

*Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the instructor during the first day of class.*

## **The American University of Rome Communication Program**

*Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate*

**Course Title:** Intercultural Communication  
**Course Number:** COM 219  
**Credits & hours:** 3 credits – 3 hours  
**Pre/Co-Requisites:** ENG 100 or ENG 101

### **Course description**

The study of intercultural communication is an attempt to understand communication among peoples when cultural identifications affect the message. One approach is to learn the barriers one needs to overcome such as ethnocentrism, stereotyping, nonverbal misunderstandings, and translation difficulties. Students will learn how to recognize and overcome these barriers, and how to understand and relate to other cultures.

### **Required Textbook (subject to change)**

- Samovar, L.A., Porter, R.E., & McDaniel, E. R. (2010). Communication between Cultures, 7th Edition Belmont, CA: Sage.  
ISBN: 495567442

### **Recommended Readings (subject to change)**

Handouts and other material will be given in class.

### **Entry Fees**

Students must pay their own entrance fees when required.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. critically distinguish the opportunities and challenges that each culture presents
2. assess the theoretical underpinnings of intercultural communication
3. demonstrate the knowledge of the norms and values of other cultures
4. communicate effectively in unfamiliar settings
5. develop one's critical thinking skills both in oral and written communication

### **Course Learning Activities**

- Lectures - Learning Objectives: 1, 2, 4, & 5.
- Analysis and Review of Audio-Visual Material (students are required to write one 2,000-word research paper on Intercultural Sensitivity and one 1,000-word review of the documentary "Crossing Borders", see course schedule for deadlines) - Learning Objectives: 2 & 5.
- Group Presentation (Students are required to deliver a 10-minute presentation about

- a specific ethnocentric or ethnorelative position in the DMIS Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity) - Learning Objectives: 1, 3, & 5.
- Papers (Students are expected to write at least 4,000 words in the various assignments throughout the course) - Learning Objectives: 2, 3, & 5.
  - In-Class Writing & Ink Shedding - Learning Objectives: 1, 2, & 3.
  - Class Discussion - Learning Objectives: 1, 2, 3, & 5.

**Assessment tools**

Class participation	10%
Papers	2%
Midterm exam	20%
Group Presentation	20%
Final exam	25%

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Readings
Week 1	Intro to Course Content Multicultural interaction	Samovar, L. A. et al. (2013) Communication Between Cultures, 8th Edition. Pp: 1-24.
Week 2	Culture and Communication Discussion: Intercultural Communication: Interaction and Communication	Samovar, L. A. et al. (2013) Communication Between Cultures, 8th Edition. Pp: 25-67.
Week 3	The DMIS: The Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity –Ethnocentrism The DMIS: The Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity – Ethnorelativism	Bennett, M. (2013) 'Intercultural Adaptation' (Available on MyAUR) Bennett, M. & J. (2004) 'Developing Intercultural Sensitivity' (Available on MyAUR)
Week 4	Discussion and Group Presentations: The DMIS Group Presentations: The DMIS Culture & Communication	Deadline: Outline of Presentation + Powerpoint
Week 5	Special Session: The Refugee Crisis Guest lecture Discussion: Structure of Culture	Samovar, L. A. et al. (2013) Communication Between Cultures, 8th Edition. pp. 68-102.
Week 6	Review Session Worldviews, Secularism, & Spirituality	Samovar, L. A. et al. (2013) Communication Between Cultures, 8th Edition. Pp: 103-117. Samovar, L. A. et al. (2013) Communication Between Cultures, 8th Edition. Pp: 117-160. Deadline: 2,000 -word research paper on Intercultural Sensitivity
Week 7	Midterm Exam Entertainment week	
Week 8	Cultural History Special session: Communication for peace Guest lecture	Samovar, L. A. et al. (2013) Communication Between Cultures, 8th Edition. Pp: 161-197.
Week 9	Cultural Values Screening: "Crossing Borders", by Arnd Wachter	Samovar, L. A. et al. (2013) Communication Between Cultures, 8th Edition. Pp: 198-242.
Week 10	Identity & Culture Language & Culture	Samovar, L. A. et al. (2013) Communication Between Cultures, 8th Edition. Pp: 243-264. Samovar, L. A. et al. (2013) Communication Between Cultures, 8th Edition. Pp: 265-294.
Week 11	Nonverbal Communication Culture & Context	Samovar, L. A. et al. (2013) Communication Between Cultures, 8th Edition. Pp: 295-338. Samovar, L. A. et al. (2013) Communication Between Cultures, 8th Edition. Pp: 339-379.
Week 12	Special Session: Diversity & Intercultural Management Intercultural Business Relations	Deadline: 1,000 -word review of "Crossing Borders" Trompenaars, F. & Hampden-Turner, Ch. (2012) "Toward International and Transnational Management" (Available on MyAUR)
Week 13	Managing Differences Review Session	Samovar, L. A. et al. (2013) Communication Between Cultures, 8th Edition. Pp: 380-408.
Week 14	FINAL EXAM	

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

### 1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;  
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;  
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note\* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

### 2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

\*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

#### Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

#### Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		