

# COMM 251 International and Development Communication Fall 2009 (online)

The University of Montana-Missoula

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## Course Description

COMM 251 introduces students to the concepts of International and Development Communication. International Communication deals with information exchange and cultural flow across nations and societies. Development Communication focuses on assessing the role of transnational communication in social change, including its impacts on first peoples. The course surveys communication issues related to globalization, cultural and linguistic imperialism, the Internet, the media, English as a global language, indigenous voices, transnational advertising, multicultural/transnational organizations, and participatory development. Through case studies, students will apply mass communication and organizational communication concepts in understanding the relations between the local and the global and in analyzing complex interdependencies among social groups, organizations, and nation states. The course aims to engage students in discussing communication issues of global significance via various forms of online activities and assignments. This course is designed to incorporate contextualized and cooperative learning. A comparative approach is used to expose students to diverse perspectives and to stimulate students to reflect on their own roles as global/local citizens in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is a core course of the *International Development Studies* minor.

## Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will

- Understand important concepts in international and development communication;
- Be aware of key communication issues resulting from globalization and informatization over time;
- Understand the impacts of information and communication technologies (ICTs) on social change;
- Hold a position based on analysis of evidence and arguments for and against the presence of cultural and linguistic imperialism brought about by ICTs;
- Understand the pros and cons of using the Internet and the media to facilitate communication within and across cultural groups, transnational organizations, and nation states;
- Be aware of the implications of using English as the global language in different linguistic and cultural contexts over time;
- Consider the value of indigenous languages and first peoples' perspectives in the global context;
- Be able to suggest relevant participatory approaches to communication and sustainable development;
- Demonstrate awareness of how transnational advertising impedes and promotes sustainability;
- Focus on communication processes when analyzing interdependence involving international and multicultural organizations; and
- Compare the convergence and divergence of perspectives held by members of their communities, the U.S. public, and people in other countries, particularly non-Western and developing countries.

## Assigned Readings

-All required reading materials are posted on *e-reserve* accessible via Mansfield Library homepage. The password is “international” (all lower case, no punctuation).

## Optional Texts

-*Development and Communication in Africa*, edited by Charles Okigbo and Festus Eribo. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2004. [Optional][On reserve in Mansfield Library]

-*Intercultural Communication: A Global Reader*, edited by Fred E. Jandt, Sage Publications, 2004. [Optional][On reserve in Mansfield Library]

-*International and Development Communication: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Perspective*, edited by Bella Mody. Sage Publications, 2003. [Optional]

-*Global Communication*, edited by Yahya R. Kamalipour. Wadsworth, 2002. [Optional]

-*International Communication*, edited by Kwadwo Anokwa, Carolyn A. Lin, and Michael B. Salwen. Wadsworth, 2003. [Optional]

-*International and Multicultural Organizational Communication*, edited by George Cheney and George Barnett. Hampton Press, 2005. [Optional]

-*Indigenous Knowledges in Global Contexts*, edited by George J. Sefa Dei, Budd L. Hall, and Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg. University of Toronto Press, 2002. [Optional]

-*Globalization: Culture and Education in the New Millennium*, edited by Marcelo M. Suarez-Orozco and Desiree Baolian Qin-Hilliard. University of California Press, 2004. [Optional]

-*When Languages Die: The Extinction of the World’s Languages and the Erosion of Human Knowledge*, by K. David Harrison, Oxford University Press, 2007 [Optional]

## Assessment

Objectives	Assignments	Points Earned
-Demonstrate understanding of important concepts and ideas.	Reading Quizzes	80 points (20 each x4)
-Apply concepts in contextualized analysis. -Focus on communication processes when analyzing international relations. -Compare the convergence and divergence of perspectives.	Online discussion -case studies -documentary reflections -simulated negotiations -mini debates	440 points (40 each x 11)
-Consider diverse perspectives and multiple dimensions of international and development communication issues -Formulate positions based on investigation of evidence and arguments.	Position Papers	350 points (175 each x 2)
-Demonstrate understanding of important concepts and ideas. -Apply concepts in contextualized analysis. -Focus on communication processes when analyzing international relations. -Compare the convergence and divergence of perspectives. -Consider diverse perspectives and multiple dimensions of international and development communication issues -Formulate positions based on investigation of evidence and arguments.	Final Debate/Exam	130 points
		Total Points Possible: 1,000

Distribution Scale		933 –1000	A	900 – 932	A-
866 – 899	B+	833 – 865	B	800 – 832	B-
766 – 799	C+	733 – 765	C	700 – 732	C-
666 – 699	D+	633 – 665	D	600 – 632	D-
		< 600	F		

## Course Policies

- You are responsible for submitting your assignments on the due dates. Late work receives a 20% deduction per day from the points gained unless you provide a note from a doctor indicating that you were unable to complete the assignment because of sickness.
- Missed quizzes cannot be made up unless you provide a note from the doctor indicating that you were not able to complete the assignment because of sickness. Be sure to check the assignment schedule for quiz dates.
- Deadlines: When managing your time to complete assignments, please be prepared that you may experience unpredictable technical difficulties. For example, your computer may freeze up or your Internet provider might not work properly at times. Technical problems are not acceptable excuses for late submission of assignments. You need to plan extra time to complete and submit assignments online in case of technical difficulties. In addition, you need to have a *back-up plan* for taking quizzes and submitting homework online. Is there another computer you can use? Is there another place you can get online?
- Students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodations in this online course. To request course modifications, please contact me as soon as possible. I will work with you and Disability Services in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/dss/> or call 406.243.2243 (Voice/Text).
- You should be aware that as a student at the University of Montana, you must practice academic honesty and are bound by the following Code of Academic Conduct: <http://www.umt.edu/studentaffairs/sccAcademicConduct.htm>  
As the code explains, academic misconduct includes plagiarism, cheating, and deliberate interference with the work of others. It is the intellectual equivalent of fraud—a crime against the codes of the academy. *As an academic crime, plagiarism merits academic punishment, ranging from an F on the assignment or for the course, to suspension or expulsion from the University.*
- The last day to add/drop or change your grading option is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Extra-Credits

Throughout the semester, you will find on campus a wide range of lectures or seminars about different countries and various topics related to international communication and/or development communication. The instructor will inform you of the ones that are particularly relevant to this class. You can earn up to 10 points by submitting a report after attending a designated event. A report should include three main parts: (1) a summary of main ideas, (2) important quotes, and (3) reflective comments. The maximum number of extra-credit points you can earn is 30.

## Communication

Check your UM email regularly. Information about quiz schedule changes, extra-credit earning opportunities, reading assignment modifications, deadline adjustments, etc. is sent via Griznet. Don't miss important notices!