

Dakota County Technical College

SPEE 1030: Intercultural Communications

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 07 - Human Diversity, Goal 08 - Global Perspective

This course studies cultural differences and how they affect communication in our locally, nationally and globally. Topics include definitions of communication; definitions of culture and diversity of cultural patterns; cultural variables influencing communication such as the media, gender, language, nonverbal behavior, perception, values, and beliefs. Basic theories, models and concepts that interface with intercultural communication are explored. An examination of US culture in comparison to other cultures is explored in different contexts. Meets MnTC Goals 7 and 8.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 06/01/2000 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Definitions: communication, intercultural communication, culture
2. Concepts: connection between culture and communication, relationships, dimensions of sameness and difference, cultural generalizations, and influence of attitudes, values and beliefs
3. Crossing cultural boundaries: ethnocentrism, culture shock; images; media, the experience of tourists, expatriates, and refugees/immigrants
4. Basic theories and models of culture and concepts
5. Culture-specific reflection and analysis in various contexts: description, differences, and comparisons
6. Culture-specific interactions relative to deep and surface structure cultures
7. Business and education across cultures: local, national, international levels
8. Personal and professional intercultural relationship dynamics

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Demonstrate increased awareness and understanding of cultural differences
2. Apply knowledge of intercultural communication theory to specific cross-cultural interactions in multiple contexts
3. Compare and contrast the behaviors, attitudes values, and beliefs of specific cultural groups
4. Reflect on and analyze personal and professional cross-cultural interactions
5. Understand the core concepts specific to intercultural communication having to do with the general categories of identity, belief, language, nonverbal communication, and perception

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
4. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
5. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

Goal 08 - Global Perspective

1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted