

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

COMM-201 Intercultural Communication

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: COMM 201- Intercultural Communication

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2024

D. Effective Term: Fall 2025

E. Sponsoring Department: Communication & Languages Department

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
Laboratory: 0
Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: None

I. Laboratory Fees: None

II. Catalog Description

Intercultural Communication explores communication theories and skills within a cross-cultural context, particularly how different cultures filter experience through their unique views of institutions, conventions, time and space, verbal and nonverbal communication. The course will also reinforce communication skills needed today to participate effectively in the growing cultural diversity of American society and the global community, especially in business, education, and health care.

III. Statement of Course Need

A. In today's world everyone will, at one time or another, be in a position where it is necessary to communicate with a person of another culture. This course is a required

course in Communication Studies, the International Business program and the International Business Certificate. Intercultural Communication is also a specialization course for Human Services and Emergency Services programs. This course will also serve students in any program who are interested in communicating more effectively with people from other cultures and with fellow citizens of the world.

- B.** This course generally transfers as a Global and Cultural Awareness general education course. This course generally transfers as a Communication Studies program requirement. This course generally transfers as an International Business program elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Global and Cultural Awareness. This course meets a program requirement for Communication Studies (AA), International Business Option in Business Management (AAS), International Business Option in Business Administration (AS) and International Business – Certificate.
- C. This course serves as a program elective for Human Services. Human Services/Pre-Social Work (AS), Human Services – Certificate of Completion,
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

This course explores the following topics:

- A. Communication and Culture
 - 1. understanding and defining “culture”
 - 2. deep structure of culture
 - 3. dominant and diverse cultural patterns
 - 4. cultural diversity in American society
 - 5. religion and culture
- B. Intercultural Communication
 - 1. language and culture
 - 2. nonverbal communication and culture
 - 3. cultural perceptions of time
 - 4. cultural perception of space and distance
- C. Intercultural Communication Contexts
 - 1. business
 - 2. education
 - 3. health care
 - 4. culture shock
- D. Intercultural Communication Challenges

1. ethnocentrism
2. prejudice and stereotyping
3. racism and sexism
4. international conflict and terrorism

VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. produce written reports and oral presentations that interpret and reflect critical thought about intercultural communication theories. (GE- 1,*)
2. research and analyze information related to the impact of culture on communication and present the findings. (GE- 1, IL)
3. recognize, analyze, and evaluate ethical issues related to ethnocentrism, racism, and sexism within oneself and within American society. (GE-ER)
4. understand the commonalities and differences in values, perspectives, and communication behaviors of people and groups from other cultures. (GE-8)
5. analyze one's personal and cultural communication style in order to communicate more effectively with individuals and groups from other cultures. (GE-1, *)

*embedded critical thinking

B. Assessment Instruments

1. research papers
2. demonstrations
3. essays
4. journals
5. portfolios
6. video presentations
7. oral presentations
8. projects

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. essays
- B. projects
- C. tests
- D. presentations
- E. class participation
- F. journals

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. simulation/role playing
- F. student collaboration

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. suggested textbook: Neuliep, J.W. (2021). *Intercultural Communication: A Contextual Approach (8th ed.)*. or Lustig, M.W., Koester J., & Halualani, R. (2018). *Intercultural Competence: Interpersonal Communication Across Cultures (8th ed.)*. or any other similar textbook.
- B. web sources

Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

IX. Resources

- A. documentary and international films
- B. international media including newspapers and news sources
- C. web resources
- D. guest speakers
- E. field trips

X. Check One: ☐ Honors Course ☐ Honors Options ☒ N/A