COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed to introduce you to theories and research on intercultural communication and cultural influences on communication, with a focus on applications relevant to your everyday lives. In the course, you will be introduced to prominent theories and areas of research in the area of culture and communication, including (social) identity, perception, verbal and nonverbal communication, acculturation, culture shock, prejudice, stereotyping, relational development, and globalization. The focus of the course will be on the implications of this theory and research for your own experiences.

COURSE GOALS
After completing this course, you should be able to:
- Understand what culture is and its influence on verbal and nonverbal communication behavior;
- Understand how culture shapes perception, worldviews, and attitudes;
- Identify factors that could influence communication between individuals from different cultures;
- Be familiar with the processes of culture shock and acculturation;
- Understand how stereotypes, prejudice, and identity are related to culture.

COURSE TEXTS

* Additional course readings and resources will be made available through the course website. You may elect to obtain an earlier edition of the textbooks, but you will still be responsible for the information as presented in this most recent editions.

COURSE WEBSITE
You are expected to be familiar with Laulima (http://laulima.hawaii.edu/) for access to the course website. The website will provide you with the latest announcements, readings, resources, a discussion forum, and lecture slides. You are expected to regularly check the Laulima website. You must log in using your University of Hawai‘i username and password.
CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION
COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: Attendance is very important to this class. The materials covered in class will include a significant amount of information that is not in the readings, so you will need to be present in order to get all the material that will be covered on the exams. We will also be having class discussions and activities to which you are expected to contribute, so your attendance is important for both your own and your classmates’ learning. If you miss class, you are responsible for any and all material covered, and assignments and announcements given.

Late Work Policy: To pass this class, you must complete all assignments. All assignments should be submitted via Laulima BEFORE class on the days indicated. Assignments turned in after the class meeting will be considered late. For each day an assignment is late, your grade will lose 10%, up to a total of 50%. Make-up exams will ONLY be allowed under extraordinary, documented circumstances. The instructor of the course should be notified immediately when such circumstances occur and either an alternative assignment or extension will be provided. If you are participating in a university-affiliated activity, you must make arrangements with the instructor prior to the absence.

Academic Integrity: Any student caught plagiarizing an assignment or cheating on an exam will receive a failing grade on the assignment or exam, and may be subject to further disciplinary action. Using someone else’s information in any way—their words, their ideas, or their explanations—without acknowledging them is considered plagiarism. This includes paraphrasing another person’s ideas without citing the source; copying information from the Internet, other students, or any kind of published material without citing the source; or submitting materials that you have written for another class without the permission of both courses’ instructors.

University of Hawai’i’s Student Conduct Code covers these and other infractions in greater depth. You are expected to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code, which can be found at http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/.

Email Use: You are responsible for checking your email account frequently and consistently to remain current with University communications. You are expected to monitor and manage your email storage quota to ensure that you are able to receive new messages. Please check your email every day to keep up to date on important correspondence related to this course.

I will respond to your emails within 48 hours. If I do not respond within 48 hours, please email me again—occasionally emails get caught in spam filters. Emails received after 6:00pm the night before an assignment is due may not receive a reply before the assignment needs to be submitted, so plan ahead and ask questions early.

Students with Disabilities: If you anticipate the need for reasonable accommodations to meet the requirements of this course, you are encouraged to contact the KOKUA Program on campus for information about their services. These services are free and confidential to University of Hawai’i students. The KOKUA office is located in the Queen Lili’uokalani Center for Student Services Building, Room 013. You can also call the KOKUA office at (808) 956-7511 or email the program at kokua@hawaii.edu. Please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how the course requirements and activities stated herein may influence your ability to participate fully.

Office Hours: Office hours are a resource for you. Please come by to discuss content from the course, ask questions about the field, or just say hello. If you cannot make the scheduled office hours but would like to talk with me individually, please send an email (gasiorek@hawaii.edu) and we can set up another time to meet.
CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION
ASSIGNMENTS

Papers: COMG 385 is designed as a “W” Writing Intensive course. This means that this class adheres to the criteria of the Manoa Writing Program:

1. The course uses writing to promote the learning of course materials.
2. The course provides interaction between the professor and students while students do assigned writing.
3. Written assignments contribute significantly to each student’s course grade (at least 40%).
4. Students write at least 4,000 words (about 16 typed pages).
5. The course is limited to 20 students.

You are expected to write a series of papers for this course to foster your learning of the course materials:

1. **Paper #1 (3-4 pages):** The first paper asks you to provide a “culture biography.” What cultures do you identify with, and come into contact with? How have these cultures shaped your identity, worldview and self-construal?

2. **Paper #2 (6 pages):** The second paper asks you to analyze a culture that you belong to. Describe the culture, drawing on definitions and concepts from class. What are its values? How does this culture influence you’re the verbal and nonverbal communication of its members?

3. **Paper #3 (7 pages):** The final paper asks you to apply course concepts or theories to better understand a situation or experience in your own life. For this, you will need to pick a situation or experience in which culture was salient or relevant, and explain how at least two different course theories or concepts provide insight into what happened.

Additional information about each paper assignment will be posted on the course website. We will also discuss each assignment in class, as well as dedicate class time to discussing key aspects of writing (e.g., organizing a paper, structuring an argument, supporting an argument) as they relate to each assignment. Additional readings and resources related to writing will also be posted on the course website.

Papers will be graded as follows:

- 30% Mechanics, style, grammar, spelling
- 10% Proper use of APA style/citations
- 20% Organization
- 40% Content (as it relates to the course)

You will receive an initial grade on all of your papers. For either (or both) of the first two papers (but not the final paper), you may resubmit your paper, with corrections, to improve your grade. If you would like to resubmit your paper, you must do so within one (1) week of receiving it back. Your final grade for that paper will be the average of your initial grade and the grade on your resubmitted paper.

**Presentation:** You will need to make one presentation for this course. In it, you will choose a culture of interest to you, and present one way in which this culture influences the verbal or nonverbal communication of its members. This presentation will be approximately five minutes, and should demonstrate your ability to apply course concepts to understanding the communicative practices of a specific culture.

**Exams:** There are two (2) exams for this course, including the final exam. Each exam will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. Each exam will cover material from approximately half the course.

**Research Participation:** For this course, you are expected to participate in research projects conducted in the Department for a total of one (1) hour of SONA credit. You will need to create an account at http://hawaiicomunicology.sona-systems.com to participate in research.
CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION
COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is a tentative schedule for each class period. Changes, which will be made in class, may need to be made to this schedule. You are responsible for making the changes on the syllabus.

Week 1, Jan 14 & 16: Introduction to the Course and Basic Concepts
Reading: SPMR Chapters 1 & 2
• Introduction to the course and instructor
• Why study culture and communication
• Similarity and difference

Week 2, Jan 21 & 23: Structure of Culture
Reading: SPMR Chapters 3 & 5
• Structure of culture
• Worldview

Week 3, Jan 28 & 30: Culture and Identity
Reading: SPMR Chapter 7 (through p. 230); Kim Chapter 1
• Personal vs. social identity
• Social identity theory
• Independent and interdependent self Construal

Week 4, Feb 4 & 6: Culture, Identity and Values
Reading: Kim Chapters 2 & 3. SPMR Chapter 6
• Communication and social identity
• Role of culture in perception
• Cultural values

Week 5, Feb 11 & 13: Culture, Perceptions and Values
Reading: SPMR Chapter 6K
• Paper #1 due 2/1
• Hall’s high vs. low context cultures
• Hofstede’s dimensions

Week 6, Feb 18 & 20: Verbal Communication and Culture
Reading: SPMR Chapter 8
• Functions of language
• Language variation and culture
• Interpretation and translation

Week 7, Feb 25 & 27: Verbal Communication and Culture
Reading: Kim Chapters 4, 5, & 11
• Linguistic relativity (Sapir-Whorf hypothesis)
• Cultural variation in approach, avoidance, and disclosure
• Ethnolinguistic vitality

Week 8, Mar 4 & 6: Nonverbal Communication and Culture
Reading: SPMR Chapter 9, Kim Chapter 13
• Cultural variation in nonverbal communication
Week 9, Mar 11 & 13: Individual Presentations
No reading this week
• **Tuesday 3/11: Exam #1**
• Individual presentations

Week 10, Mar 18 & 20: Individual Presentations
No reading this week
• Individual presentations
• **Paper #2 due 3/20**

[Spring Break: No class March 25 & 27]

Week 11, Apr 1 & 3: Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination
*Reading: SPMR: Chapter 7 (p. 231-end)*
• Stereotypes
• Prejudice
• Discrimination

Week 12, Apr 8 & 10: Globalization, Media, and Culture
*Reading: Liu, Volcic & Gallois – Chapter 11 (on Laulima)*
• Globalization and media sources
• Technology and culture
• Mass media and cultural change

Week 13, Apr 15 & 17: Culture Shock and Acculturation
*Reading: SPMR Chapter 1 (pp. 10-14), Kim Chapter 14*
• Culture shock
• Similarity and difference
• Models of cultural adaptation and acculturation

Week 14, Apr 22 & 24: Co-Cultures
*Reading: SPMR Chapter 6*
• Cultural contact
• Co-cultures
• Negotiating multiplex identities

Week 15, Apr 29 & May 1: Cultural Relativity; Effective Intercultural Communication
*Reading: SPMR Chapter 10, Liu, Volcic & Gallois – Chapter 13 (on Laulima)*
• Local and global cultures
• Contexts of communication
• Intercultural communication competence
• **Paper #3 due 4/29**

Week 16, May 6: Final Thoughts and Course Wrap-Up
• Review for Exam #2

Exam #2: Thursday 5/15, 12:00-2:00 pm
# CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION

## POINTS BREAKDOWN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignments</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXAMINATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PAPER</strong></td>
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<td>Paper 1</td>
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<td>Paper 2</td>
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<td>Paper 3</td>
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<td><strong>PRESENTATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RESEARCH PARTICIPATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points Possible =</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Earned =</td>
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To calculate your grade at any given point, take the total points earned so far, divide by the total points possible, and multiply the resulting number by 100. This will give you a percentage.

For example, suppose you earned 40/50 on the first paper and 50/60 on the first exam.

40 + 50 = 90 out of 110 points so far. 90 divided by 110 = .818 x 100 = 81.8%.

Final grades will be assigned on the following basis:

- A+ = 96.5-100%; A = 92.5-96.4%; A- = 89.5-92.4%;
- B+ = 86.5-89.4%; B = 82.5-86.4%; B- = 79.5-82.4%;
- C+ = 76.5-79.4%; C = 69.5-76.4%;
- D+ = 66.5-69.4%; D = 62.5-66.4%; D- = 59.5-62.4%;
- F < 59.4%