

Course Description

In this course, students will engage in activities that focus on developing intercultural communicative competence. All language is firmly connected to the cultural context in which it is used. Students will gain insight into how cultural context influences a speaker's choice of words, phrases and actions, and how appropriate and effective the communication will be. Students will explore a range of intercultural situations that commonly occur on campus (introducing oneself, meeting classmates, talking to professors) and in daily life (small talk, negotiating, apologizing). By engaging in communicative activities, class discussions, and cultural self-reflection, students will expand their understanding of themselves and others as cultural beings (with unique perspectives, values, beliefs), and become more confident when communicating in intercultural situations.

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Recognize how differences in cultural perspective and values affect communication
- Participate with increased confidence in intercultural situations commonly encountered on and off campus
- Expand the repertoire of words and phrases used in a variety of common language functions
- Develop curiosity about a target cultures' *products, practices, persons, perspectives and communities*, along with a sense of empathy

Assignments

Details of all assignments will be provided in class.

Attendance & Letter of Completion

Students will receive a "letter of completion" at the end of this course, providing s/he attends a minimum of 80% of classes (8/10 classes). Please note that there will NOT be a record of this course on your U of M transcript.

Grading

Although homework will be assigned, assignments/presentations will not be formally graded. Instead, you will receive constructive feedback from the instructor. The emphasis in this course is on student improvement in the language and intercultural competence areas covered in class.

What Will I Learn in Class?

Language-and-Culture Module:

- Language to participate, describe, interpret and respond to the target culture
- Words and phrases for core language functions (socializing, influencing, giving and responding to feedback, arguing)

Intercultural Competence Module:

- Models of culture
- Activities for analyzing and reflecting on cultural perspectives and values
- Explicit and Implicit forms of culture

- Culture shock

Pronunciation Module

- Stress and intonation patterns
- Connected speech