COMM 211 (Intercultural Communication – The Global Classroom)

FALL Semester 2015

Class time: 8:00am-9:15am (Lincoln, Nebraska)

4:00-5:15pm (İstanbul, Türkiye)
4:00-5:15pm (Ezrurum, Türkiye)
5:00-6:15pm (Voronezh, Russia)

6:00-7:15pm (Islamabad, Pakistan)
8:00-8:15pm (Tyumen, Russia)
8:00-9:15am (San Ramon, Costa Rica)

Dr. Chuck Braithwaite
Office: Hewit Place, Room 504*
Office Phone: 472-6178
e-mail - cbraithwaite2@unl.edu

Office Hours:
TBA (check Blackboard)

[*there is map to my office in your 1st day packet]

Required Textbook;

This course has at its core real-time, face-to-face interaction with cultures around the world. During the semester, we will have weekly synchronous video conferences with faculty and students in at least two countries. Because of the new video technology, we will be able to see and hear life-size projections of our international partners and they will be able to see and hear us. We will also be able to share PowerPoint and other video/audio resources at the same time. Additionally, we will engage in on-line discussions outside of class to supplement our class discussions, and you will have several international partners to work with on various papers and presentations.

Our goal is to learn how to effectively interact with diverse cultures and how to engage in discussions of global issues. This will expand our global awareness and knowledge of human diversity.

Content for the Global Classroom

The Global Classroom Experience (COMM 211- Intercultural Communication) uses reading assignments [Lustig & Koester (Eds.), AmongUS: Essays on Identity, Belonging, and Intercultural Competence (2nd Edition)], class discussion, face-to-face interaction with international partners, and on-line discussion with international partners to address at minimum the following topics:

- Cultural Identity – Who are we?
- Crossing Cultures – Negotiating Intercultural Competence
- Stereotyping and Prejudice
- Communication roadblocks during intercultural communication
- Managing conflict across cultures
- Inside/Outside – Belonging to Multiple Cultures
- Developing effective Intercultural & International Communication

Note about Special Needs:
Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.
**Learning Outcomes for the Global Classroom**

*After completing the Global Classroom Experience (COMM 211- Intercultural Communication), a student will be able to:*

1. Prepare and deliver information about the United States to diverse international audiences.
2. Identify and implement the communication skills necessary to facilitate effective intercultural communication.
3. Understand and manage stereotyping, ethnocentrism, and prejudice which emerge during intercultural communication.
4. Understand and implement new communication technologies to enhance the global exchange of ideas.
5. Transfer lessons on effective communication with specific international partners to other contexts and people, in both international and national environments.

**Assessment for the Global Classroom**

Student performance in the Global Classroom will be assessed in the following ways:

1. Students will prepare PowerPoint presentations about themselves and their culture(s) for in-class delivery to international partners. The dates of these assignments will depend upon the schedule we negotiate with our partners. During the last week of classes and finals week there will be presentations due. Assignments will be posted on Blackboard.
2. Students will be required to work in groups on some presentations. Students will sign up for group projects on Blackboard, and then turn in ONE presentation on or before the due dates. The evaluation of the presentation will apply to all members of the group. Assignments will be posted on Blackboard.
3. Students will participate in on-line reactions to our interaction with international partners. Assignments will be posted on Blackboard.
4. Students will respond to reading questions from *Among US*. Assignments will be posted on Blackboard.
5. Students will actively engage in discussion with international partners, both in-class and on-line.
6. Students will write analysis papers based on concepts generated from class, lecture, and textbook.
7. Attendance is a critical component of this course due to the live, synchronous nature of our interaction with international partners. Attendance will impact your course grade (NOTE: we will have presentations and/or paper assignments due the last week of classes as well as finals week).

**Mission of the Department of Communication Studies**

The mission of the faculty and students of the Department of Communication Studies is to examine human symbolic activity as it shapes and is shaped by relationships, institutions, technology, and culture. This work concerns the creation, analysis, and critique of messages ranging from face-to-face to digital media contexts. The department’s research and teaching devote particular attention to scholarly initiatives aimed at understanding and explaining the role of communication in (a) facilitating civic engagement, mediating public controversies, and organizing for social change, (b) constituting individual and family health, promoting healthy behaviors, and helping persons navigate relational challenges, and (c) creating, maintaining, and challenging personal, social, and community identity in a complex and diverse world.

**Assignments & Grading**

**NOTE:** The unique nature of the course means that the number of assignments (except quizzes) will depend upon what happens with our international partners. However, **you must complete all assigned work by the dates/times indicated to earn credit for the course.** Assignments may be added/deleted/modified through announcements in class and/or on Blackboard. You are responsible for keeping abreast of any changes in Assignments.

**Quizzes:** There will be six (6) in-class quizzes to help keep you abreast of the assigned readings & lecture/discussion material. The questions will come primarily from the Reading Study Questions (either
handed out in class or posted on Blackboard). Each quiz will be worth 25 points. We will complete these quizzes prior to beginning our video links (see tentative schedule). NOTE: You need to be on time for all exams. If you arrive after the 1st person has finished the exam, you will not be allowed to take the exam.

Individual PowerPoint Presentations: You will be required to complete individual PowerPoint presentations. Each will be worth 25 points, and will be evaluated on: meeting the content requirements of the assignment; proper preparation of digital images; successful uploading of ppt to Blackboard; adequacy of oral delivery. You will have at least one introductory presentation (where you introduce yourself to our international partners, and one summation presentation where, on the last video link, you talk about what you learned about our international partners. Other individual presentations will depend on what else happens in the class. [NOTE: we will have presentations due the last week of classes as well as finals week]

Group PowerPoint Presentations: You will be required to complete group PowerPoint presentations. Each will be worth 25 points, and will be evaluated on: meeting the content requirements of the assignment; proper preparation of digital images; successful uploading of ppt to Blackboard; coordination with other group members; adequacy of oral delivery. Each person in the group earns the same amount of points. Again, the number of these group presentations, and their attending points, will depend on what happens in the class. As always, it will depend on what else happens in class. [NOTE: we will have presentations due the last week of classes as well as finals week.]

Social Media: You will be required to post responses to questions throughout the semester on a social media site. If you do not participate in social media you will be required to send your responses to the instructor who will post them for you. Again, the number of these responses, and their attending points, will depend on what happens in the class. These will also be used in the assessment of your active participation in the class.

Question/Answer Journal: Each day we have a video connection you will fill out a “211 Question-Answer Journal” (see handout). They will be collected at the beginning of the following class period. These will be used in the assessment of your active participation in the class.

Asking Questions and Active Participation in class: The most critical aspect of this course involves you asking and answering questions posed by students and faculty in our partner schools. I expect you to actively engage our partners each time we meet. Because we are digitally recording each class session, I will evaluate your questioning behavior at the end of the semester. This means it is vital you find ways to ask and answer questions throughout the course (50 points). You will have a paper due at the end of finals week where you evaluate your own performance regarding intercultural communication.

Attendance: This class will require you to give live, synchronous, video presentations to faculty, students, and administrators via the internet to international universities. Therefore, attendance is a critical component of this course due to the live, synchronous nature of our interaction with international partners. We may have approximately 20-24 class sessions (8:00am-9:15am) where we will have live video. You must attend and be on time for all of these video sessions. **Your failure to attend a video session will impact your status in the course.** Your failure to attend a video session where you are scheduled to present will may lead to an administrative withdrawal or failure in the class. **Your failure to attend any video session will lead to a significant reduction in your final grade.**

We are doing something unique in U.S. American higher education. Only a handful of institutions have video classes of this nature. During our class, you will be the “face” of the United States of America to...
students, faculty, administrators and distinguished guests from around the world. The success of this course depends upon your full and active participation. It would be a great insult to our international partners to have UNL students fail to show up for class. Therefore, please take your commitment to this course very seriously. If you do not feel you can meet the attendance requirement, you should consider taking this class at a later date. Although the time commitment for this course is rigid, I know you will have one of the most interesting classroom experiences you have ever had at UNL.[NOTE: we will have presentations due the last week of classes as well as finals week.]

ACE Credit: COMM 211 satisfies ACE Outcome #9: Exhibit global awareness or knowledge of human diversity. As such, understanding intercultural and international communication is the focus of this course. The readings, assignments, and, most importantly, our face-to-face interaction with international students will extend our awareness of global issues and expand our communicative repertoire when it comes to interacting with people in a variety of cultural contexts [see “Learning Outcomes” and “Assessment” sections above].

TENTATIVE Fall 2015 Calendar

[NOTE: There may be religious/political holidays for our international partners which will prevent video links. Be sure to check your email before coming to class]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 25: Introduction</td>
<td>Aug 27: (Quiz #1) Intro to international partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sept 1: Cultural Background Presentation due: Aug 31, 5pm; RESPONSES due Sept 1st, 9:15am.</td>
<td>Sept 3: (Quiz #2) Working with international partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 8: Intro PowerPoint Slides (upload to Blackboard by Sept 7, 5pm)</td>
<td>Sept 10: Working w/ international partners (Quiz #3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sept 15: Working w/ international partners</td>
<td>Sept 17: Preparation for video links (Quiz #4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sept 22: Effective Intercultural Communication</td>
<td>Sept 24: (Quiz #5) Effective Intercultural Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sept 29: Effective Intercultural Communication</td>
<td>Oct 1: Preparation for video links (Quiz #6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 6: Video Link /Yeditepe Univ (Türkiye)</td>
<td>Oct 8: Video Link /Ataturk Univ (Türkiye)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 13: Video Link /Yeditepe Univ (Türkiye)</td>
<td>Oct 15: Video Link /Ataturk Univ (Türkiye)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 20: Fall Break</td>
<td>Oct 22: Video Link /Ataturk Univ (Türkiye)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 27: Video Link /Yeditepe Univ (Türkiye)</td>
<td>Oct 29: Video Link /Ataturk Univ (Türkiye) [NOTE: Standard Time begins Oct 25th in most of the world]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 3: Video Link /Yeditepe Univ (Türkiye) [NOTE: Standard Time begins Sunday, Nov 1]</td>
<td>Nov 5: Video Link /Ataturk Univ (Türkiye)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 10: Video Link /Yeditepe Univ (Türkiye)</td>
<td>Nov 12: Video Link /Ataturk Univ (Türkiye)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 17: Video Link /Yeditepe Univ (Türkiye)</td>
<td>Nov 19: Video Link /Ataturk Univ (Türkiye)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nov 25: Video Link /Yeditepe Univ (Türkiye)</td>
<td>Nov 26: USA Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dec 1: Video Link /Yeditepe Univ (Türkiye)</td>
<td>Dec 3: Video Link /Ataturk Univ (Türkiye)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Dec 8: Video Link /Yeditepe Univ (Türkiye)</td>
<td>Dec 10: Video Link /Ataturk Univ (Türkiye)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Tuesday, Dec 15: /Yeditepe / Final Presentations - 8:00 to 9:15 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ATTENTION: this is a very tentative schedule. Video links may start earlier than indicated. Also, as stated on the syllabus, there will be assignments due during Week 16 and Week 17. Although there is no final exam, we will have a video link during Finals Week, including presentations.