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POLOTSK STATE UNIVERSITY

MSc 1-40 81 01 Computer Science and Software Development Technologies

PSYCHOLOGY OF INTERPERSONAL & INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Syllabus

2020-2021 Academic Year

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MSc 1-40 81 01

Computer Science and Software Development Technologies

Course: Cross Cultural Communication

Faculty: ICT	Amount of student effort (hours): 240
Department: Computing Systems and Networks	Class contact time (hours): 23
Level: MSc, Year 1	Term period(s): Sem. 1
Language of instruction: English	Course status: Mandatory core
Course leader: Sviatlana Astapchuk	Entry requirements: None
ECTS:	Contact: s.ostapchuk@psy.by Office: Room 226, Building 2 (30 Blokhin str., Navapolatsk)

Learning goals and learning outcomes

Objectives:

- ✓ to equip students with knowledge and skills in communicating with people from a variety of cultural backgrounds;
- ✓ to introduce fundamental principles and practices of intercultural communication.;
- ✓ to build grounds for group discussions of issues in the fields of culture, co-cultures, perception, values, beliefs, worldview, verbal communication, nonverbal communication, culture shock, cultural adaptation, dialects, multilingualism, ethnocentrism, stereotyping, prejudice, and intercultural communication competence;
- ✓ to help students explore and evaluate their own cultural heritages in relation to the cultures/co-cultures of others in Belarus and globally;
- ✓ to help students assess and develop their skills in intercultural communication during class sessions and through experiential activities outside of class;
- ✓ apply academic knowledge and skills to practical matters from different professional practices;
- ✓ analyse and solve practical issues from an interdisciplinary perspective;
- ✓ collaborate in teams and do project-based tasks;
- ✓ improve communication skills (in written and oral forms).



Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course,

- with the knowledge gained students will define culture, communication, intercultural communication, ethnocentrism, culture shock, and multiculturalism.
- students will get an insight into the matter of different worldviews, values, behaviour, traditions, and experiences of different cultures and how this global diversity plays out in intercultural and international encounters in various contexts.
- students will be able to construct their own conclusions about a process of creating and sharing meaning among people from different cultural backgrounds using a variety of means.
- students will be able to compare, contrast, and analyse different roles of culture, language, power, and communication on the development of personal, social and cultural identities throughout the lifespan.
- students will be able to criticise the process of stereotype formation and the manifestations of prejudice, discrimination, and “-isms,” such as sexism and racism.
- students will examine the role of mass media and popular culture in the construction and co-construction of cultures and cultural identities through a critical analysis of readings, case studies, and personal experiences with sound argumentation and debating skills.
- students will analyse and reflect on the impact of their culture and co-culture on their values, assumptions, perceptions, expectations, and behaviour– in a team’s project;
- they will be able to construct a list of suggestions and strategies for improving intercultural communication in your field of study or their future occupation.
- -students will be able to evaluate their progress in developing their intercultural communication knowledge and skills.
- students will be able to self-evaluate their projects and assess the others’ contributions and the overall process of cross cultural communication.

Curriculum Outline:

This course deals with the master level of higher education focused on analytical skills and production of independent hypotheses based on fundamental principles and practices of intercultural communication. It is also focused on the requirements of the labour market, which demands critical and creative thinking and analytical skills as well as team work and adaptability and flexibility to intercultural communication relevant to their jobs and functions.

The objectives of the course are achieved via class activities and an applied project. In tutorials academic knowledge and skills are put into practice working on case studies from the ‘real life’ of professional practice. The emphasis in this class is on doing intercultural communication, not just reading about intercultural communication. Thoughtful reflection and articulation of insights and ideas are critical components of this course.

Contents:

Introduction to the course. Culture, communication, intercultural communication, ethnocentrism, culture shock, and multiculturalism/



Defining culture
Culture and language
Contemporary theories of psychology relative to culture
Nonverbal codes and cultural space
Understanding identity
Culture Dialogue
Tolerance and culture

Course methodology:

The case studies transcend disciplinary boundaries, as they focus on lobbying, policy advice, creating an exhibition or designing critical practices in different areas of intercultural communication and multiculturalism. Students work collectively on case studies as a way to integrate their insights. The tutorials in the first week are devoted to the introduction of culture, communication, intercultural communication, and multiculturalism and to practical instructions concerning the planning and work distribution. In the second week, the sub-groups report on their (preliminary) findings and make a plan for the further elaboration of the project. Students are responsible for the planning themselves and need to meet up in between the tutorials to work on the case study. In the last week, all groups present their work in the tutorials, receive feedback from the tutor and fellow-students and finalize their study.

Course policies and expectations

Attendance: Students are required to attend classes, in case classes are missed, students should present work, which has been done during classes.

As it is a blended course, with face-to-face meetings and online work, students are required to do work at classes and online using Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams.

Participation: Active participation is required. A large portion of this class will include active discussion, reading in class, and writing for students' papers in class.

The students need to spend the time doing the readings, discussing the issues with fellow students, and doing activities based on the course concepts

The final grade will be based on individual grades received on assignments, quizzes, and group projects and class attendance and participation. Point values for assignments, quiz questions are based on the level of effort and knowledge required to complete each.

Communication Protocols

Students can access course information every week online on Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams platforms. All assignments done by students should be submitted according to the deadline.

Grading Information

The students need to spend the time doing the readings, discussing the issues with fellow students, and doing activities based on the course concepts.

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The course grade is determined as following

Class attendance -5%

Case studies 10 %

Active part in discussions 5 %

Essays 15%

Quizzes 15%

Final project -50 %

Total 100%

Detailed criteria are presented in the University Standard Descriptors (code for level 6 of the NQF)

Indicative Student Learning Resources:

Readings, materials, and resources

1. Samovar L.A., Porter R.E., McDaniel E.R. Intercultural Communication: A Reader 13th edition. — Wadsworth / Cengage Learning, 2012. — 518 p.
2. Stringer Donna M., Cassiday Patricia A. 52 Activities for Improving Cross-Cultural Communication Nicholas Brealey Publishing, 2009. — 252 p.
3. Lustig Myron W., Koester Jolene. Intercultural Competence: Interpersonal Communication Across Cultures Pearson, Boston, 6th Edition. 2010 - 400 p.

Other learning resources

INTERNET RESOURCES

I. ListServe Discussion Groups

C-PSYCH: Cross-Cultural Psychology Discussion List (a crossOther-cultural psychology discussion list that often focuses on teaching issues)

To subscribe, send e-mail to listserv@maelstrom.stjohns.edu with the body of the message stating SUB C-PSYCH Yourname (omitting quotes).

TRANSCULTURAL-PSYCHOLOGY (Sunkyo Kwon monitors this cross-cultural psychology discussion forum at Humboldt University in Berlin. This discussion list is very active and issues raised include both teaching and research.)



To subscribe, send e-mail to listserv@vm1.nodak.edu with the body of the message stating SUBSCRIBE TRANSCULTURAL-PSYCHOLOGY Yourname (omitting quotes).

II. Selected WWW Sites

Canadian Psychological Association: <http://www.cpa.ca/> (This home page for the Canadian Psychological Association contains some good cross-cultural links.)

Coombsweb: <http://coombs.anu.edu.au/> (This is a site maintained by the Australian National University and contains a wide selection of materials in the humanities and social sciences, particularly focusing on Asian-Pacific studies.)

Cross-Cultural	Breastfeeding	References:
http://www.prairienet.org/community/health/laleche/detbooks.html (This page, maintained by Dr. Katherine Dettwyler of the Department of Anthropology at Texas A & M University, contains a bibliography of publications by anthropologists relating to cultural variations in child rearing, especially breastfeeding practices.)		

Current Research in Social Psychology: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~grpproc/crisp/crisp.html> (This is an electronic journal with some articles relating to cross-cultural issues.)

Future Culture Page: <http://www.wcpworld.com/future/culture.htm> (This page is maintained by World Caf Productions and has extensive links to sites in countries throughout the world. In addition, it has a useful list of traits of cultures that can be used to help students begin to understand the concept of culture and how it relates to human behavior.)

The Human Languages Page: <http://www.june29.com/HLP/> (This site provides over 1,800 links and resources on just about any language in the world. Resource topics include languages and literature, multilingual resources, linguistics resources, links to online language tutorial and translation services, and links to related college departmental pages.)

Index of Native American Resources on the Internet: <http://hanksville.phast.umass.edu/misc/NAresources.html> (This site provides links to information and home pages for a wide variety of Native American tribes. Links include cultural, educational, musical, video, and aboriginal resources.)

Intercultural Communication <http://www.americancomm.org/~aca/studies/intercultural.html> (This page, maintained by the American Communication Association, provides a list of links to a wide variety of sites addressing cross-cultural issues. Links include sites addressing Aboriginal studies, Asian studies, several sites on cross-cultural communication, a culture tolerance and acceptance activity on the web, sites on folklore and music, Middle Eastern studies, religion, and Tibetan studies.)

Intercultural EMail Classroom Connections: <http://www.stolaf.edu/network/iecc/> (This site, sponsored by St. Olaf College, provides mailing lists to help link teachers and their classes to their counterparts in other countries for pen pal and project exchanges.)



International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP)
<http://www.fit.edu/CampusLife/clubs-org/iaccp/> (This is the home page for the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology; it contains lots of good information and links.)

Japan Information Network: <http://www.jinjan.org/index.html> (This is a general site run by the Japan Information Network that provides links to sites throughout Japan. Links include statistics about Japanese life and lifestyles (e.g., census information, crime, women, leisure activities), current trends, and general information about cities and regions.)

Nijmegen Cultural Psychology Group: <http://www.socsci.kun.nl/psy/cultuur/> (This is the home page for the Cultural Psychology Group at Nijmegen University, the Netherlands. It contains lots of interesting information on the research and history of the group as well as interesting links to other resources related to cultural psychology.)

Psychology Organizations on the Web: <http://psych.hanover.edu/Krantz/psy.html> (This is a good page with links to a lot of different international psychology organizations.)

Resources for Colleges and Universities in International Exchange
<http://www.usc.edu/dept/overseas/links.html> (This site contains a large number of links to information and resources related to international exchange programs among colleges and universities.)

Society for Cross-Cultural Research: <http://www.fit.edu/CampusLife/clubs-org/sccr> (The home page of the Society for Cross-Cultural Research (SCCR), this site provides information about society membership, subscriptions to its journal (Cross-Cultural Research), its meetings, and links to other crosscultural resources on the web.)

Teaching Cross-Cultural Methods to Undergraduates (a CAM article)
<http://www.lawrence.edu/~bradleyc/hraf.html> (This site contains an article by Candice Bradley of Lawrence University discussing the importance of teaching cross-cultural methods to undergraduates. It also has several suggestions for student projects.)

The Virtual Faculty: <http://www.massey.ac.nz/~ALock/virtual> (The Virtual Faculty home page is maintained by a number of faculty from around the world who share common interests, one of which is cross-cultural studies. There are links to a number of full-text articles and projects related to cross-cultural psychology.)

The Web of Culture: <http://www.webofculture.com> (Originally developed as a project for a graduate course in cross-cultural communication, this page has extensive links to sites that address topics such as languages, religion, foreign embassies and consulates, and cuisine. It also includes a page devoted to cross-cultural comparisons of the use and interpretation of gestures based upon the work of Roger Axtell.)

2020/2021 Calendar for Cross-cultural Communication MSc course Year 1

Sep				Oct				Novc			Dec			Jan	
3	11	17	25	4	11	18	26	5	11	16	12	28		14	25

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	CS		P	P	CS	TW	TWP				TWP	

CS – Case study seminar

P – Critical practice

T – Tutorial

TW – Team work

TWP – Presentation of results of TW

D - Debates

RP – Research paper (summative assessment)

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