



COMC-253 – Intercultural Communication

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2024

Course Outline Review Date: 2029-04-01

Program Area: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Description:

This course examines the complex dynamics of intercultural communication and the inherent relationship between culture, language, and communication. Students will explore the theoretical foundations, practical applications, and real-world implications of effectively navigating diverse cultural contexts. Through a combination of lectures, case studies, and interactive workshops, students will develop a nuanced understanding of the cultural, linguistic, and nonverbal factors that shape successful cross-cultural interactions.

Program Information:

This course can be used as either a required course or an elective in University Arts, Business Administration, Tourism and Recreation Management, and Criminology and Social Justice Programs. This course is designed for students and professionals interested in Intercultural/Interpersonal Communication in many fields: Health and Wellness, Education, Business, Community Development, Trade, Tourism and many others.

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face), Online

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 3

Course type/s: Humanities, Business Management, Tourism and Recreation Management

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45
Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

Course Requisites:

- Complete 1 of the following
 - Completed at least 1 of the following:
 - ENGL100 – English Composition (3)
 - COMC101 – Technical and Professional Writing (3)
 - Or equivalent with instructor permission.

Prior Learning and Recognition: Yes

Students are able to request formal recognition of their prior learning or experience outside the classroom. Challenge examination, portfolio-assisted assessment, work-based assessment or a combination of assessments that is appropriate to identify, assess, and recognize prior skills, competencies, and knowledge to achieve course credit. Tuition fees apply, refer to Policy 2.5.5 [Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\)](#) or contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrollment Service office.

Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Lustig, M. W., & Koester, J. (2021). *Intercultural Competence: Interpersonal Communication Across Cultures* (8th ed.). Pearson.

Ting-Toomey, S., & Chung, L. C. (2022). *Understanding Intercultural Communication* (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press.

Additional material provided by the instructor: online academic articles, case studies, websites and videos.

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze and apply key theories and models of intercultural communication.
 - Demonstrate the influence of cultural values, beliefs, and norms on communication styles and behaviors.
 - Effectively navigate cultural differences and adapt communication strategies to foster mutual understanding and collaboration.
 - Evaluate the impact of globalization, technology, and migration on cross-cultural interactions.
 - Conduct research and present findings on complex intercultural communication challenges and solutions.
 - Cultivate empathy, cultural sensitivity, and ethical decision-making in cross-cultural interactions.
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Course Topics:

Foundations of Intercultural Communication

- Definitions, theories, and models of intercultural communication
- The role of culture in shaping communication patterns
- Theories on Cultural and Values Dimensions
- Communication Variables: Non-verbal Communication and Language

Intercultural Communication in a Globalized World

- The impact of technology and social media on cross-cultural interactions
- Historical trends and policies that have shaped immigration in Canada
- The social and political impacts of immigration on immigrant communities and the broader

society

- The rhetoric and narratives used in public discourse around immigration

Intercultural Conflict and Negotiation

- Sources of intercultural conflict and misunderstanding
- Strategies for conflict resolution and negotiation
- Intercultural competence and cultural intelligence

Research Methods and Case Studies in Intercultural Communication

- Qualitative and quantitative research approaches
- Intercultural Communication case studies and analysis

See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

Evaluation and Assessments

Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face)

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
In Class Activities	20
Assignments	35
Case Study, Reports	25
Final Exam	20

Assessment Type: Online

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Activities	20
Assignments	35
Case Study, Reports	25
Final Exam	20

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

Evaluation Notes: A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a “0” on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.1.4 Course Audit
 - Policy 2.4.1 Credential Framework
 - Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
 - Policy 2.4.4 Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct
 - Policy 2.4.8 Academic Performance
 - Policy 2.4.9 Student Feedback and Concerns
 - Policy 2.4.11 Storage of Academic Works
 - Policy 2.5.3 Student Appeal
 - Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)
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Equivalent Course(s) and Course Code Changes

Equivalent Course: Students who have received COTR credit for COMC 253 may not receive additional credit for ATBO 208.

Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.