

## **B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies**

<b>Course Title</b>	:	Intercultural Communication
<b>Course Code</b>	:	ENG272
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	:	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	:	3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	:	Lecture and Tutorial
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	:	2 hours Lecture/week 1 hour Tutorial/week
<b>Category in Major Programme</b>	:	Disciplinary Elective
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	:	N/A

### **Brief Course Description**

This course is designed to give students a basic understanding of the nature and dynamics of intercultural communication. Students will be introduced to theoretical concepts and practical knowledge about intercultural communication. They will be required to apply theories to actual situations through case studies and small-scale surveys, as well as reflecting on their own experiences in dealing with issues arising from communication in intercultural and cross-cultural contexts.

### **Aims**

1. To provide students with basic concepts and theories of intercultural communication;
2. To promote students' awareness of the influence of cultural differences on language communication;
3. To draw students' attention to the significance of both verbal and nonverbal communication in intercultural encounters and cross-cultural contexts;
4. To develop students' sensitivity towards problems that may arise in intercultural communication;
5. To enable students to develop useful approaches in studying intercultural communication as well as dealing with problems of intercultural communication.

### **Learning Outcomes**

To provide students with a heightened understanding of the issues of intercultural communication and develop useful approaches for both studying and dealing with intercultural communication.

## **Indicative Content**

1. Defining communication, culture, and intercultural communication
2. Perception, cognition, and intercultural communication
3. Dimensions of Culture
4. Language and intercultural communication
5. Cross-cultural pragmatics
6. Contrastive rhetoric
7. Nonverbal communication and intercultural communication
8. Managing intercultural conflicts
9. Culture shock

## **Teaching Method**

Besides lectures and tutorials, various other approaches such as case studies, games, and role simulations are used to enable students to have a better understanding of the subject.

## **Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

The progress of learning is measured through class discussions, reports on tutorial discussions, exercises, presentations, term papers, and a final examination.

## **Assessment**

Final examination: 50%

Continuous assessment: 50%

## **Required Readings**

Chen, G. & W.J. Starosta, *Foundations of Intercultural Communication*, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1998.

## **Supplementary Readings**

Samovar, LA & RE Porter, *Intercultural Communication, A Reader*, Wadsworth, 1997.

Dijk, Teun A. van, *Communicating Racism: Ethnic Prejudice in Thought and Talk*, Newbury Park, Calif: Sage Publications, c1987.

Gao, Ge & S. Ting-Toomey, *Communicating Effectively with the Chinese*, Thousand Oaks, Calif: Sage Publications, c1998.

Wierzbicka, Anna, *Understanding Cultures Through Their Key Words: English, Russian, Polish, German, and Japanese*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

- Pan, Y.L., *Politeness in Chinese Face-to-Face Interaction*, Stamford: Ablex, 2000.
- Spencer-Oatey (Ed.), *Culturally Speaking: Managing Rapport Through Talk Across Cultures*, New York: Biddles Ltd, Guildford and King's Lynn, 2000.
- Blum-Kulka, S., J. House, G. Kasper, *Cross-Cultural Pragmatics: Requests and Apologies*, Norwood, N.J.: Ablex Pub, Corp., c1989.
- Young, Linda W. L., *Crosstalk and Culture in Sino-American Communication*, Cambridge, England: Cambridge U Press, 1994.
- Young, Linda W. L., Inscrutability revisited. In J.J. Gumperz (Ed), *Language and Social Identity*, Cambridge: Cambridge U Press, 1982.
- Kirkpatrick, Andy, Chinese rhetoric: Methods of argument, *Multilingua*, 14, 3, 271-295, 1995.
- Scollon, Suzanne, Not to waste words on students: Confucian and Socratic discourse in the tertiary classroom, in E. Hinkel (Ed) *Culture in Second Language Teaching and Learning*, Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge U Press, 1999.
- Ting-Toomey, Stella and John G. Oetzel, *Managing Intercultural Conflict Effectively*, Thousand Oaks, Calif: Sage Publications, 2001.