UNIV 2350 Seminar in Critical Inquiry
Taking Calls in Mumbai: Technology and Intercultural Communication
100% Online
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Course Description

What impact does technology have on intercultural communication? Does it enable it? Inhibit it? Improve it? Complicate it? What issues do individuals and groups face when they attempt to communicate cross-culturally via the internet for instance? What implications does this have for businesses that rely on computer mediated communication (CMC) to interact with international business partners? What implications does increased CMC have for national security? Could increased and improved intercultural CMC defuse international tension? These are the questions that will occupy us throughout UNIV 2350: Intercultural Communication and Technology. Students will use this theme to address the goals of UTEP’s UNIV 2350 course goals. Students will study issues in intercultural communication, the history and development of CMC, issues in intercultural CMC all through the study of specific cases related to international business and national security.

Regarding the course theme, students should be able to:

1. Articulate basic issues pertaining to Intercultural Communication.
2. Articulate the ways in which technology helps/hinders Intercultural Communication.
3. Critically evaluate technology as a tool and its ethical implications.
4. Plan, execute, and refine basic research (quantitative and qualitative) using a variety of tools (i.e., library, quantitative and qualitative assessment, etc.)

UNIV 2350 Course Goals

Goal 1. Enhance students’ ability to assess technology

Goal 2. Develop and promote student teamwork

Goal 3. Enable Students to Relate Technology to Community Context

Goal 4. Advance students’ communication skills using technology

Goal 5. Engage students in exploring the ethics of technology.

Teaching Method
The teaching method for this course, given its online nature, will involve a combination of guided group discussions/readings, audio/film presentations, and individual direction/instruction via email or chat. The online nature of the course will also require students to take responsibility to do the assigned individual and group work and seek help in a timely manner for things they do not understand.

Course Materials

All required readings will be made available online.

Course Requirements Descriptions

Participation (20%)

Students will be expected to participate at two crucial levels: 1.) Attend class on the first day of this class for the Fall semester and the day of the final exam (given in the final exam schedule for the semester), complete online assignments, participate in online discussions and group projects. While attendance will not be graded in this class students are subject to the attendance policy enumerated below. 2.) Critically and thoughtfully engage the assignments, your fellow students, your professor and peer leader. Failure to demonstrate this engagement (as determined by the instructor) will result in the reduction of grade.

Weekly Assignments/Discussions (30%)

Students will be expected to complete a variety of reading assignments. All readings will be made available online or in class. Students may be assigned to respond to readings in a variety of ways (e.g., individually in individual journals or in group discussions on line). Failure to participate and give evidence of deep engagement with readings will result in reduction of grade. Students will also need to complete a variety of assignments related to research development and the course themes that may involve different kinds of engagement (discussion, reports, quizzes, etc.) Students must demonstrate serious engagement in addition to simply completing the work. Failure to do so will result in reduction of grade.

Research Portfolio (50%)

Students must complete a research portfolio. The portfolio will be completed in stages throughout the semester. Students are responsible to complete each stage of the assignment (both individual and, if you choose, group work) in full and by the appropriate due date (see schedule below). Students will have the opportunity to evaluate fellow group members on their participation on any group work. Due the date of the final (1/13 11:59pm)

Grading

A=90-100%  B=80-89%  C=70-79%  D= 60-69%  F= 0-59%

[Please Note: Because this course is a core requirement, students must attain a C or better. Students with a D or lower will be required to retake UNIV 2350.]
Policies and Procedures

Attendance

As this is a 100% online course: Failure to complete any assignment in each of the course “areas” (journals, discussions, Research Portfolio requirements) on time (or within the prescribed late work period [see below]), online or in class will constitute an “absence.” If a requirement area has more than one reading or requirement, completion of one part of the assignment will count as participation for that area and you will not be counted absent (though you may be penalized for not completing the assignment).

If you are absent from class (as defined above) more than 4 times before the drop date of May 18th, 2012, the instructor will have the right to withdraw you from the course and you will receive a “W.” You are, however, still responsible for withdrawing yourself from the course. Failure to do so may result in you receiving an “F” for the course.

If you are absent from class (as defined above) more than 4 times after the drop date of May 18th, 2012, the instructor has the right to fail (“F”) you for the course.

PLEASE NOTE: As this is an online course, participation is all the more crucial. You will still be responsible for completing assignments (individual and group) on time. There is not less work with an online class only more work you must do on your own. Please be aware of this and plan accordingly.

Late Work

All work must be turned in online by 11:59pm on the day the assignment is due. Given the accelerated nature of the course, late work will not be accepted.

Missed Assignments

There is no make-up work for any assignment with the potential exception of legitimate, verifiable medical emergencies, verified within a reasonable amount of time after the fact.

Extra Credit

Given the advanced nature of this course, no extra credit will be offered.

Format

All written assignments must be typed on white paper, double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman Font, with one inch margins, and conform to the APA style for citations, bibliography, and paper formatting (with minimal changes which will be discussed in class). All written assignments must be uploaded via blackboard. Further instruction will be provided in class.

Copyright Statement

Some of the materials in this course are copyrighted. Violation of US copyright law can result in civil damages up to $100,000 for each work copied. Copying of textbooks is not
“fair use” under the Copyright Act. The “fair use doctrine” only permits non-commercial copying of part (in general, not more than 10%) of a copyrighted work. Do not bring a copied textbook to this class. Your cooperation is expected.

1.3 Student Conduct: [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs]

Students are expected to respect other students in the class, the peer leader, and the instructor. Class discussions are to be conducted with respect for one another.

Each student is also responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents Rules and Regulations, which are available for inspection electronically at http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage.htm.

1.3.1 Scholastic Dishonesty: [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs]

It is the official policy of the University that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. It is contrary to University policy for a faculty member to assign a disciplinary grade such as an "F" or zero to an assignment, test, examination, or other course work as a sanction for admitted or suspected scholastic dishonesty in lieu of normally charging the student through the Dean of Students. Similarly, students are prohibited from proposing and/or entering into an arrangement with a faculty member to receive a grade of "F" or any reduced grade in lieu of being charged with scholastic dishonesty. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

1.3.12 Plagiarism: [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs]

"Plagiarism" means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors.

Students with Disabilities Policy:

If you have or suspect a disability and need an accommodation you should contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services Office at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu or go to Room 302 (Temporarily) Union East Building. Accommodations made through CASS must be discussed and available to instructor on the first day of class.

Foster Homeless Adopted Resources (FHAR)

If you have aged out of foster care in Texas, were adopted, or find yourself homeless or with unstable/inadequate housing, there may be resources available to you. See me or a
FHAR advisor at the Academic Advising Center. If you know someone in these circumstances, please also refer them to me or a FHAR advisor.

Syllabus Change Policy:

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

Emails

I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours (barring interruptions) until 5pm on weekdays. If you do not receive a response within that time period, please send a second email or contact the peer leader if it is an emergency. Expect emails sent after 5pm on Friday to be answered Monday at the earliest.

Course Content

Learning Modules Schedule

First Day of Class Module ("Module 1")
Due Monday 5/14, 11:59pm

Library/Evaluating Research Modules
Due Tuesday 5/15, 11:59pm

Technology and Society Modules 2-5
Due Wednesday 5/16, 11:59pm

Technology and Society Modules 6-9
Due Monday 5/21, 11:59pm

Technology, Culture, and Communication Modules 10 and 11
Due Friday, 5/25 11:59pm

Group Modules Schedule

Group Module 1
Individual posts due by Thursday 5/17 by 11:59p, completed discussion (comments, responses, etc.) due by Friday 5/18, 11:59p

Group Module 2
Individual posts due by Monday 5/21 by 11:59p, completed discussion (comments, responses, etc.) due by Tuesday 5/22, 11:59p

Group Module 3
Individual posts due by Thursday 5/24 by 11:59p, completed discussion (comments, responses, etc.) due by Friday 5/25, 11:59p
Group Module 4
Individual posts due by Thursday 5/24 by 11:59p, completed discussion (comments, responses, etc.) due by Friday 5/25, 11:59p

Research Portfolio Schedule

Research Portfolio Part A
Draft work Assignment 1:
Due Friday 5/18 by 11:59pm

Final Draft:
Due Friday 5/25 by 11:59pm

Research Portfolio Part B Presentation
Final Presentation
Due Thursday, 5/24 by 11:59pm.

Comments and Group Responses
Due by Friday, 5/25 by 11:59pm.