

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: PSYC-257-Intercultural Communication

CLASS SECTION: D.01

TERM: 2026W

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): D2I Asynchronous online



Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dr Randal Tonks

EMAIL: tonks@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Ewing 240

HOURS: Online through d2I Zoom upon request

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me.

Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course explores relevant concepts, attitudes and skills. Students develop an awareness and competence in effective communication in culturally diverse settings. Topics include: theories of culture and diversity, verbal and nonverbal intercultural communication, prejudice, discrimination, ethnocentrism and adapting to new cultures. Competence and practice in intercultural communication skills are emphasized.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

C in PSYC 130

C in PSYC 154

C in PSYC 203

CO-REQUISITE(S):

EQUIVALENCIES:

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

Describe and demonstrate verbal and nonverbal communications skills necessary for effectively interacting with individuals of different cultures.

Describe differences in cultural practices in communication and behaviour.

Identify and describe forms of social prejudice and discrimination.

Describe how psychological knowledge can be used to resolve intercultural conflicts.

Describe communication challenges faced by individuals who speak English as a second language.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

As an online course we will conduct the entire course through d2l.

We will attempt to simulate a regular classroom environment, however, where there will be weekly lectures (podcasts) and notes to accompany them, along with activities.

Each week, students will be expected to post their activity information in the discussion board and responds to other students' postings.

The class activities are aimed at facilitating awareness and skills of intercultural communication. The lecture material (podcast posting) and is designed to help students understand and interact with the material.

Readings from the textbook will support the lecture material, but will at times vary from the material covered in the lecture. At times there will be supplemental readings that will be posted inside d2l.

Text book: Martin, J.N. & Nakayama, T.K. (2022) Intercultural Communication in Contexts (8th Edition). McGraw Hill. (Note some additional readings are provided in d2l).

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Week 1 Jan 5	Introduction to course	
Week 2 Jan 12	Intro & Background	
Week 3 Jan 19	Methods & History	
Week 4 Jan 26	History, Power & Identity	
Week 5 Feb 2	Cultural Selves & Identity	Journal review
Week 6 Feb 9	Language form and meaning	outline due
Week 7 Feb 16	Reading Break	
Week 8 Feb 23	Non-verbal	Report 1 due
Week 9 Mar 2	Cultural adjustment	
Week 10 Mar 9	<i>Catch Up</i>	
Week 11 Mar 16	Health & Relationships	
Week 12 Mar 23	Business	Paper due
Week 13 Mar 30	Conflict: Sources & Solutions	
Week 14 Apr 6	Pop & musical culture	Journal due
Exam Week Apr 16		Report 2 due

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams).
<https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

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DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Online Activities	15
Online Discussions	15
Culture Journal	15
Research Paper (or Project)	25
Report 1	15
Report 2	15
TOTAL	100%

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

The use of artificial intelligence in this course is strictly prohibited. If a student is detected to having used AI in an assignment they will receive a grade of 0 on that assignment.

Online Activities: Each week (topic of the course) we will have online discussions or other short activities that each student will be asked to complete. Some of these will entail discussion of study questions that help to integrate material and offer critical appraisal of the topics covered, while others will involve some research or action on the part of students before they make their postings to the discussion board in d2l . Half of the marks (15%) for this will be assigned for the posting of your activity information while the other half (15%) for **Discussions** will be for commenting on someone else's posting. It is important that you be sure to make at least one reply per topic, in addition to making your own initial post.

Reports: The two reports will be constituted by developing short essay style answers to study questions that will be examined throughout the course. The report assignments will contain a subset of the course study questions and the students will answer one question for each report from that list in approximately 3 pages typed double spaced. Many of these questions will be part of the activities that we will undertake, as such you will have some opportunity to discuss the questions with the class before it is time to write the report.

Culture Journal: You will maintain a journal of your inter-cultural communication experiences over the semester. This may include critical reflections on your participation in weekly activities as part of the class and what you have learned. You will likely also add observations to the journal that you make throughout your daily life regarding communication and culture; hopefully integrating issues that we have covered with your observations. If you would like some early feedback on your journal entries you may submit your journal around midterm time for non-graded review and the final journal submissions will be on the date indicated on the syllabus.

Research Project: The research project will involve your investigation into a topic in inter-cultural communication that draws from one or more areas of the course material. The project may involve a review of past research or theory on your topic of choice or it may involve the implementation of an applied project. You will be expected to produce a short essay in APA style of about 8 pages typed double space (2000 words) in 12 point font. The research project will begin with handing in an outline of the topic that will be approved before the paper is written. An outline of your proposed topic is due in week 6.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities:

<https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines: <https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here:

<https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

Changes to this Syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.