focus on growth and development.
- Develop cultural self-awareness in a safe environment.
- Be an active member of class: listen to the ideas of others, seek to understand, contribute new and relevant information, appreciate and value diverse views, comment in a positive manner, and build on ideas from others.
- Commit to doing your best. Written assignments and class presentations are to be of the highest quality. Adhere to deadlines.
Assignments/Projects to Connect Learning

- **Personal Reflective Writing** You will write a personal reflection based on the readings, group discussions, class activities and presentations completed that week in class. This is a way to share your learning, to make connections, and note new insights and next steps. Personal Reflective Writing should apply the Reflective Cycle - What? Why? So what? Now what? which will be discussed the first day of class. Your reflections will be submitted electronically by the end of the day on Friday each week we have class.

- **Readings, Discussions, and Class Activities** We will use the text and additional articles to develop background and understanding of course topics. Most of our reading will take place in class by using a structure to guide group discussions, personal reflections and to complete any group activities or presentations. A detailed list of topics for each week will be given on the first day of class.

- **Final Learning Project** You will complete a final project, individually or in small groups, related to your learning from this class. This is your opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge, personal connections, growth and vision related to the course learning targets. You will show what you know through a final product (e.g., display, song, brochure, skit, newsletter, slideshow, photo essay) that will be presented on the last day we meet in October. This will be assessed using a rubric.

- **Final Learning Reflection** Write a reflective paper on what you have learned and where you go from here. It is to show how you have grown in your understanding of intercultural communication and the knowledge and skills developed to communicate and interact between cultures. Guiding questions will be provided to help organize thoughts. You will also want to refer back to weekly personal reflections, readings, and class projects to develop ideas for your final reflection.

- **Thank You** You will write a personal thank you to any guest speakers that present to our class throughout the term. This includes specifically sharing something that you learned as a result of their presentation.

**Evaluation**

Your grade for this course will be based on the successful completion of all reading and written assignments, active participation in class sessions based on attendance and participation. We will follow Doane College Grading and Academic Integrity Policies.

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<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Reflective Writing</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation (readings, discussions, activities, thank yous)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Learning Project</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Learning Reflection</td>
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“Our lives are all different and yet the same.” ~Anne Frank