



COM 3051 Intercultural Competence: Theory to Practice

Study Abroad: New Zealand - Landmark College

Summer 2018

Instructor: Geoff Burgess

Email: gburgess@landmark.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:

Intercultural competence refers to the ability to interact effectively with persons of different cultures. It requires an integration of awareness, attitude, knowledge, and skills and can be realized with a facility for cultural self-assessment, sensitivity to cultural differences, and awareness of the dynamics inherent when cultures interact. Ultimately this results in forming relationships across cultural boundaries and with improved decision-making and social engagement/work performance in multi-cultural settings. Intercultural competence is not simply visiting and learning about another culture, but to think critically about one's own culture and to acquire *the process of coming to understand* a new culture which can be used to adapt to a variety of cultures.

Class Times: As this is an intensive study abroad trip, class times may vary depending upon the circumstances that present themselves. Students should assume that most all of their energy for the duration of the program will be spent on course related activities.

Prerequisites:

Successful completion of EN1021 and three 2000 level courses with C grade or better

Course Learning Goals: Students will	General Education Goals	Assignments/Activities
Gain an understanding of key concepts in the field of intercultural communication	Think critically, reason soundly, and develop and apply problem solving strategies across the academic disciplines.	Homework- reading review questions Cultural Self-Assessment paper
Explore characteristics of communication among specific cultural communities	Communicate with clarity, coherence and persuasiveness through written, oral and other modes of expression.	Presentations- observations & interviews Projects- pluralism, tourism, mass media
Identify and understand various challenges inherent in intercultural communication and explore ways to productively meet these challenges	Communicate with clarity, coherence and persuasiveness through written, oral and other modes of expression.	Homework- journal entries Presentations- cultural background Projects- pluralism, tourism, mass media
Develop a greater awareness of your own cultural identity and the unconscious cultural values, assumptions, and attitudes that influence your interactions with others	Understand the complexities of multiple communities, including educational, cultural and geographic, and respect different perspectives and diversity.	Homework- reading review questions & journal entries Cultural Self-Assessment paper Presentations- observations & interviews

Required Texts:

“Intercultural Competence: Interpersonal Communication Across Cultures 7thed.” by Myron Lustig and Jolene Koester

“New Zealand-Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture” by Ljiljana Ortolja-Baird

Grading: Full assignment descriptions/rubrics as well as drop-boxes can be found on the Canvas course web site

15% Participation

Because of the experiential nature of this course, attendance, punctuality, and participation are required for all class meetings and activities.

15% Homework

Daily assignments will include guided reading review questions and journal entries.

15% Cultural Self-Assessment paper

Topic: Describe how you define yourself as a cultural being and show how that affects your communication style. (Keep in mind, cultural self-assessment is not a process that has an end.)

15% Presentations

Class presentations will be given based on research on background elements of New Zealand culture as well as from structured observations and interviews.

20% Special Project

3000 level students will conduct a study of New Zealand as a model of a bicultural society. In particular,

students will examine how Maori values and practices have been integrated into environmental management. In addition, this study will include the challenge for New Zealanders of maintaining cultural integrity while delivering cultural tourism.

20% Projects

3000 level students will lead small groups to focus on and collect information on a unique aspects of New Zealand culture and communication. After consolidating evidence from various sources, students will provide a summative analysis to the class.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A	100 – 93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63
D-	62-60
F	59 and below

- A – work demonstrates exceptional understanding
- B – work demonstrates good understanding
- C – work demonstrates adequate understanding
- D – work demonstrates limited understanding
- F – work demonstrates little or no understanding

Expectations of students in class and on field trips:

- Respect individual and cultural differences among classmates. This means accepting others' opinions and perspectives, even when they differ from your own. Using respectful language in class and on field trips is critical to creating a safe learning environment.
- Everyone is entitled to an informed opinion. This means that when disagreeing with another member of the class, it is important to explain why.
- Come to class prepared, having done the reading. I will come prepared to teach. I see this as a verbal contract we all make with each other.
- Attend field trips with an open mind, working on setting ethnocentric attitudes aside.
- Consistently employ “classroom behavior” on all field trips and during all group activities. Much of the learning in this course is experiential; whenever the class is together (whether in the classroom, on a field trip related to course content, sharing a meal, or on an optional weekend field trip) appropriate classroom behavior is expected.

- Ask questions! There are no “stupid” ones, either in class or on field trips.
- Forgive others’ mistakes, as well as your own.
- Remember that when visiting a foreign country you are viewed as a representative of your country and culture. This is your chance to dispel myths of impolite and loud American behavior.
- Whether with your study abroad group or not, it is expected that you will exercise safety and caution. (This extends to any alcohol, or other substance, use that you might choose to engage in when not with the class group.)

Besides the policies described in the Study Abroad handbook, students should be aware of the following:

Landmark College Student Code of Conduct:

The following standards of conduct are examples and general expectations for all student members of the Landmark College community:

1. **Honesty:** Students will exhibit honesty in academic endeavors and in all aspects of campus life.
2. **Safety:** Students will make a commitment to contribute to a safe, clean, congenial, and productive learning environment.
3. **Understanding:** Students will make a commitment to understand their own strengths and challenges, and to work towards academic and personal growth.
4. **Respect for Others:** Students will show respect for the feelings, time, efforts, and physical well-being of others, and for their capacity for growth.
5. **Respect for Property:** Students will show respect for the property and materials of Landmark College as well as the personal property of all members of the Landmark community.
6. **Respect for Community:** Students will respect the rules and regulations of Landmark College and its governing bodies, and the laws of the State of Vermont and of the United States.

School policies can be found in the Student Handbook and on this link:

http://www.landmark.edu/m/uploads/Student_Handbook_2014-2015.pdf

Attendance

You are responsible for all work when you miss class. If you miss class, you miss learning. Attendance is factored into your grade average. You are subject to Administrative Withdrawal with the equivalent of two weeks or more of absences.

Work Completion

Work is expected to be done/uploaded/printed when you ENTER class. Assignment deadlines are designed to account for differences in learning styles and are sequenced to maximize learning opportunities. Generally no extensions are granted, and missed assignments count as zeros. In rare

instances based on extraordinary circumstances, with communication prior to deadline, students may be granted short extensions.

Academic Integrity

Cheating (cutting/pasting information you did not write) is not acceptable in college. Any instances of cheating will receive a zero and possible school sanctions.

Recording Devices

“Students are required to inform faculty before recording class lectures and discussions for such personal, academic study and review. Faculty members are required to inform students when recording class lectures and activities that include student participation.”

Accommodations Policy

Landmark College neither imposes accommodations on its students nor pre-empts their responsibilities, as legal and social adults, to identify their special needs within the scope of this policy and to ensure that these needs are being met. <http://www.landmark.edu/campus-life/dean-of-student-affairs/request-for-accomodations/>

Response Time:

In typical circumstances students may expect feedback and assessment within 48 hours of assignment deadlines. In the rare instances when overdue assignments are accepted, it's unlikely that timely feedback will be provided.

Instructor reserves the right to modify the attendance and work completion policies due to individual diagnostic reasons and academic goals. Any modifications will include a conference with student followed by with a written summary of any decision.