

Mt. San Jacinto College
Honors Course Outline Addendum

Submitted by:	Suzanne Uhl	Date:	11/12/2020
Course Discipline:	Communication		
Course Number:	COMM 108H	Honors Courses End in "H"	
Title:	Honors Intercultural Communication	Must begin with "Honors"	

Honors Course Objectives:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Analyze the relationship between culture and communication in both global and local circumstances.2. Evaluate the role of cultural patterns, verbal codes, and nonverbal codes in the development of intercultural interpersonal relationships by analyzing a variety of cultures.3. Analyze the obstacles to competent intercultural communication and create detailed plan to improve competent (effective) communication.4. Identify cultural influences in varied communication contexts.5. Create an intercultural communication protocol designed to improve effectiveness and reduce cultural faux pas. |
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Honors Course Content:

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| <p>In addition to regular course content, the honors student will explore additional topics such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Additional theoretical perspectives beyond Hofstede and Kluckhohn & Strodtbeck. (e.g.: Ting-Toomey’s research on Facework; Michael Bond’s research on Confucian Dynamism, Edward Hall’s analysis of context in interpretation)2. Application of theory to “real life”, specifically exploring current examples in media, politics and research. (For example, “How might data on Syrian refugees be utilized to reduce conflict and enhance effective cultural assimilation?”)3. Additional research options will be explored as alternative ways to examine culture (For example, Qualitative techniques such as ethnography, a Historical approach to cultural studies, Quantitative techniques: use of surveys, interviews, demographic analysis) |
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Honors Course Assignments:

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| <p>Students will complete all regular course requirements for Comm 108 and be graded according to the standards used for the rest of the class. Additionally the instructor may select from the following samples (two minors and one major; OR two majors):</p> <p>MINOR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe common stereotypes of three US cultural groups other than your own. Offer three sources to establish research based generalizations of those groups. Paper should be at least 1000 words.2. Critique an academic article regarding cultural studies. The instructor will supply the article (might be an ethnographic study of an indigenous tribe or a quantitative analysis of refugees). Use two additional sources to support your critique. Paper should be at least 1000 words. |
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- 3. Analyze two intercultural films looking for influencing factors. See instructor for a list of approved films (Films list might include popular films such as Babel or documentaries from PBS or National Geographic). Paper should be at least 1000 words.

MAJOR

- 1. Explore a social justice issue within the US. Explore the cultural dimensions of that issue from multiple perspectives. Using established assessment techniques, determine the source of misunderstanding. Relate this to a theoretical approach. Create a strategy (program) to improve communication and reduce such “misunderstandings” in the future. Final product should reference 5 academic sources, minimum. Paper needs to be 2000 words with proper MLA format.
- 2. Select a culture to study or an international conflict to explore (must be approved by instructor). Student will give a 10 minute presentation to the regular class, with PowerPoint support. Presentations on cultures must include the following: geography, language, religion, political system, cultural traditions (such as attire, food, dance), and communication norms (verbal and non-verbal). Student must apply one of the taxonomies discussed in the basic course or in the additional Honors discussion sessions. A written outline of presentation is due with 5 sources (minimum) on the day of the presentation.
- 3. A group entitled "International Crisis Group" creates a [list of 10 conflicts to watch](#) at the end of every year. The link takes you to the list published for 2020. Your task is simple--take ONE of the TEN conflicts listed. Do additional research on the crisis selected & connect to the course. Specifically, connect to TEN different course concepts, explain/describe the connection in detail. Incorporate your additional research into your writing--TWO additional sources, along with the website linked above & the textbook--for a total of FOUR sources (minimum). Paper needs to be 2000 words with proper MLA format; 5 sources minimum.
- 4. Using information you derive from a specific cultural analysis , create an intercultural communication protocol for an entity (could be a medical clinic, international business, non-profit organization, government agency) designed to improve effectiveness and reduce cultural faux pas. Present your findings in a presentation (delivered to the course; 8-10 minutes) or in a 2000 word paper (MLA format; 5 sources minimum).

Evaluation of Honors Course Assignments:

All written assignments will be evaluated according to

- 1. the assignment description (meeting those requirements),
- 2. quality of writing (grammar, punctuation, thesis, format (thesis, MLA), and
- 3. depth of insight (ability to connect varied course concepts, critical assessment of the topic that goes beyond the superficial).

Presentations will be assessed by

- 1. the assignment description (meeting those content requirements),
- 2. delivery criteria (eye contact, physical movement, vocal variety and energy--do not read!),

- 3. quality of the visual aids (PowerPoint, Google Slides, Prezi and the like; suggestions for effective visual presentations will be discussed prior and will become the standard of evaluation) and
- 4. depth of insight (ability to connect varied course concepts, critical assessment of the topic that goes beyond the superficial).

Additional Methods of Instruction:

The synchronous (f2f or online) meetings, occurring at least once a month, may include:

- 1. Socratic discussions exploring questions posed by the instructor (evidence of preparation, readings, will be critical)
- 2. Analysis of current global cultural conflicts may be discussed (particularly looking for connections to other concepts and application to behavior) with a focus on exploring possible remedies to mitigate the conflict.
- 3. Student presentations may occur during this time.