

SBUIC 400  
Intercultural Communication  
Sakya Buddha University  
Fall, 2023

**BASIC INFORMATION**

Instructor: Tenzin Dorjee

No. Credit: 3

Duration: 15 Sessions (45 Hours)

Prerequisite: None

Co-requisite: None

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| Class Meets | Course Schedule No. | Time   | Location |
|-------------|---------------------|--------|----------|
| Thursdays   | SBUICB 400          | 7-9 PM | SBU      |

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** We all belong to various cultural groups, and our culture/s influences how we communicate with others, especially those from different cultures. Notably, intercultural processes permeate our communicative lives in various contexts, from interpersonal to intergroup to media and organization. This course provides a critical survey of major concepts, models, and theories related to intercultural communication. While this is not a course on Buddhism, this course attempts to connect intercultural communication with Buddhism as much as possible.

In essence, through lectures, readings, media illustrations, exercises, class discussions, and examinations, you are expected to be able to understand culture, its many dimensions, and its influence on everyday perceptions and communicative interactions. What follows are the course objectives.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. To understand different cultural values and their influence on everyday interactions.
2. To reflect on the complex identity and relationship factors in interactions.
3. To understand verbal and nonverbal intercultural communication styles.
4. To understand the intersection of power, privilege, and oppression in interactions.
5. To understand and appreciate intercultural theories and concepts.
6. To improve your intercultural communication competencies.
7. To understand ethical communication that promotes social justice, and inclusiveness.
8. To be able to apply intercultural theories/concepts to everyday interactions.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

Ting-Toomey, S. & Chung, L. (2022). *Understanding intercultural communication* (3rd Ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press, Inc. *Access Interactive Student Study Guide and Resources at: (<https://learninglink.oup.com/access/tingtoomey3e>)*

**ASSESSMENT OF YOUR LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Three examinations (2 midterms and a final) will be given throughout the semester to assess your learning outcomes based on your readings, lectures, class discussions, and in-class media illustrations, such as news clips and videos. Your learning outcome assessment also includes class attendance and participation, and a research paper. Your paper will discuss some key intercultural concept/s of your choice from readings and lectures and apply it/them to personal experience of intercultural interaction. I will provide a paper guide later. *You will bring your draft paper on the scheduled date for peer review and the instructor's feedback for improvement and then submit the revised version on its due date.*

**ASSESSMENTS****POINTS**

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Attendance and Participation | 30 points |
| Midterm 1                    | 25 points |
| Midterm 2                    | 25 points |
| Final                        | 50 points |
| Draft Paper                  | 10 points |
| Short Paper                  | 60 points |

**GRADING SCALE:** This course will be graded on a Letter-grade system (without plus and minus signs or differentiation) as follows:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 0-59%

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Sakya Buddha University (SBU) holds students to high standards of academic integrity for learning and earning their degree/s. CHEATING in any form (on examinations and assignments, but not limited to them) is strictly prohibited, and it will produce serious consequences such as failing the entire course and/or being discharged from the university. PLAGIARISM is a prime example of cheating. PLAGIARISM is the act of utilizing another person/s' words, ideas, or concepts without giving credit that is due to the person/s or author/s. Even PARAPHRASING another's work (i.e., words or ideas), you must credit the source. WHEN IN DOUBT, PLEASE ASK ME.

**ACADEMIC DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR POLICY**

A classroom should be conducive to teaching, discussion, and learning. As members of the academic community of SBU, we share the responsibility to create and maintain such

an environment for better learning outcomes. I expect mutual respect for each other as academic colleagues. **DISRUPTIVE CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**, (for example, loud talking) is prohibited in the classroom that directly interferes with the ability of the instructor to teach and the ability of other students to benefit from the classroom experience. The instructor may ask the disruptor/s to leave the classroom for the benefit of the others.

Please switch off your cell phones and other communication devices during class meetings. The use of laptops in class is solely for taking notes. Accessing the internet, e-mail, instant messaging, or viewing websites unrelated to classroom instruction will be strictly prohibited during class-in-session. Please exhibit professionalism and respect for your instructor and classmates by using your laptop in a responsible manner. Any violation will result in your inability to use your laptop during the semester.

### **DISABILITY:**

Students requiring disability accommodations should inform the instructor within the first two weeks of class, with a valid documentation letter from the Students with Disability Services Office.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Your paper must be typed and follow the latest version of the APA style guide. *It is accepted on or before the due date.* **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED, and NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN** unless there is a valid documented case of extreme emergency.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** You are expected to attend all the lectures and actively participate in discussions. For a missed lecture, you are responsible to go over the lecture slides and procure discussion notes from your friend/s in the same class.

If a student is absent more than 20% of the class attendance, their grade will not be recognized. An “F” on attendance will automatically earn a failing grade for the course. If you are sick, please do not come to class for the sake of yourself and others. Make sure to bring me valid documentation for your absence from the doctor/s.

Important Notice: Please ask your instructor if you need any clarification on this syllabus.

## **TENTATIVE COURSE SYLLABUS\***

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**September 21, 2023      Introduction and Chapter 1**  
**Theme: Knowing Each Other, Previewing the Course, & Explaining Term Paper**  
**Knowing me: My personal and socio-cultural identities & academic background**  
**What is the field of ICC? Syllabus Tour & Classroom Expectations**  
**Knowing you: Your personal and socio-cultural identities and intercultural interests**  
**Exercise: What is culture? How are culture and communication related to each other?**  
**Explaining Term Paper**

**\*This syllabus is amenable to change for updates, improvement/s and other reasons**

**September 21, 2023 Chapter 1**

**Theme: Importance of Intercultural Communication**

**Multiple Reasons for Studying Intercultural Communication**

**Culture and An Iceberg Metaphor: Different Levels of Culture**

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**September 28, 2023 Chapter 2**

**Theme: Intercultural Communication Flexibility**

**Intercultural Communication Process Model**

**Defining Intercultural Communication Flexibility**

**Staircase Model and a Mindful Perspective**

**Underlying Intercultural Process Thinking Principles**

**Intercultural Application**

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**October 5, 2023 Chapter 3**

**Theme: Essential Cultural Value Patterns**

**Functions of Cultural Values**

**Understanding Major Cultural Value Dimensions**

**Value Orientations & Self-Construal**

**Exploring Classical Value Orientation Patterns**

**Self-Construal and Locus of Control**

**Intercultural Application**

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**October 12, 2023 Chapter 4**

**Theme: Multifaceted Identities & Identity Change Process Model**

**Identity Socialization Patterns and Social Historical Contexts**

**Factors Affecting Intercultural Acculturation Process**

**Sociocultural Group Memberships and Identity Formation, including ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, relational and professional identities, and unique identities**

**Identity Models about ethnicity, race, culture, and social identity complexity**

**Intercultural Application**

**Exam 1 Review**

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**October 19, 2023 Reflection, Discussion, and Examination 1**

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**October 26, 2023, Chapter 5**

**Theme: Culture Shock & Intercultural Adjustment**

**What is Culture Shock?**

**Its Characteristics: Pros and Cons**

**A Variety of Culture Shockers**

**Intercultural Application**

**Managing Culture Shock**

**Intercultural Adjustment Models**

**Managing Culture Effectively**

**Reentry Culture Shock**

**November 2, 2023 Chapter 6****Theme: Verbal Language and Culture****Human Language and Its Distinctive Features****Appreciating Multiple Functions of Verbal Language****Verbal Communication Styles****High and Low Contexts****Other Verbal Styles****Intercultural Application**

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**November 9, 2023 Chapter 7****Theme: Nonverbal Communication across Cultures****Nonverbal Communication and its Impact****Functions and Forms of Nonverbal Communication****Regulating Intercultural Boundaries****Interpersonal Boundaries****Environmental and Psychological Boundaries****Regulating Time****Intercultural Application****November 9, 2023 PEER REVIEW OF DRAFT PAPER**

*You must bring a hard copy of your draft paper, at least 4 typed pages for peer review. I will provide you with a guide for peer review. If missed, it costs you 5 points.*

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**November 16, 2023, Chapter 8****Theme: Intergroup Perception and Biases****Elements of Human Perception****Intergroup Biases: Ethnocentrism and Ethnorelativism: the DMIS Model****Stereotypes: Inflexible and Flexible types****Intergroup Attribution Biases based on social group memberships****Intergroup Issues: Power, Privilege, and Microaggression****Power, Privilege, and Oppression****Prejudice and its Functions****Discrimination Practices****Racism****Equality, Equity, and Social Justice****Examination 2 Review**

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**November 23, 2023 Reflection, Discussion, & Examination 2 in class**

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**November 30, 2023 Chapter 9****Themes: Understanding Intercultural Conflict****Intercultural Conflict and its Background Factors****Intercultural Conflict Styles****Managing Intercultural Conflict****Facework Management****Mindful Listening and Cultural Empath**

**December 7, 2023, Chapter 10**

**Theme: IC-Intimate Personal Relationship Development**  
**Intercultural-Intimate Relationship Challenges**  
**Factors Facilitating Intercultural-Intimate Relationships**  
**Intercultural-Intimate Conflict**  
**Major Obstacles and Coping Strategies**  
**Raising Bicultural/Biracial Children**  
**Intercultural Application**

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**December 14, 2023 Chapter 11**

**Theme: Global Identity Issues**  
**Internet and Communication**  
**Local Versus Global Identities: Glocal**  
**E.netizen identity and its Characteristics**  
**Dialectical Challenges**  
**Global Identities in Action**  
**Communication Pattern Changes**  
**Communication Advocacy and Social Change**  
**Intercultural Application**

**Watch “The Art of Choosing” by Professor Sheena Iyengar & follow up discussion.**

**December 14, 2023 \*\*\*Your Final Paper and Peer-Reviewed Draft Papers Due in Class.**  
**No late Submission Accepted.**

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**December 21, 2023 Chapter 12**

**Theme: Becoming a Competent Intercultural Communicator**  
**Comparing Different Ethical Positions: Pros and Cons**  
**Questions for Thought**  
**Intercultural Application**  
**Final Review**

**Watch “Where is Home?” by Picco Iyer and follow up discussion**

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**December 28, 2023 No Reading Assignment**

**Lectures on Special Topics in Intercultural Communication**  
**Ethnolinguistic Vitality and Communication**  
**Intergenerational Communication**  
**Gender and Communication**

**December 28: Your Final in Class**

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