

Intercultural Communication (Hybrid)

“The stranger sees only what he knows”. – West African Proverb

Instructor: Thalia Bobadilla

Email: bobadillathalia@fhda.edu

Course Time: Wednesdays 2:30 pm – 4:20 pm, partially online

Location: MLC111

Office Hours: Tuesdays 8:00 am – 10:20 am (via [Zoom](#)), Wednesdays 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm (on campus in F3A)

TBA Hour: 8:00 am – 9:00 am Thursday

Course Text: [Exploring Intercultural Communication](#)

Course Overview

Welcome! ☺ Ready to get uncomfortable? Then this is the class for you. You may experience some cognitive dissonance throughout the course and that is completely normal and healthy. I’d argue it’s a sign of growth. Our priority as a class, myself included, is to maintain a safe and respectful classroom environment as we tackle course concepts and engage in open discussions and complete engagements.

This term you will get the opportunity to examine and analyze your culture as well as the culture of others. Practice and develop your skills to become a competent intercultural communicator and much more. From a very early age we are taught how to “be” in the world, and this often influences who we become as an adult. The culture we are surrounded by, and in some cases *not* surrounded by, largely contributes to this. Students who get the most out of this course are ones who actively share and are open to listening/receiving the experiences of others. I look forward to guiding you on this journey as you learn and grow.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain and analyze culture and communication as both affect intercultural interactions, particularly stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination.
 2. Evaluate and assess his/her own culture-specific verbal and nonverbal communication, through self-reflection and shared feedback.
 3. Demonstrate increased ability to competently interact with and adapt to persons of different cultural backgrounds, by applying intercultural communication concepts and skills to intercultural interactions.
-

Communication and Office Hours

There is a **48-hour turnaround time** (apart from weekends & holidays) for any inquiries you may have. I typically log out of my inboxes on Friday at noon, but please send your inquiries regardless and I will get to them on Monday!

I'm available and happy to help with assignments or other items, but you should bring your assignment questions to me within a practical time frame to ensure you receive the feedback and information you need within a reasonable time frame. Failure to do so may result in not receiving adequate feedback as well as minimal time to apply recommended feedback.

Student Success

Students need to turn their Canvas notifications on and be vigilant in checking their inboxes and the Canvas site regularly. Students are responsible for remaining current on information shared both in class and online, failure to do so may result in missing vital information pertaining to the class, which could result in consequential outcomes to your success. I recommend starting a class discord!

Class Meetings and Time Commitment

According to the college's [credits and load limitations](#) formula, each unit of a class equals one hour with an additional 2 hours of outside preparation for every unit. So, for a 4-unit class, that's 12 hours total per week (hence why "12 units" is considered "full time"), however this may be less depending on your familiarity with Canvas and ability to retain information. Please plan your time accordingly. A hardcover planner can be a great tool to help manage your time/efforts throughout the term.

We will complete engagement activities in class each week which may or may not require some preparation in advance of meeting for the week. Not only will in-class engagements correlate to the week's material being covered, but also contribute to your grade. When you miss class, you miss engagement activities.

Extended or multiple absences will affect your success in the class.

We will meet once a week for class (this is not optional). Part of the course occurs online which makes this course hybrid. This online unit could include, but is not limited to, watching lecture, taking quizzes, reading materials, submitting assignments, or contributing to a discussion. These online engagements may have two parts, but more often will have one part which will typically be due on Monday. If there is a second part, it will be due on Wednesday. Be sure to check the due dates in Canvas as you may be asked to prepare content in advance for use in class the coming week!

Quizzes

Each quiz will be comprised of 5 questions from each chapter covered. Everyone has 3 opportunities to take each quiz and Canvas will keep the highest score earned. Quiz content may require you to look up material from the text, weekly content page, or online search. Quizzes do not have a time limit; however, I encourage you not to wait until the last minute.

Major Assignments

Students will complete 3 major assignments (3 Reflections, Intercultural Analysis, and Reality Byte) in this course. Some assignments will be scaffolded to provide students an opportunity to complete the work in smaller chunks. Although there is only 1 major group assignment, there will still be opportunities provided for students to work in smaller groups via in-class engagements and online engagements.

Be sure to remain current on Canvas for thorough assignment details and due dates.

Academic Integrity

Instances of academic misconduct will result in disciplinary action. What is academic misconduct?

This includes, but is not limited to: plagiarism (representing the work of someone else as your own), submitting work written by an outside party, the submission of work that is not the product of a student's personal effort, or work in which in some way circumvents the given rules and regulations, or misrepresenting facts to receive a changed grade, etc.

Further information on the college's academic integrity policy can be found on [De Anza's website](#). The De Anza Student Handbook specifies that students can be subject to college discipline (including suspension and expulsion) for plagiarism and/or cheating.

If you need further clarification, please see me as there is no gray area when it comes to this subject. Students may also be tempted to use artificial intelligence (AI) to complete work; do not engage in this practice. You *will* earn a 0.

Attendance and Late Work

We have a tight schedule to reach important outcomes during specific points in the term. 12 weeks is a short period of time to accomplish our goals, but with a combined effort we can make it happen. I will take attendance each class meeting. **Students who miss the first day of class will be dropped from the course to make room for students on the waitlist. Students who miss 2+ classes may be dropped from the course.**

Late work is generally not accepted; however, each student may **drop one of each of the following**: lowest quiz, lowest online engagement, and lowest in-class engagement for a total of 3 dropped items (these may also be interchanged for one another). There will be a 0-point assignment in week 11 to provide students an opportunity to list which items they would like dropped, past that assignment drops will not be accepted, no exceptions.

Everyone will be allotted **1 pass to submit one major assignment** (see major assignments above) **7 days late with no deductions via Canvas inbox** except for content due during the week of finals, late work cannot be accepted during the week of finals. For example, if a major assignment is due Wednesday, you would have until 11:59 pm of the following Wednesday to get the work in via Canvas inbox; *no exceptions*. The maximum late window is 1 week because of the mechanics of our schedule. I have either graded the item in question and handed it back to your peers, begun grading the item, or we have moved on from that unit in the schedule altogether. Past that content may not make sense and other areas of your understanding are in danger of suffering as a result. Emergency circumstances outside of this policy will be considered if a student comes to speak with me during office hours in addition to immediately notifying me via written correspondence.

A Personal Note

Enrolling in *any* college course is a huge commitment whether you are familiar with the subject matter or not. Different instructors, different due dates, responsibilities outside of class, etc., it can be a lot to take on. Sometimes life happens and our focus gets shifted and suddenly your college trajectory gets unexpectedly interrupted - which is **normal**. If you find yourself overwhelmed or otherwise, know that **your mental and physical health come first**. Please notify me as soon as possible so we can discuss a possible plan of action and avoid further obstacles. More importantly remember that this course will be available the following quarter and every quarter thereafter, so please do not hurt yourself trying to “stay on track.” Sometimes it’s not the right time to take a class and that’s okay.

Important Dates

- 4/20 - Last day to drop without a “W”
- 5/27 - NO class: Memorial Day
- 6/19 - NO class: Juneteenth
- 5/31 - Last day to drop with a “W”

Assignments and Points

Assignments	Learning Objectives	Points Earned	Points Possible
Reflections (3 total)	SLO: 1,2,3		105
Intercultural Analysis	SLO: 1,2,3		110
Reality Byte Presentation	SLO: 1,3		150
Quizzes	SLO: 1,3		105
In-Class Engagements	SLO: 1,2,3		50
Online Engagements	SLO: 1,2,3		50
		/	570

Percentage and Grade Policies

Percentage Ranges for Final Grade							
100% - 97%	A+	89.99% - 87%	B+	79.99% - 77%	C+	66.99% - 63%	D
96.99% - 93%	A	86.99% - 83%	B	76.99% - 70%	C	62.99% - 60%	D-
92.99% - 90%	A-	82.99% - 80%	B-	69.99% - 67%	D+	59.99% - 0%	F

- Because extra credit is offered, some items may be dropped, and there are opportunities to retake quizzes for higher scores, grades are *not* rounded.
- Discussion of grades earned must be done during office hours or scheduled via Zoom appointment within a week of getting work back.

Course Schedule

Things to remember regarding the schedule and assignments:

- The schedule is tentative, but I will not change it without good reason. If a change does occur, I will announce in class and notify everyone via Canvas.

- All assignments will be submitted via Canvas following the detailed schedule below unless otherwise stated.
- All readings should be *done before* the calendar date first noted for the week.

Weekly Topic		Read	Assignment(s) Due:
Week 1	○ <i>Course Expectations</i>		Monday (4/8) ○ Syllabus Quiz ○ Student Information Survey
			Wednesday (4/10) ○ In-class Engagement ○ Discuss Reflections ○ Online Engagement
Week 2	○ <i>What is Intercultural Communication?</i>	Ch. 1	Monday (4/15) ○ Quiz #1 ○ Online/In-class Engagement
			Wednesday (4/17) ○ Discuss Intercultural Analysis
Week 3	○ <i>Cultural Essentials and the Roots of Culture</i>	Ch. 2	Monday (4/22) ○ Quiz #2 ○ Online/In-class Engagement
			Wednesday (4/24) ○ Reflection #1 ○ ESP Visit (15 min.)
Week 4	○ <i>Identity and Intercultural Communication</i> ○ <i>Culture Shock</i>	Ch. 3 Ch. 6	Monday (4/29) ○ Quiz #3 ○ Check-In Survey #1
			Wednesday (5/1) ○ Intercultural Analysis Part 1 ○ In-class Engagement ○ Discuss Reality Byte
Week 5	○ <i>Verbal Processes in Intercultural Communication</i>	Ch. 4	Monday (5/6) ○ Quiz #4 ○ Online Engagement
			Wednesday (5/8) ○ In-class Engagement ○ Reality Byte Checkpoint 1: Find Your Village
Week 6	○ <i>Nonverbal Processes in Intercultural Communication</i> ○ TBA Hour: 10/30 @ 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm (this week only)	Ch. 5	Monday (5/13) ○ Quiz #5
			Wednesday (5/15) ○ In-class Engagement ○ Reality Byte Checkpoint 2: Contract ○ Reflection #2
Week 7	○ <i>Barriers to Intercultural Communication</i>	Ch. 7	Monday (5/20) ○ Quiz #6

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reality Byte Checkpoint 3: Topic
			Wednesday (5/22)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intercultural Analysis Part 3 ○ In-class Engagement
Week 8	○ <i>Intercultural Conflict</i>	Ch. 8	Monday (5/27)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quiz #7 ○ Online/In-class Engagement
			Wednesday (5/29)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reality Byte Checkpoint 4: Concepts ○ Check-In Survey #2
Week 9	○ <i>Intercultural Relationships</i>	Ch. 9	Monday (6/3)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quiz #8 ○ Reflection #3
			Wednesday (6/5)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reality Byte Checkpoint 5: Walkthrough and finishing touches
Week 10			Monday (6/10)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reality Byte Presentation upload (Both in PDF and Presentation Slide Format: PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) ○ Peer Assessment
			Wednesday (6/12)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reality Byte Presentations and notes
Week 11			Monday (6/17)
			Wednesday (6/19)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NO class: Juneteenth
Week 12	FINAL SCHEDULE: Class time → 1:45 pm – 3:45 pm		Wednesday (6/26)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reality Byte Presentations and notes ○ EXIT SURVEY ○ Late assignments NOT accepted