Bemidji State University

SOWK 2110: Intercultural Communication

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 07 - Human Diversity, Goal 08 - Global Perspective

Designed to enable students to develop awareness, knowledge and skills for sensitive and effective intercultural communication on the international scene as well as with core-cultures in America. The course is particularly useful for students who are preparing to work with cultures other than their own, including: the human services field, business, marketing, languages, pre-professional programs and others.

[Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 7 & 8]

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/25/1997 - Present
C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduction to the course
   A. Why intercultural communication
   B. Communication
2. Culture
   A. Why cultures differ
   B. Intercultural communication
3. U.S. Cultural diversity
   A. Intercultural competence
   B. Improving intercultural competence
4. Cultural patterns
   A. Beliefs, values, norms
   B. Overview of cultural patterns
5. Taxonomies
   A. Hall
   B. Hofstede
   C. GLOBE
6. Cultural identity
   A. Cultural biases
   B. Intercultural contact
7. Verbal codes
   A. Interpretation and translation
   B. Language, thought & culture
8. Organization of verbal codes
   A. Cultural variations in persuasion
   B. Culture and conservation
9. Culture and interpersonal relationships
   A. Face and facework
   B. Improving intercultural relationships
10. Intercultural episodes
    A. Contexts for competence
11. Ethics of intercultural communication
    A. Perils & prospects for intercultural competence

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. reflect an applied understanding of one's standpoint including culture, socioeconomic class, gender, orientation, socio-historical roots, etc.
2. demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for social, cultural and human diversity and the benefits and opportunities provided in a diverse society.
3. understand the relationship between difference, diversity and oppression and marginalization.
4. understand human diversity as including many dimensions such as race/ethnicity, socioeconomic class, faith/spirituality, age, able/disable-ism, gender, sexual orientation, etc.
5. demonstrate critical insight regarding personal values, perspectives and paradigms related to human and social diversity and the relationship of these to personal & professional ethical systems and congruence.
6. employ understanding of cultural identity, cultural uniqueness, differences and universals, intercultural communication.
7. understand and employ a cultural competence/responsive framework/model to facilitate communication and connectedness across, between and within diverse groups.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
4. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
5. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

Goal 08 - Global Perspective

1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
4. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted