

Intercultural Communication in Japan

Section 1

Instructor/Title	Scott Lind, Ph.D. / Associate Professor
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【Course Outline / Description】

Communicating in an international context requires an understanding of factors that affect interaction between people from diverse cultural perspectives. The ability to look beyond cultural differences in order to recognize and appreciate the motivations of others is important in developing communicative competence in a foreign language. Study of intercultural communication theory and research is critical to the success, relational development, and satisfaction of students who strive to maximize their language and cultural learning while in Japan.

This course is a practical introduction to theory and research in the field of intercultural communication as applied to a Japanese context. The primary course content focuses on perceptions, behaviors, values, and cultural patterns of human interaction, thereby assisting students in developing a clearer understanding of their own communicative perspectives as related to life in Japan. A variety of methods and activities, including class discussion, groupwork, lecture, cultural enactment, video critique, story telling, critical incident, written reflection, and in-class engagement, will be used to help students to develop intercultural communicative competence.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

The specific course objectives are as follows:

- To gain insight into theory and research in the field of intercultural communication
- To develop skills to observe, analyze and understand intercultural encounters in daily life
- To apply the basic concepts of intercultural communication to the experience of living and working in a foreign context

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Daily class schedule is available on the University Rapport system. Please visit Rapport for a complete review of the content of each class meeting.

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

A comprehensive reading packet will be provided by the professor.

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Learning becomes easier and more enjoyable when are prepared and take pride in what you do. Come prepared to class and be ready to discuss your work. All work should reflect dedication and professionalism. The assignments are as follows:

1. Two exams (objective and/or short answer format) will be given to assess your understanding of concepts addressed in the readings and during class.
2. Engagements are assignments and activities that are designed to facilitate the integration and application of course concepts. Engagements involve in- and out-of-class activities and often come in the form of written assignments.
3. The Cultural Introduction Presentation provides students an opportunity to examine their own background as a means of understanding how culture influences communication. Students will present their findings to the class.
4. The Final Presentation is an integrated assignment that incorporates major aspects of individual student's learning and curiosities from the entire semester. Students will develop and deliver original presentations that expand the extant knowledge of intercultural communication. Each student will be assigned to speak on a specific date.

GRADING

Grades will be based on examinations, presentations, written assignments, class participation, attendance, and other class activities/assignments. The basic distribution of grading categories is as follows:

- Exams 35%
- Written assignments 05%
- Presentations 35%
- Participation (including attendance) 25%