Bemidji State University

SOWK 2110: Intercultural Communication

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3  
Lecture Hours/Week: *.*  
Lab Hours/Week: *.*  
OJT Hours/Week: *.*  
Prerequisites: None  
Corequisites: None  
MnTC Goals: None  

Designed to enable students to develop awareness, knowledge and skills for sensitive and effective intercultural communication on the international scene as well as with core-cultures in America. The course is particularly useful for students who are preparing to work with cultures other than their own, including: the human services field, business, marketing, languages, pre-professional programs and others. Liberal Education Goal Areas 7 & 8

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/25/1997 - Present
C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduction to the course
   A. Why intercultural communication
   B. Communication

2. Culture
   A. Why cultures differ
   B. Intercultural communication

3. U.S. Cultural diversity
   A. Intercultural competence
   B. Improving intercultural competence

4. Cultural patterns
   A. Beliefs, values, norms
   B. Overview of cultural patterns

5. Taxonomies
   A. Hall
   B. Hofstede
   C. GLOBE

6. Cultural identity
   A. Cultural biases
   B. Intercultural contact

7. Verbal codes
   A. Interpretation and translation
   B. Language, thought & culture

8. Organization of verbal codes
   A. Cultural variations in persuasion
   B. Culture and conservation

9. Culture and interpersonal relationships
   A. Face and facework
   B. Improving intercultural relationships

10. Intercultural episodes
    A. Contexts for competence

11. Ethics of intercultural communication
    A. Perils & prospects for intercultural competence

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. reflect an applied understanding of one's standpoint including culture, socioeconomic class, gender, orientation, socio-historical roots, etc.

2. demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for social, cultural and human diversity and the benefits and opportunities provided in a diverse society.

3. understand the relationship between difference, diversity and oppression and marginalization.

4. employ understanding of cultural identity, cultural uniqueness, differences and universals, intercultural communication.

5. understand and employ a cultural competence/responsive framework/model to facilitate communication and connectedness across, between and within diverse groups.

6. understand human diversity as including many dimensions such as race/ethnicity, socioeconomic class, faith/spirituality, age, able/disable-ism, gender, sexual orientation, etc.

7. demonstrate critical insight regarding personal values, perspectives and paradigms related to human and social diversity and the relationship of these to personal & professional ethical systems and congruence.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies
   None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
   As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
   None noted