

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: CET Siena

Course Titles: Intercultural Communication: Italy in Sieneese and Sicilian Contexts
Topics in Linguistics: Italian Cultural Contexts

Course Codes: GSGS 2310 / ANTH 2541

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Disciplines: Global Studies, Anthropology

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Course Description

With the rise of global mobility and ever-growing migration flows, becoming a competent intercultural communicator and increasing one's knowledge about other and different cultures is a necessity in today's globalized world. This course will introduce students to the theory, knowledge and skills necessary in order to negotiate a variety of situations in which cultural contact occurs, so that misunderstandings and communication breakdown can be avoided, and greater understanding of other cultures can result in more successful and productive relationships. Students will be encouraged to develop a critical awareness of their own culture and how it can influence communication with others, as well as become conscious of how ethnocentrism can be an obstacle in intercultural learning and communication. Cultural theory discussed in class will be related to practical case studies and real-life situations, many of which will involve interactive group exercises in class. A varied teaching format of lectures, class discussion, simulations, case studies, media presentations, and cultural encounters will be employed to engage students with both the host and world culture.

Learning Objectives

- To understand the role that culture and different contexts play in effective communication and how this translates across cultures.
- To deepen knowledge about verbal and non-verbal intercultural communication.
- To understand how our perception of others can shape our identity.
- To engage students with both local Sieneese and Italian culture through activities.

Methods of Evaluation

Class participation 20%

Journal entries (4) 20%

Midterm exam/paper 20%

Responses to cultural artifacts (2) 20%

Final project 20%

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Journal entries (4)

One to two-page reflective journal entries on four different topics designed to encourage students to critically reflect upon subjects such as cross-cultural dilemmas, stereotyping, etc.

Midterm exam

A three page essay to be chosen among four different proposals focusing on one of the main topics

Responses to cultural artifacts (2)

The exercise includes a written part and a short presentation to the class.

The written component consists of one to two pages reflection on a cultural artifact chosen by students in consultation with the class instructor. Cultural artifacts are tangible or intangible items that provide insight into a particular culture. Students' responses could focus on a variety of items, including films, songs, tools, monuments, and any other artifact considered suitable by their instructor.

The oral component consists of the presentation (max 5 minutes) of the written response to the class.

Final project

Students are expected to tell a fictional, semi-fictional, or true story that evokes an argument about culture, people, and places part of their experience abroad. They will be encouraged to convey experiences, thoughts, and reflections by any means or media: art, photography, a short story, poetry, an audio piece, an analytical essay with photos, or a short film.

Primary Texts

- J.N.Martin and T.K.Nakayama , Intercultural Communication in Context, McGraw & Hill 2012
- Hall, Edward T., Beyond Culture, New York Anchor Books, 1989.

Course Reader

- Hall, Edward T. The Silent Language in Overseas Business. Harvard Business Review, May-June 1960
- Hulstrand, Janet. Building a Fluent Workforce. International Educator, Sept-Oct '08, 25-31.
- Hall, Edward T. and Mildred Reed Hall. Understanding Cultural Differences, Yarmouth, ME : Intercultural Press, 1990.
- Johnson, Paul. Must the Whole World Speak English ?, Forbes.com. 11/24/04
 - <http://www.forbes.com/business/forbes/2004/1129/039.html>
- Massina, Sergio. The Grip of Culture : Edward T Hall <http://ishkbooks.com/hall.pdf>
- J. Stier. "Internationalization, Ethic Diversity and the Acquisition of Intercultural Competencies, in Intercultural Education" Vol.14 No1, 2003, pg. 77-91
- F.J.Vande Vijver, K. Leung, "Methodological Issues in Researching Intercultural Competence", in The Sage Handbook of Intercultural Competence, Edited by D.K.Deardorff, pp. 404-416
- Geert Hofstede "Organizations and Societies" in International Studies of Management & Organization Vol. 10, No. 4, (Winter, 1980/1981), pgg. 15-41
- Eva Garau, Politics of National Identity in Italy: Immigration and 'Italianità', Routledge 2015, pgg 18-52, 181-214
- Michael Argyl, Bodily Communication, Routledge 2007, pg.49-70

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Outline of Course Content

TOPIC 1: Introduction to Intercultural Communication. Imperatives for Developing Cross-Cultural Literacy: Situating ourselves in Siena, Italy and internationally

TOPIC 2: Cultural Diversity: Terms, Metaphors, Evaluating our cultural skills

TOPIC 3: The process of intercultural learning: Theory and Practice. What are the potential pitfalls and obstacles to intercultural learning and communication?

TOPIC 4: Cross-Cultural Dimensions of Culture: Hall and Hofstede

TOPIC 5: Siena: Local identity and globalization: Field visit

TOPIC 6: Verbal Intercultural Communication: Language, Thought Culture

TOPIC 7: Non-verbal intercultural communication: Body Language around the World

TOPIC 8: Intercultural Relationships: Challenges and Rewards

TOPIC 9: Intercultural Communication in Business Contexts