

## **McDaniel College Budapest**

### **COM 2350 – Communication and Culture**

**Professor:** Barna Szamosi

#### **Contact information**

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#### **Availability**

Professor Szamosi is available before and after classes by appointment.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In today's tense and rapidly changing world, understanding and indeed appreciating each other's cultures and the way in which we subsequently communicate with each other is of paramount importance. Not only does it prevent us from making dangerous assumptions about entire cultural groups based on the radical actions of a few, it also helps us to better interact with each other and to open our minds to new ways of doing and understanding things. The aim of this course is to acquire the theoretical knowledge that has been advanced in the field and then apply it to your own areas of research. Hence, the first half of the course will be more theoretical with these theories being put into practice in the second half of the semester. Throughout the course but particularly in the second half of the semester, we will examine papers on aspects of culture and communication. These will not only provide knowledge on the subject but will also serve as model examples of how research papers should be written.

#### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- To understand the usefulness of theory as a way of changing how we think about the world.
- To change the way you think about and interact with the culture around you.
- To apply theories to the culture of daily life.
- To learn ways to analyze and evaluate various forms of cultural practice.

#### **Class Expectations**

- Read all assignments before class and be prepared to discuss them.
- Be on time.
- Turn off and stow away your cell phone.
- Absence due to sickness and emergency must be accompanied by a signed note from, e.g., health services, traffic court, etc.

## **Requirements**

### **I. Reaction Paper (20)**

During the course you are expected to choose one topic which you will analyze in your reaction paper. In this paper you should use one central text to build up your argument. In addition I expect you to pull in other relevant sources (min. 1 – max. 2) to show me that you engaged with the topic and you are able to critically analyze the issue at stake (conceptualize problems; make connections between multiple sources etc.). Proper referencing is also a must. The reaction paper is expected to be between 800 and 1000 words.

**REACTION PAPER DEADLINE: 8<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2017. 9 A.M.**

### **II. Class Participation (20)**

You are expected to actively take part in class discussions. Be prepared to ask questions and discuss various parts of the texts.

### **III. Mid-term test (20)**

### **IV. End-term test (20)**

### **V. Presentations (2x10)**

(1) First Presentation: You have to choose a text from the reader and connect a part of the text to a contemporary issue in communication (to something that you came across in the media for example). You can choose a newspaper article, an advertisement, music, film etc. the point is to raise our attention to the problem that you identify by using the concepts and arguments that you have read by that time in the chosen text. The presentation is due on the day the chosen text is scheduled. This presentation should be around 15 minutes.

**You must send your presentations to my email address the day before the presentation is due.**

(2) Second Presentation: Your task is to present a theme regarding your experiences about living in Hungary. I would like to hear comparative, interpretive discussions about the cultural differences that you came across here. This presentation should be restricted to one topic and you should give examples regarding the phenomenon. Presentations should not exceed 10 minutes.

**REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS    percent of grade:**

I. Reaction Paper	20
II. Class Participation	20
III. Mid-term test	20
IV. End-term test	20
<u>V. Presentations</u>	<u>20</u>
	100 %

**GRADING POLICIES:** Grades are earned, not negotiated.

NO EXTRA CREDIT WORK WILL BE PERMITTED. YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO REVISE (OR REDO) ASSIGNMENTS OR EXAMINATIONS.

**Late Assignments:** It's not fair to give some students extra time to complete an assignment. Thus, a penalty of one point for the assignment will be assessed for each 24 hr. period or fraction thereof that an assignment is late. An assignment is late if I receive it after the end of the class period for which the assignment is due.

**Cheating/ Plagiarizing:** These behaviors will not be tolerated. I will recommend that students caught cheating on examinations earn an "F" for the course. Students caught cheating on individual assignments receive a 0 for the assignment. See the College's policy on Academic Integrity for definitions and examples of these terms.

**Grading Guidelines**

**D, F** Fails to demonstrate comprehension of course concepts, is poorly executed or not attempted or completed

**C+, C** Keeps up with readings, shows basic understanding of concepts, meets minimum requirements with more than a few errors submitted on time, or is good work submitted late. Mere reporting, without evidence of independent thinking; lackluster, uninspired, lazy.

**B+, B** Exceeds minimum understanding of concepts, applies concepts to interpret fresh example, compares multiple sources, is submitted on time, or is superior work submitted late.

**A-, A** Shows ability to creatively manipulate concepts, to insightfully critique them; sheds insight on connections among multiple sources. Superior work submitted on time.

**Honor Code and Course Policies**

- Read all assignments before class and be prepared to discuss them.
- Participate actively in class discussions.

- Be on time. If you enter class after I've taken attendance you may take part but it will count as half absence.
- Hand in work on time. Be sure to back up your work on disks in case of computer crashes, printer problems, lost disks, etc. Computer related excuses don't cut it.
- Email your work on time.
- Turn off and stow away your cell phone.

Participation implies attendance; absences will be noted and will adversely affect your final participation grade. In addition, in accordance with McDaniel Budapest's attendance policy, there will be an automatic deduction of one letter grade for every unexcused absence following your second unexcused absence.

- Absence due to sickness and emergency must be accompanied by a signed note from, e.g., health services, traffic court, etc. and should be presented to Adriána Márton.
- McDaniel College asks that you include the Honor Pledge on all submitted homework and tests: *"I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this piece of work, nor have I knowingly tolerated any violation of the Honor Code."*

## **Semester Schedule**

### **Week 1 Introduction**

- 1.1. Introduction, readings, requirements.
- 1.2. Training Exercises.

### **Week 2 Interpersonal Communication**

- 2.1. DeVito: Foundation of interpersonal communication.
- 2.2. DeVito: Culture and interpersonal communication.

### **Week 3 Interpretation of Culture**

- 3.1. Geertz: The Impact of the concept of culture on the concept of man.
- 3.2. Geertz: Deep play.

### **Week 4 Popular Culture and Subculture**

- 4.1. Storey ch 1: What is popular culture?
- 4.2. Hebdige: Subculture.

**Week 5 Globalization and Culture**

- 5.1. Klüber: Globalization, informatization, and intercultural communication.
- 5.2. Rajasingham: The impact of universities on globalization.

**Week 6 Globalization and Terrorism**

- 6.1. Limaye: Five ways to reduce the foreign terrorist threat to the United States.
- 6.2. Huntington: Clash of civilizations & Edward Said's Critical Lecture about Huntington's argument.

**Week 7 Mid-term test**

- 7.1. Review seminar
- 7.2. Test

**Week 8 Rhetorics**

- 8.1. Hungarian National Holiday – No Classes.
- 8.2. Lecture and Practice.

**Week 9 Nonverbal Communication**

- 9.1. DeVito: Nonverbal Messages.
- 9.2. Paul Ekman: Ch 2. Lying, Leakage, and Clues to Deceit.

**Week 10 Interpersonal Relationships**

- 10.1. DeVito: Interpersonal Relationship Types.
- 10.2. DeVito: Interpersonal Conflict and Conflict Management.

**Week 11 Racial Thinking in Communication**

- 11.1. Storey: Ch 8 Race, Racism, and Representation.
- 11.2. Documentary Film

**Week 12      Gender in Communication**

- 12.1. DeFrancisco and Palczewski: Gendered/Sexed Bodies.
- 12.2. DeFrancisco and Palczewski: Gendered/Sexed Language.

**Week 13      Fan Culture**

- 13.1. Weaver: Films, Television, and Fan Culture.
- 13.2. Thanksgiving Recess - No classes.

**Week 14      Interpretations of Hungarian Culture**

- 14.1. Presentations and Practice: Quirks of Hungarian culture and your culture.
- 14.2. Review Seminar / Evaluation

**Week 15      End-term Week**

- 15.1. Test