

Syllabus

Engr 3301 International Engineering – Part One – Intercultural Understanding

Instructor:

	Part 1 – Intercultural Understanding Jennifer Hinrichs, BA USA, Jade HS
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Course Description:

In today's global business world, intercultural understanding is become increasingly important. The first part of this course deals with cultural differences, how these differences affect business situations, and how you can develop your intercultural competencies. Beginning with a discussion of "what culture is", we will work through various aspects of intercultural awareness, concluding with the topic "working in global teams".

The multi-cultural aspect of the participants of this course will help to provide real examples for the basis of discussions regarding the different facets of intercultural understanding as well as introspection.

Course Goals:

Upon completion of this course, students should have increased their knowledge of intercultural understanding, the difficulties which often accompany intercultural communication, as well as their ability to come up with solutions for such problems.

They should have a widened view of the scope and influence of intercultural issues in today's business world.

Furthermore, the students will be guided in ways to increase their own intercultural competencies, thus helping to prepare them for their future professional role in the global business world.

Course content:

Reading assignments from handouts and class discussions
Group discussions and presentations
In-class activities and assignments

Examination:

Your final grade for Intercultural Understanding will be based on your final exam grade. Class notes and materials may be used during the exam.

Your final grade for International Engineering is based on an average of the grades achieved in both parts of the course. You must pass both parts in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

Class Attendance

Attendance is required in this class.

Class conduct

During this class, students are expected to be respectful of and courteous towards their fellow students and the teacher at all times. This means listening attentively when others are speaking or presenting, participating actively in discussions, and being a “team player” when group work is expected.

All electronic devices should be turned off during class. If it is appropriate to use your laptop or any other form of internet during the class to conduct research, the students will be informed.

Many topic discussions within “Intercultural Understanding” may provoke very differing opinions and ideas. Students are expected to be tolerant of their fellow students’ viewpoints and to respect differences.

Students are expected to comply with the Texas Tech Code of Student Conduct in all aspects of this class.

Final Grade

The final grade will consist of:

Part One –	Intercultural Understanding (written exam)	50%
Part Two –		50 %
TOTAL		100%

IEP – Part One - Tentative Course Schedule – Assignments will be announced during class

Class Period	Topic	Content
Topic 1 (approx. 2 classes)	Culture: what is it and why does it matter?	How can culture be defined? How does culture influence our daily life? What role does culture play in business today?
Topic 2 (approx. 2 -3 classes)	Prejudices and stereotypes	What are they? Is there a difference between them? Negative or positive? Role in business relations.
Topic 3 (approx. 2 -3 classes)	Intercultural communication	Forms of communication. Why do misunderstandings arise? Do's and Don'ts in intercultural communication.
Topic 4 (approx. 2 classes)	Developing intercultural competencies	How can misunderstandings be overcome? Skills for successful intercultural communication. Sympathy and empathy. Developing your intercultural competencies.
Topic 5 (approx. 2 classes)	Working in global teams	What are the advantages / disadvantages? How to work effectively in a culturally diversified team.
Final exam		