

Boston Campus  
8 Asburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108-2770  
Phone: (617) 573 8000  
[www.suffolk.edu](http://www.suffolk.edu)



Madrid Campus  
Calle de la Viña, 3  
28003 Madrid (Spain)  
Tel: (34) 915 335 935  
[www.suffolk.es](http://www.suffolk.es)

## **CJN 216 - INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION (4 credits)**

### **Course Description**

This course analyses the principles of human communication and applies them as tools in the study of how members of different cultures perceive and communicate with each other and in the analysis of communication within cultures and their subgroups. All aspects of interpersonal communication – verbal, paralingual and nonverbal – will be considered.

The course will also include a historical analysis of the formation of world views that influence the communication between different cultures and subgroups. The reflection of such world views in film, literature and the media will be discussed.

### **Course Format**

Lectures and discussions will revolve around key concepts of interpersonal and intercultural communication. Assigned readings will enable students to prepare themselves to participate actively in class discussions. Two films will be viewed to illustrate the issues discussed in class (particularly interethnic relations, stereotyping and the issues surrounding immigration).

### **Course Objectives**

- 1) To appreciate the increased importance of successful intercultural communication in today's world.
- 2) To understand the basic ideas and research into intercultural communication.
- 3) To appreciate the new importance given to issues surrounding human rights and population migration and immigration.

### **Required Readings**

Lustig, Myron & Koester, Jolene. Intercultural Competence 6<sup>th</sup> edition.  
Pearson Education, 2006. Other readings will be assigned and put on the public drive.

### **Evaluation**

*The final grade for this course is determined as follows:*

Attendance and class participation	15%
Mid-term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Interview and Newswatch assignments	15% (each)

*The grade scale is the following:*

A= 95% +	A-= 93%+	B+= 90%+	B= 85%+	B-= 83%+
C+= 80%+	C= 75%+	C-= 73%+	D= 65%+	F= 65%-

### **Attendance Policy**

The Suffolk University faculty and administration believe that attendance is critical to understanding and applying knowledge and skills taught. The policy is that students must attend all classes. If a student has more than two unjustified absences the final grade will be lowered by half a grade, (for example, a B will become a B-). After each additional absence, the grade will be lowered by another half a grade.

### **Assignments**

There will be two examinations on the readings and class discussions, and three assignments: an expatriate interview/presentation, and two “multicultural newswatch” paper/presentations.

### **Punctuality**

Arriving more than ten minutes late to class will be considered an absence. The student might not be allowed to enter class.

### **Cellular phones and laptops**

Cell phones and laptops should be turned off during class.

### **Assignment submissions**

The term paper and any other required assignments must be submitted as **hard copy (!)** at the beginning of a scheduled class (please see above).

### **Late submissions**

Late work will not be accepted. There will be no alternative to completing all required work as scheduled. Hence, failing to hand in required assignments on time results in a **loss of points** or – as in the case of the term paper – in a **grade of “F”** (i.e. the student will lose 20% of the total of his/her final grade). In the event of illness, documentation must be provided.

### **Food and drinks**

Students may only consume water during class but no other kind of drinks and no food may be brought to class.

### **Tentative Schedule of Topics, Assignments and Activities**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	<i>Introduction to Intercultural</i> (Chapters 1 & 2)
2	<i>Spain and European Issues</i> (Reserve readings)
3	<i>The United States' Tapestry</i> (Ch. 3) <b>Multicultural Newswatch Presentation</b>
4	<i>The Immigration Question in the US*</i> (Reserve readings) <b>Expatriate Interview Presentations</b>
5	<i>Cultural Patterns and Identities</i> (Ch. 5)
6	Some Basic Cultural Distinctions
7	<i>Immigration and Assimilation in America and Europe</i> (Ch. 6) <b>Midterm Exam</b>
8	<i>Student and Expatriate Culture Shock</i> (Reserve readings) <b>Multicultural Newswatch Presentations 2</b> <b>Term Paper Assignment</b>
9	<i>Intercultural Communication in the International Business Environment</i> (Reserve readings)
10	<i>Globalization and the Implications for Intercultural Communication</i> (Reserve readings) <b>Term Paper Topics Approved</b>
11	<i>Introduction to Mass Media and Intercultural Impacts</i> (Reserve readings)
12	<i>American Influence in Film and Television</i> <b>Term Paper Due</b>
13	<i>A Multicultural World</i> (Reserve reading) <b>Final Exam</b>

**Films:** “Bend it Like Beckham”, “American History X”

\*Case studies of groups immigrating to the US include Hispanics, as well as the Hmong and Somali experiences in Minnesota.