

1. Factual information			
Module title	Communication 315 Intercultural Understanding and Communication		
Module tutor	Dr. Joseph Michael Gratale	Level	5
Module type	lectures and seminars	Credit value	15
Mode of delivery	100% face-to-face		
Notional learning hours	Learning and teaching		
	Type of learning activity	Comprises	Hours Weeks
	Timetabled contact:	Face to face delivery to include lectures, guest speakers and group work.	42 11
	Independent study:	Completion of day-to-day homework Preparation for submitting assessments Study for Exams	108 12
	Total:		150 12

2. Rationale for the module and its links with other modules
<p>This is a level 5 module required for Communication and New Media pathway English majors and an elective for Pol& IR. It provides students with basic knowledge on how communication practices are patterned by culture, helping them to acquire a reflexive approach to their own cultural identity and communication styles. This module relates to</p>

2. Rationale for the module and its links with other modules

other courses such as English 250 (Advanced Writing and Professional Communication) and various Communication and Globalization modules.

3. Aims of the module

This module aims to introduce students to a rounded understanding of how interactions between people from different cultural backgrounds take place and the influences that affect such processes. In today's globalized world this seems to be central to our existence as increased cross-cultural contact and exchange has become the norm. Drawing on case studies from diverse social and cultural contexts, we will develop knowledge and skills for more effective intercultural communication understanding and practices.

4. Pre-requisite modules or specified entry requirements

Comm 215 Foundations of Contemporary Media

5. Is the module compensatable?

No

6. Are there any PSRB requirements regarding the module?

No

7. Intended learning outcomes		
A. Knowledge and understanding	Programme Learning Outcome(s) this maps against	Learning and teaching strategy
<p><i>At the end of the module, learners will be expected to:</i></p> <p>A1 : demonstrate their knowledge of the fundamental connection between culture and communication</p> <p>A2 : comprehend the ways in which the cultural, historical, social contexts are shaping variables in communication</p>	A1, A2, A3	Lecture, assigned readings, discussions, writing assignments, class presentation

B. Cognitive skills	Programme Learning Outcome(s) this maps against	Learning and teaching strategy
<p><i>At the end of the module learners will be expected to:</i></p> <p>B1: be aware of own cultural baggage and identity, and how these shape communication styles</p> <p>B2 : be aware of the different barriers to intercultural communication at the levels of the verbal and non-verbal codes, cultural space, metaphors and representations.</p>	B4	Lecture, readings, discussions, writing assignments interactive exercises and activities, class presentation

C. Practical and professional skills	Programme Learning Outcome(s) this maps against	Learning and teaching strategy
<p><i>At the end of the module, learners will be expected to:</i></p> <p>C1 : develop skills and the vocabulary to articulate and communicate effectively cultural issues and concerns, both verbally and in writing</p> <p>C2 : develop research skills</p> <p>C3 : design appropriate tools and materials for conducting research and preparing a class presentation</p>	C1, C2, C3	Lecture, discussions and group work, interactive exercises and activities, writing assignments, class presentation

D Key transferable skills	Programme Learning Outcome(s) this maps against	Learning and teaching strategy
<p><i>At the end of the module, learners will be expected to:</i></p> <p>D1: develop an awareness of their own cultural identities and an appreciation for others</p> <p>D2: apply knowledge and skills towards an effective intercultural exchange</p> <p>D3: become more adaptable to intercultural contexts and interactions</p>	D3, D4	Participation in class discussions, and activities, research preparation and class presentation

8. Indicative content.

What is Intercultural Communication – why do we need to know about other cultures - Key terms in the study of intercultural communication – Understanding ‘culture’ – frameworks for studying culture – Ethics and civic responsibility in intercultural research – The make-up of culture: identities and histories – Communicating culture: verbal and non-verbal communication – Media and cultural identities: diversity, gender, representation and cyber-identities – Intercultural communication at the workplace: conflict resolution and the role of play – Intercultural communication in multicultural societies: from intolerance and conflict to solidarity, interdependence and social responsibility – Surviving culture shock: cross-cultural adaptation and resilience.

9. Assessment strategy, assessment methods, their relative weightings and mapping to module learning outcomes

Assessment Strategy:

To pass this module a student must prepare 2 papers on topics and themes related to the module’s content, and prepare a class presentation (15’) on a subject matter related to the module. All students will receive detailed guidelines for all assessments at the beginning of the semester.

Assessment Task	Weighting	Week submitted	Grading (Pass / Fail / %)	Module Learning Outcome(s) the assessment task maps to
Class Presentation (15’)	20%	11	%	A1 A2 B2 C1 C2 C3 D1 D2 D3
Writing Assignment 1 (2,200 words)	40%	5	%	A1 A2 B1 C1 C2 C3
Writing Assignment 2 (3,000 words)	40%	9	%	A1 A2 B1 C1 C2 C3

10. Teaching staff associated with the module	
Name and contact details	
Dr, Joseph Michael Gratale zozef@act.edu	
Constantinidis Hall Office 9	

11. Key reading list				
Author	Year	Title	Publisher	Location
Baldwin, J.R, Means Coleman, R.R., Golzalez, A., and Shenoy-Packer, S.	2014	Intercultural Communication in Everyday Life	Wiley Blackwell	Bissell Library
Samovar,L., R. Porter, E. Mc Daniel	2012	Communication between cultures	Wadsworth	Bissell Library

12. Other indicative text (e.g. websites)	
TBA	

GRADING & ACADEMIC POLICIES

Absence Policy –

Students are expected to attend and participate in all of their courses throughout the term, including the first week. Those who fail to do so may be administratively withdrawn from individual courses of the College. **This may affect the students' scholarship and financial aid eligibility.**

A student is considered to have successfully attended a course if he/she has attended **75% of the course lectures**. Thus, for a typical ACT course with 42 hours of contact time, the maximum number of absences stands at 10 hours per course. This corresponds to 8 sessions for courses taught on MWF and 5 sessions for those taught on TT. Please note that absences are counted on an hourly basis.

Students in quarantine due to COVID-19 will be able to attend class through Google Meet. Absences due to illness (COVID-related or other) and/or participation in school-related trips and activities will count towards this limit.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

Students must submit work by the deadlines set in the module outline. Where coursework is submitted late and there are no accepted extenuating circumstances it will be penalised in line with the following tariff: Submission within 6 working days: a 10% reduction for each working day late down to the 40% pass mark and no further. Submission that is late by 7 or more working days is refused, mark of 0. Submission after the deadline will be assumed to be the next working day. Mitigating circumstances will be evaluated by the AS&PC.

Assessment of non-degree students taking OU-validated courses (e.g., Study Abroad) Same method of assessment, i.e. only “summative” assessments determine final grade. However, since those students are not pursuing an OU degree, they are not subject to resits or second marking, and final grade is calculated as the (weighted) average of all “summative” assessments, without requirement of passing all summative assessments to pass the course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All academic divisions at ACT, both undergraduate and graduate, will apply the following policy on academic integrity and be included in the syllabus:

“A student committing an act of Academic Dishonesty in a given course will receive an F (0 percentage points) in the assignment where the academic infraction took place. If a student commits an act of Academic Dishonesty for a second time in the same course, this student will receive a failing grade in that course”.

GRADING SCALE

Grade Description	UK points	US Letter Grade	US point grade
Excellent	70-100	A	4.0
Very Good (high)	65-69	A-	3.67
Very Good (low)	60-64	B+	3.33
Good (high)	55-59	B	3.0
Good (low)	50-54	B-	2.67
Satisfactory (high)	45-49	C+	2.33
Satisfactory (low)	40-44	C	2.0
Fail	0-39	F	0