

COMMUNICATION STUDIES C482/C582
INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION
SUMMER TERM IN
WROCLAW POLAND

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Course Description

This course examines intercultural interaction from a communication perspective. In addition to issues of ethnicity and culture, gender and social/economic class will be discussed.

Goals

1. Students should develop a basic understanding of the Coordinated Management of Meaning (CMM)
2. Students should be able to use CMM concepts to analyze conversational patterns observed in Poland
3. Students should be able to use a CMM framework to conduct research on some aspect of communication in Poland
4. Students should develop a greater knowledge and understanding of life in Wroclaw Poland and be able to articulate a comparison to life at home.
5. Students should develop a sense of empowerment through greater understanding of communication that can serve them well both abroad and at home.

Text & Readings

Pearce, W.B., (1989). Communication and the human condition. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press.

Chapters from the following (they will be provided)

Creede, C., Fisher-Yoshida, B., and Gallegos, P.C. (2012) *The Reflective, Facilitative, and Interpretive Practice of the Coordinated Management of Meaning: Making Lives and Making Meaning* Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press

A list of Polish web sites, some of which are required reading (History & culture, Wroclaw, Auschwitz, Warsaw Voice, Polish Phrases, see pre-departure reading assignments), others are for student research.

Assignments & Activities

Conference: All students will participate in a 2-day conference titled “Communication and Culture.” It is an international student conference.

This conference is designed to fulfill the following objectives:

- An icebreaker. This venue creates an opportunity for the students from several countries to get acquainted and develop relationships that can lead to further meetings, possibly home visits.
- It provides an academic forum that enables students to compare/contrast their respective approaches to the study of communication.
- It provides an opportunity for the U.S. students to learn about higher education in Poland and elsewhere from an up close perspective.

Conference: Each Student is expected to prepare to fully participate in the student conference. The conference is made up of four sessions each lasting a half-day. The sessions will be organized around a topic that will be introduced by 2 presentations followed by round table discussions. Everyone should do enough background research to prepare them to discuss the topics in a meaningful informed manner.

Research paper Students will conduct research projects either as individuals or in pairs. Each pair should produce one collective paper. Data for these papers will be collected in Poland. The papers should be written after returning to the U.S. They should be turned in no later than the end of June.

The projects should cover some aspect of intercultural communication that includes Poles and Polish culture in the data and analysis. Students should have their topics approved by the instructor prior to data collection. Data should include interviews, observation and other artifacts relevant to the topic. The final papers should be 20-25 pages in length and follow APA style guidelines.

Auschwitz: Students are required to go as a group to Auschwitz/Birkenau. It is especially important that this trip be accounted for in rich detail in their journals and discussed in the attending paper.

Journal	Each student will keep a journal of his or her experiences with a particular focus on communication as defined in class. This journal should contain daily entries of interesting conversational episodes and be as detailed as possible in description. The journal should be legible to a reader other than the journalist (me) and turned in with the journal paper.
Journal Paper	Each student will write a paper that connects the observations in their journal with concepts from the text. The intent is to have students analyze their experiences and observations with the concepts taught in the course. This paper should be 10-15 pages and follow APA style.
Participation	Each student is expected to participate in all activities fully, professionally, and with civility. Every student should make every effort to insure that both they and their peers have the best educational experience possible.

Course Evaluation

Conference participation	10%
Journal	20%
Journal Paper	30%
Research project/paper	40%

Course schedule

Pre-departure meetings

We will have 1 session prior to departure. The session will last 3 hours. The class is designed to fit within summer session 1.

1. In the meeting we will cover the following:
 - The goals and objectives of the course.
 - The requirements of the course.
 - The conference paper.
 - An introduction to the study of intercultural communication.

Readings assigned at this time are as follows:

- The web sites for Polish culture and history to be read by the second pre-departure meeting.
- The web sites of Wroclaw to be read by the second pre-departure meeting.
- Web site for Auschwitz.
- Chapters 1-3 in the Pearce book.

2. In the pre-departure meeting we will cover the following:

- The travel itinerary.
- Rules for conduct.
- The living arrangements and emergency procedures.
- The basics of taking public transportation, buying groceries, etc.
- Background on Polish history and culture.
- Background on Auschwitz
- Brief discussion of Pearce chapters.
- The research project.
- The journal project.

Days in Wroclaw

Day 1	May 12	Leave Indianapolis
Day 2	May 13	Arrive in Wroclaw
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dormitory check in • Orientation • Dinner with Friends from Wroclaw
Day 3	May 14	Orientation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking tour of Wroclaw Museum tours-- includes some of the many museums in Wroclaw
Day 4	May 15	Class (Human Condition, Introduction, Chapter 1) (Boat trip)
Day 5	May 16	Class (Human Condition, chapters 2,3,4)
Day 6	May 17	Class (Human Condition, Chapters, 5,6)
Day 7	May 18	Free day
Day 8	May 19	Trip to Auschwitz

Day 9	May 20	Class (Human Condition, Chapters 7,8)
Day 10	May 21	Conference
Day 11	May 22	Conference
Day 12	May 23	Class (Human Condition, Chapter 9, additional chapters from Creede, et.al)
Day 13	May 24	Class (Human Condition, Chapter 9, additional chapters from Creede, et.al)
Day 14	May 25	Free day, Dinner with everyone
Day 15	May 26	Return to Indianapolis