

U N I K A S S E L V E R S I T Ä T

Hessen: ISU Course Outline

Intercultural Communication

CLASS HOURS

20 contact hours

PROFESSOR

Academic Director: Professor Holger Ehrhardt, Endowed Chair for the Work and Impact of the Brothers Grimm at the Department for Language and Literature, University of Kassel

- Office: room 5001

- Office hours: Thu, 4pm

- Email: holger.ehrhardt@uni-kassel.de

- Phone: +49561 804 7455

Lecturers:

- Melanie Brück holds degrees in English Language and Literature and in Intercultural Communication from the Universities of Kassel and Jena. She teaches English and Intercultural Communication at the International Study Center of the University of Kassel.

- Email: mbrueck@uni-kassel.de

- Phone: +49561 804 3689 (secretary)

1) INFORMATION ON THE COURSE CONTENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Intercultural communication skills belong to the key competences for successful communication in international teams and a globalized world. On the basis of various intercultural theories, students will work on case studies and simulations in order to develop a deeper understanding of the complex processes of intercultural interaction.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- The students will be acquainted with recent theories of culture and communication
- They will learn to interpret case studies
- They will apply theory in role plays and simulations

COURSE MATERIALS

Literature:

Culture's consequences: Comparing values, behaviours, institutions and organizations across nations, Geert Hofstede., 2001 2nd edition, Thousand Oaks; CA: Sage Publications

Riding the waves of culture: Understanding diversity in global business, Alfons Trompenaar, Charles Hampden-Turner and Fons Trompenaar, 1997, New York: McGraw-Hill.

Mind your manners, John Mole (3rd edition), 2003, London: Nicholas Brealey

Understanding cultural differences, Edward T. Hall, 1990, Yarmouth: Intercultural Press

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Day	Topic	Assignment given	Assignment due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Overviewo Definition of cultureo Cultural models: iceberg, onion etc.	Find a presentation title Group presentation	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Culture and Communicationo Communication styleso Profiling group cultureso SWOT analysis	Group presentation	Analysis and comparison of one's own communication style and that of another
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Profiling national cultureso Profiling corporate cultureso Case studies	Group presentation SWOT analysis	Interpretations of case studies
4	The Hofstede model The Trompenaar model	Application Role play	Assignment on Hofstede's cultural dimensions and Trompenaar's theory in reference to one's own culture Presentation
5	The Mole model The Hall model	Application Role play	Assignment on Mole's and Halls's cultural theory in reference to one's own culture Presentation
6	The Lewis model	Application Roleplay	Assignment on Lewi's cultural theory in reference to one's own culture

			Presentation
7	Culture shock- different stages Types and stereotypes Strategies and analysis	Case studies	Presentation
8	Simulation: The Modis and the Trados	Analysis of experiences	Role play
9	Wrap up activities	Exam checklist	
10	Exam		Assignments due

2) INFORMATION ON CLASS PARTICIPATION, ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

ASSIGNMENTS

Group presentation, SWOT analysis, role play

EXAMS

25% – presentations– oral, group

25% – In-class presentation of analysis – oral, individual

25% – Other homework and in-class assignments

25% – Exam

PRACTICE MATERIALS

Culture simulations, Case studies (will be handed out during the course)

PROFESSIONALISM & CLASS PARTICIPATION

Attendance lists, contribution to discussions and a presentation is expected

MISSED CLASSES

No more than 10% of the contact hours can be missed for successful completion of the class.

3) INFORMATION ON GRADING AND ECTS

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Upon successful completion, 3 ECTS will be awarded for the class.

According to the rules of ECTS, one credit is equivalent to 25-30 hours student workload.

GRADING SCALE:

Description of the grading scale

Percentage	Grade		Description
90-100%	15 points	1.0	very good: an outstanding achievement
	14 points		
	13 points	1.3	
80-90%	12 points	1.7	good: an achievement substantially above average requirements
	11 points	2.0	
	10 points	2.3	
70-80%	9 points	2.7	satisfactory: an achievement which corresponds to average requirements
	8 points	3.0	
	7 points	3.3	
60-70%	6 points	3.7	sufficient: an achievement which barely meets the requirements
	5 points	4.0	
0-60%	4 points	5.0	not sufficient / failed: an achievement which does not meet the requirements
	3 points		
	2 points		
	1 point		
	0 points		

This course description was issued on: 21-01-2015. Program is subject to change.