

CMAT 300  
Intercultural Communication  
Course Dates: January 28, 2008 – May 9, 2008  
Pre-requisites: "C" or better in CMAT 200

**Instructor Information:**

Professor: Bryan K. Horikami, Ph.D.  
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Office Hours: MW 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
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And by appointment  
MyClasses URL: <http://www.salisbury.edu>

**Course Description:** This course is designed to develop an understanding of how differences in people's cultural backgrounds are a factor that influences various communication situations. The course begins with an exploration of general theories and concepts of culture and communication. It then moves into specific contexts and applications, such as, international, interethnic, co-cultural, interpersonal, and organizational settings. The course includes readings, discussions, five tests, two papers and other activities to involve participants in the course content.

**Required Course Textbook:**

Samovar, L. A., Porter, R. E., & McDaniel, E. R. (2006). Intercultural communication: A reader (11th ed). Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth.

ISBN: 0-534-64440-6

Salisbury University Bookstore link: <http://bookstore.salisbury.edu/>

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**Course Goals:**

After taking this course, students will be able to...

- understand and identify various conditions and contexts where cultural differences influence the communication process.
- understand and apply theories of culture and communication.
- understand and identify international, interethnic, and co-cultural classifications.
- develop written online group discussions about different cultural groups.
- critically assess readings that inform us about intercultural communication.

This course supports **Writing Across the Curriculum** & includes content that reflects this endorsement.

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**Course Requirements:** Written requirements must be turned in by the appointed day and time. Late assignments will be penalized 5 percentage points of the total possible points for every 24 hours or fraction thereof. All written requirements will be explained more fully on files that will be posted during the semester. Students are expected to take all tests on the appointed day and time.

Requirement	Possible Points
Test 1	75 points
Test 2	75 points
Test 3	75 points
Test 4	75 points
Test 5	75 points
Reaction Paper	50 points
Term Paper	75 points

**Grading:** The following is the grading scale used to compute final grades:

A:	450 - 500 points	D:	300 - 349 points
B:	400 - 449 points	F:	299 points and lower
C:	350 - 399 points		

This is a **point** system, not a percent system. According to this scale, a 399 is a "C" and a 449 is a "B." **The professor reserves the right to make any adjustments to the scale to ensure equitable grading.** This means that, if for the unlikely reason there is no representation in a grade category, the professor will adjust the grading scale so that there is representation in that category. For example, if there are no students who have 450 points or more, the instructor may adjust the grading scale so that an "A" is 445 points and higher. The above scale will not be adjusted to lower any final grade. For instance, the grading scale will not be adjusted so that an "A" grade is 460 points or higher or a "D" grade is 300 points to 360 points. This policy is only to be used in unusual circumstances and should not be considered standard procedure.

**All course requirements must be attempted to pass this course.** This means that even though you may mathematically average a passing grade, failure to complete a requirement will mean a failing grade for the course. For example, even though you might have 351 points before submitting the final paper, if you do not attempt to complete these assignments, your final grade will be an "F" rather than a "C."

**Attendance Policy:** The attendance policy for this course is that **all scheduled class meetings are mandatory.** If a case arises where you cannot make it to class, it would be in your interest to provide some kind of documentation (e.g., doctor's note/receipt, court order, job interview letter). **Documented absences** include such events as **serious** illness, hospitalization, death of an immediate family member, and SU approved activities. A reported absence (e.g., calling from out of state to say that you are stranded or informing that you have an appointment with your dental hygienist) might not be considered an emergency. The instructor reserves the right to determine what constitutes a documented absence. It is your responsibility to make up any work missed. Documented absences must be reported immediately. No credit will be given to students who try to document absences at the end of the semester. There will be a **10 point** deduction for each **undocumented** class day missed. Recurring absences, no matter what the reason, will affect your final grade.

**Academic Integrity:** All students are expected to abide by the standards of academic integrity as described in the policies and procedures handbook published by Salisbury University. Specifically for this course, students are expected to submit original work, work that has not been used, in its entirety, to fulfill requirements in other courses. Any ideas drawn from other resources must be cited using proper citation guidelines. All students must take their own tests and refrain from cheating or divulging information to others concerning the contents of the tests. Students are to uphold the Salisbury University Promise:

**As a Salisbury University student-- I will connect what I learn to how I live. I will demonstrate personal and academic integrity. I will respect diverse groups and individuals. I will strive to bring honor to myself and the University.**

### CMAT 300 Course Schedule

Dates	Topic Area	Course Textbook Readings
Week 1 January 30 – February 1	Introduction	Understanding Intercultural Communication: An Overview pp. 6-15 Imagining Culture With a Little Help from the Pushmi-Pullyu pp. 16-21 Our Locus in the Universe: Worldview and Intercultural Communication pp. 32-38
Week 2 February 6 – February 8	Identity	Cultural Identity and Intercultural Communication pp. 53-60 Finding My Whiteness: A Narrative of Cultural Identification pp. 61-70
Week 3 February 13 – February 15	Verbal Communication	The Nexus of Language, Communication, and Culture pp. 214-221 German Language: Whose Language, Whose Culture? pp. 222-230
<b>February 20</b>	<b>Test #1</b>	<b>Weeks 1 – 3</b>
Week 4 February 20- February 22	Verbal Communication	Public Speaking Patterns in Kenya pp. 238-245 Mexican Dichos: Lessons Through Language pp. 246-249
Week 5 February 27 – March 1	Nonverbal Communication	Unraveling Cultural Cues: Dimensions of Nonverbal Communication Across Cultures pp. 250-265 Japanese Nonverbal Communication: A Reflection of Cultural Themes pp. 266-274
Week 6 March 6 – March 8	International Cultures	Living Together vs. Going It Alone 103-113 The Wei (Positioning) – Ming (Naming) – Lianmian (Face) Continuum in Contemporary Chinese Culture pp. 114-121
<b>March 13</b>	<b>Test #2</b>	<b>Weeks 4 – 6</b>
Week 7 March 13 – March 15	International Cultures	India: The Dance of Shiva pp. 122-134 Communication With Egyptians pp. 142-148
<b>March 15</b>	<b>Paper #1 Due</b>	
<b>March 19 – 23</b>		<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
Week 8 March 27 – March 29	Ethnicity	A Polish Jewish American Story: Collective Memories and Intergroup Relations pp. 71-75 Unum and Pluribus: Ideological Underpinnings of Interethnic Communication in the United States pp. 153-163
Week 9 April 3 – April 5	Ethnicity	Does the Worm Live in the Ground? Reflections of Native American Spirituality pp. 164-169 Let Me Count The Ways: African-American/European-American Marriages pp. 170-176

<b>April 10</b>	<b>Test #3</b>	<b>Weeks 7 - 9</b>
Week 10 April 10 – April 12	Co-Cultures	“Which Is My Good Leg?": Cultural Communication of Persons With Disabilities pp. 187-197 In Plain Sight: Gay and Lesbian Communication and Culture pp. 198-208
Week 11 April 17 – April 19	Interpersonal Contexts	Culture and Conflict pp. 22-31 U.S. Americans and Mexicans Working Together: Five Core Concepts pp. 280-285
Week 12 April 24 – April 26	Organizational Contexts	“Half-Truths” in Argentina, Brazil, and India: An Intercultural Analysis of Physician – Patient Communication pp. 308-317 Culture and Communication in the Classroom pp. 326-242
<b>May 1</b>	<b>Test #4</b>	<b>Weeks 10 - 12</b>
Week 13 May 1 – May 3	Diversity	Intercultural Awareness pp. 357-365 Cultural Diversity: A World View pp. 398-404 The Limits to Cultural Diversity pp. 405-407
Week 14 May 8 – May 10	Ethics	Intercultural Personhood: An Integration of Eastern and Western Perspectives pp. 408- 419 Ethical Intercultural Technical Communication: Looking Through the Lens of Confucian Ethics pp. 420-430
<b>May 10</b>	<b>Term Paper Due</b>	
Week 15 May 15	Conclusions	
<b>Section 001 (12:30) Tuesday, May 22 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Test #5</b>	<b>Weeks 13 - 14</b>
<b>Section 002 (2:00) Friday, May 18 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.</b>		