

ICS250 Cross Cultural Communication



Pathways

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For the Acadeum Course Sharing Consortium



We're delighted to have you here at RMC! Please note the following policies:

We try our best to ensure you get the most from the courses in which you are enrolled and welcome your feedback.

Online Courtesy

As beings created in the image of God, we all deserve to be treated with the utmost respect whether we are a facilitator or a student. Online courses give us the opportunity to encourage social interaction, relationship building and trust between participants which befits our status as image-bearers. Failure to show respect in course interchange, through emails, announcements, discussion forums or instant chat, whether in the form of racism, chauvinism or simple unkindness is ungracious and inappropriate for the health of Christian community. Where mutual respect exists, the possibility of learning is enhanced for all.

Therefore, please remember that there is a person behind every comment on the course website – when you respond, be gracious, give the benefit of the doubt and ask for clarification. Review your comments in the discussion forums for tone before submitting them – sarcasm and jokes often do not translate well in the online environment. Be sure your messages are clear – it is tempting to quickly write a response and submit it but this can lead to confusion if your thoughts are a bit jumbled – take time to polish your remarks. Remember that your comments, whether in emails or discussion forums can become public so act accordingly.

RMC Grading Policy

Grade GradePoint

A+	4.0	
A	4.0	A = Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	3.7	
B+	3.3	
B	3.0	B = Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete.
B-	2.7	
C+	2.3	
C	2.0	C = Satisfactory — basic understanding of subject matter.
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	D = Inferior work which falls below the expectations of the course but which is of passing quality.
D-	0.7	
F	0.0	F = Failure to meet the minimum standards required for a passing grade.
P	Pass	P = Represents satisfactory work. Given only in courses specially designated for Pass /Fail grading.
IN	Incomplete	
VW	Voluntary Withdrawal	Voluntary Withdrawal from a course before the course withdrawal deadline.
AU	Audit	No grade awarded. Indicates that a minimum of 75% of classes have been attended.

Grading Scale

A+ 97-100	A 93-96	A- 89-92
B+ 85-88	B 80-84	B- 76-79
C+ 72-75	C 67-71	C- 60-66
D 55-59	F 0-54	

Plagiarism & Academic Misconduct at Rocky Mountain College

A. Plagiarism Defined

Plagiarism - involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Plagiarism exists when:

1. the work submitted was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting the work,
2. parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
3. the whole work is copied from another source, and/or
4. a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence.

B. Penalties

1. **Failing Grade** - a student may be given a failing grade in either the assignment or course in which that student is found guilty of plagiarism. Except in circumstances in which leniency is warranted, this penalty will be applied in conjunction with one or other of the other penalties mentioned below.
2. **Disciplinary Probation** - when a student is placed on disciplinary probation, he or she is entitled to proceed with their academic program. If the student is found guilty of a further academic offence the student will be suspended or expelled.
3. **Suspension** - suspension takes place when a student is denied continuance at the college for a specified period of time. A student who has been placed under suspension is eligible to reapply for admission after the end of that specified period of time. Suspension does not imply automatic readmission; a student must satisfy the dean of his/her eligibility for readmission.
4. **Expulsion** - a student who is expelled is dismissed permanently from the college with no right to apply for readmission.

C. Penalties and Their Application

1. In cases in which the dean is satisfied that a student is guilty of a clear intention to deceive, the normal penalty will be either suspension or expulsion from the college.
2. In cases in which the dean is satisfied that an offence has been committed, but doubt is left as to the existence of a clear intention to deceive, the normal penalty will be disciplinary probation.
3. In cases where a student is found guilty of more than a single offence, the normal penalty will be expulsion from the college.

Copies of the official policy regarding Plagiarism and other academic offenses can be found on the RMC website. If charged with plagiarism, it would be wise for a student to familiarize themselves with the RMC policy, "Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Misconduct."

This policy is based on the University of Calgary policy "Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Misconduct - 1996-97" Copyright © 1998 University of Calgary

ICS250 Cross Cultural Communication
Rocky Mountain College
Credits: 3

Course Rationale

As the world becomes more globalized, understanding cross-cultural communication is essential. This course is designed to provide the foundational concepts of effectively communicating with others from different cultural backgrounds. It is important that followers of the Lord Jesus Christ be able to build bridges into other communities so that the love of Christ can be manifested in word and deed.

Course Description

The purpose of the course is to introduce the students to the basic concepts of cross-cultural communication. The theoretical and the practical aspects of it will be looked at.

Attention is given to the following areas:

- Understanding the foundational principles of communication
- Exploring some of the issues encountered in cross-cultural communication
- Developing an awareness and sensitivity to other cultures so effective communication can take place.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course students should be able to do the following:

- To understand some of their Western cultural assumptions and the impact they have on cross-cultural communication
- To understand the essential elements of cross-cultural communication
- To develop strategies that will help them to analyze other cultures
- To have the basic skills to begin to break down cultural barriers and effectively communicate across various cultures

Required Textbooks

Ligenfelter, Sherwood G., and Marvin K. Mayers. Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2016.

Smith, Donald K. Creating Understanding: A Handbook for Christian Communication Across Cultural Landscapes. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.

Recommended Readings

Neuliep James W. Intercultural Communication: Contextual Approach. Thomas Oaks, California: Sage Publications Inc, 2012.

Hesselgrave, David J. Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally: An Introduction to Missionary Communication. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1991.

Hiebert, Paul G. Anthropological Insights for Missionaries. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985.

Spradley James P. Participant Observation. Orlando Florida: Holt, Rinehart and Watson Inc., 1980.

Course Requirements

1. Textbook - Ministering Cross Culturally 15%
 1. Read Lingenfelter and Mayers, Ministering Cross-Culturally
 2. Complete the profile on pp. 29-30
 3. Write a two page summary of the book
2. Textbook - Creating Understanding 20%
 1. Read Donald Smith, Creating Understanding
 2. Write 100 word reflections based on the propositions in the textbook (21 reflections total). They should articulate the insights the student gained.
3. Essays & Discussion 15%
 1. Write assigned essays (max. 750 words)
 2. Participate in assigned discussions
4. Research Project: Communication and Culture Project 30%
 1. Identify a culturally different community in Calgary
 2. Research the community's cultural background
 3. Find one or more persons within that community (preferably someone not known before) and spend a minimum of 10 hours in purposeful cultural exchanges with them. This is to gain firsthand information about them and their community in their home country and Canada (guiding questions will be provided in module 1).
 4. Write an 8-10 page paper based on these findings. The paper should demonstrate that the student has applied some of the insights gained from the readings and classroom discussions in order to more effectively communicate with this group.
5. Final Exam 20%

Readings from Creating Understanding – Donald Smith

Module 2	Proposition: 1,2,3,4	Fundamentals
Module 3	Propositions: 5,6	Purpose: Having Something to Say
Module 4	Proposition 7,8,9,10	Communicator: Having Something to Say
Module 5	Proposition 11,12	Signals: How it is Said
Module 6	Proposition 13, 14, 15	Media: So that More Can Hear

Module 7	Proposition 16, 17, 18	Audience: Receiving the Signals
Module 8	Proposition 19, 20	Comprehension: Did They Understand What They Heard
Module 9	Propositions 21, 22, 23	Change and Feedback: Has Anything Happened
Module 10	Exam on the text	

Assignments for the course should be submitted according to APA style.