

UNIVERSIDAD DE COSTA RICA
ESCUELA DE LENGUAS MODERNAS
BACHILLERATO EN INGLES
SECCIÓN II a IV

Proposed Course Outline

LM-1481 Intercultural Communication	Pre-requisite: LM-1471
Credits: 3	Type: Course of study for the B.A. degree in English
Hours: 9 (Class Work: 4, Out-of-Class Work: 5)	Course delivery mode: Virtual (Remote)
Level: 4th year	Period: 8th semester

I. Description

LM- 1481 Intercultural Communication is a required course for the degree of *Bachillerato en Inglés* and *Bachillerato en la Enseñanza del Inglés*. It is the final oral course taken by English majors. A few foreign students may also register, and, as a result, the course is multicultural or bicultural, depending on the arrangement of the group. This course provides an overview of the study of culture and its relation to language and communication. The premise of the course is that the analytical, respectful, and tolerant discussion of cultural issues promotes effective and positive intercultural encounters and language fluency through cultural awareness.

The course will be delivered entirely in the virtual (remote) modality. Lessons will be conducted in synchronous sessions via Zoom. The institutional platform, *Mediación Virtual* (MV), will be used as official means of communication and for learning management to make announcements, communicate information, post and submit assignments and evaluations, announce due dates, discuss course-related topics, provide instructions for learning activities, share course resources, etc.

II. Objectives

1. General Objective

The students will be able to:

Increase understanding of both their own cultural patterns of behavior as well as of those of people from different cultures and of the importance of cultural conditioning in language, behavior, and values.

2. Specific Objectives

The students will be able to:

- A. Understand fundamental issues in the study of culture and intercultural communication.

- B. Identify some of the values and behaviors that shape the identity of the Costa Rican population and of the other countries represented in the class.
- C. Analyze how stereotypes, prejudice, ethnocentrism, and xenophobia affect intercultural communication.
- D. Value the ethnic/cultural diversity of the countries represented in the classroom.
- E. Increase students' awareness of how culture influences communication and how it interacts with social and psychological factors in a given society.
- F. Recognize the processes involved in a person's adaptation to his/her culture and other cultures.
- G. Develop respect and tolerance of others' ideas, values, and opinions.
- H. Respectfully defend personal positions on culturally sensitive issues in clear, accurate English.
- I. Increase English fluency, accuracy, and competence in English syntax, pronunciation and vocabulary at an advanced level.
- J. Gain exposure to some of the different accents and intonations of English in cultures around the world
- K. Refine conversation management skills.

III. Contents

- 1. Culture
- 2. Types of cultures
 - a. Hall's cultural theories
 - b. Hofstede's cultural theories
- 3. Cultural awareness
- 4. Cultural adaptation
 - a. Stages of culture shock
 - 1) The "honeymoon" stage
 - 2) The "everything is awful" stage
 - 3) Acceptance and integration
 - 4) Long-term adaptation
 - b. Re-entry shock
- 5. Worldview and values
 - a. World view
 - b. Fatalism
- 6. National identity
 - a. Costa Rica
 - b. Latin vs. North America
 - c. Other cultures
- 7. Ethnocentrism and stereotypes
- 8. Cultural domination and resistance
- 9. Gender and culture
 - a. Feminism and culture
 - b. Culture and violence towards women
 - c. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender / transsexual and queer identities
- 10. Culture and conflict
 - a. Ethnic conflict
 - b. Corruption and culture
- 11. Pronunciation (*MAEP, Manual of American English Pronunciation*)
 - a. Lesson 7. More about Intonation
 - b. Lesson 13-14. Consonant Substitutions

- c. Lesson 15. Consonant Clusters
- 12. Intonation and focus
 - a. Rules and practices for meaningful intonation and focus
 - b. Movies and literary texts from cultures around the world that speak English

IV. Methodology

The course employs a student-centered methodology to allow learners to explore and construct knowledge while refining their language skills. Activities include student presentations, discussion groups, group projects, movie analysis, and other hands-on creative activities. Daily preparation and participation are essential for successful completion of course objectives. Any class work may be subject to evaluation. The course emphasizes collaborative learning and working in cross-cultural teams. Full classes or parts of the classes may be recorded.

Class sessions will be carried out 100% virtually and synchronously, and asynchronous work will be assigned outside of synchronous sessions as well. Any asynchronous work will be notified in advance. Content, learning activities, quizzes, evaluations, instructions, and resources will be available on *Mediación Virtual* (MV) or any other online platform announced by the professor. All other platforms and online resources used will be linked through *Mediación Virtual*.

V. Evaluation

Evaluation is continuous and daily participation is fundamental. Students are responsible for all information given and material covered in class or assigned. Some assignments and in-class evaluation will not be announced in advance. The final grade for the course will be determined on the following basis:

Evaluations	Percentage
Homework, assignments, quizzes, presentations and in-class evaluation **	20%
Group discussion: Intercultural experiences	15%
Presentation and group discussion: Critical incident	15%
Tribunal Exam I	25%
Tribunal Exam II	25%
Total	100%

Every remote evaluated task will be videotaped; hence, students will be asked to turn on their cameras and microphones, as per UCR Regulation VD-12784-2023. Also, a stable internet connection and a suitable physical environment (free from noise and other distractions) must be ensured.

*Quizzes may be announced or unannounced at the instructor's discretion. Topics will include anything previously covered in class and/or assigned by the professor as homework.

VI. Notes on Evaluation

A. Language Issues

The instructor will evaluate English major students in terms of language and content according to the provided rubric. Students must pay attention to pronunciation, structure, vocabulary, and fluency aspects studied throughout the course of their program. **Written assignments that are poor in any of these areas will not be accepted or will be strongly penalized.** Phonetic transcriptions will be evaluated in all assignments, including oral ones; for example, a list of key words and their transcriptions may be requested before oral presentations.

*Please be advised students will complete an evaluated in-class exercise about the *MAEP*.

B. Tribunal Exams I y II (Oral)*

This exam consists of theory questions or applied presentations from the material studied. All oral exams will be recorded.

*Students' performance in exams will be graded by the professor of the group the student is registered in and another faculty member from those teaching the course that semester. The other professor will be announced at least one week in advance.

C. No late assignments will be accepted. No student will be exempted from any assignment.

D. Excused absences will be dealt with according to the following guidelines:

ARTÍCULO 24. Cuando el estudiante se vea imposibilitado, por razones justificadas, para efectuar una evaluación en la fecha fijada, puede presentar una solicitud de reposición a más tardar en cinco días hábiles a partir del momento en que se reintegre normalmente a sus estudios. Esta solicitud debe presentarla ante el profesor que imparte el curso, adjuntando la documentación y las razones por las cuales no pudo efectuar la prueba, con el fin de que el profesor determine, en los tres días hábiles posteriores a la presentación de la solicitud, si procede una reposición. Si ésta procede, el profesor deberá fijar la fecha de reposición, la cual no podrá establecerse en un plazo menor de cinco días hábiles contados a partir del momento en que el estudiante se reintegre normalmente a sus estudios. Son justificaciones: la muerte de un pariente hasta de segundo grado, la enfermedad del estudiante u otra situación de fuerza mayor o caso fortuito.

E. Plagiarism will be dealt with according to the following guidelines:

ARTICULO 4. Son faltas muy graves:

g) Utilizar, con conocimiento de causa, documentos falsificados, para cualquier gestión universitaria administrativa, académica o de cualquier otra índole.

ARTICULO 5. Son faltas graves:

c) Copiar de otro estudiante tareas, informes de laboratorio, trabajos de investigación o de cualquier otro tipo de actividad académica.

ARTICULO 9. Las faltas serán sancionadas según la magnitud del hecho con las siguientes medidas:

- a) Las faltas muy graves, con suspensión de su condición de estudiante regular no menor de seis meses calendario, hasta por seis años calendario.
- b) Las graves con suspensión de quince días lectivos a seis meses calendario.

F. All registered students are subject to current learning evaluation rules and regulations of *Universidad de Costa Rica*.

VII. Bibliography

- Bradley, M. (2019). *Teaching intercultural communication through critical pedagogy in EFL classrooms in Costa Rica* [Unpublished master's thesis]. Universidad Latinoamericana de Ciencia y Tecnología (ULACIT).
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- Jones, S. R. (1996). Toward inclusive theory: Disability as social construction. *NASPA Journal*, 33(4), 347-354.
- Liu, S., Volcic, Z., & Gallois, C. (2014). *Introducing intercultural communication: Global cultures and contexts*. SAGE Publications.
- López Get, A. (2018). The birth of subcultures and countercultures: On the ideal of nation and the struggle between the alienated and the hegemony. *Revista de Lenguas Modernas*, (28), 427-441. <https://doi.org/10.15517/rIm.v0i28.34848>
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- Prator, C. H. Jr., & Robinett, B. W. (1985). *Manual of American English pronunciation* (4th ed.). Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.
- Samovar, L. A., Porter, R. E., & McDaniel, E. R. (2009). *Communication between cultures*. Cengage Learning.
- Settles, I., & Buchanan, N. (2014). Multiple groups, multiple identities, and intersectionality. In V. Benet-Martínez & Y. Hong (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of multicultural identity* (pp. 160-180). Oxford Academic. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199796694.013.017>
- Tatum, B. D. (1997). *"Why are all the black kids still sitting together in the cafeteria?" and other conversations about race*. Perseus Books, LLC.
- Ting-Toomey, S., & Chung, L. (2012). *Understanding intercultural communication*. Oxford University Press.

VIII. Important Information

- A. **Technical Requirements:** All course participants must have access to a computer or another device with Internet functionality to access *Mediación Virtual* and Zoom, participate in class activities, and complete assignments. Internet access should be sufficient to interact in synchronous meetings or access *Mediación Virtual* as required by the course. Any device used for attending synchronous sessions should have a functional camera and a microphone.
- B. **Camera:** Seeing everyone creates a more engaged and interactive learning environment. Since this is a communication course requiring participation and interaction, participants are encouraged to keep the camera turned on at all times, especially for small-group discussions, whole-class discussions, and any other learning activity that requires so for meeting the course outcomes. Further, the instructor can determine mandatory activation of audio/video when deemed necessary for meeting course outcomes. This requirement is in compliance with UCR Regulation VD-12784-2023, Article 41, Item a.
- C. **Attendance:** Although attendance (i.e., being present for all synchronous class sessions) is not compulsory, it is highly desirable, and the instructor will keep attendance records. Attendance implies using a properly set up camera and microphone. Attendance, participation, and active engagement with peers and in discussions are essential to success in this class. Any student who is absent, even for a legitimate reason, is responsible for the material covered and assignments given during the class that is missed.
- D. **Assignments:** All assignments should be completed and turned in on time. Late submission will not be accepted or graded. Assignments requiring submission will only be accepted via *Mediación Virtual*.
- E. **Students' Responsibility:** It is the student's responsibility to regularly check *Mediación Virtual*, including the calendar section, as it will contain important information about upcoming class assignments, activities, and other elements of the course. Students are also responsible for coming to class meetings having read the assigned readings, reflected on questions or issues raised in the readings, and completed the assignments due for that session.
- F. **Respect and Netiquette:** Course participants are expected to demonstrate open-mindedness, acceptance, and respect for their peers, professor, guests, and themselves, and when participating and interacting in synchronous and asynchronous exchanges, to observe proper netiquette.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Part 1 (Countries and Cultural Characteristics)

Week 1 (Mar. 10 - 14)	Course Introduction and diagnostic/review activities Culture
Week 2 (Mar. 17 - 21)	Types of cultures Cultural Indexes: Hall and Hofstede
Week 3 (Mar. 24 – 28)	Cultural Indexes: Hall and Hofstede Cultural Awareness
Week 4 (Mar. 31 - Ap. 04)	Group discussion: intercultural experiences (15%)
Week 5 (Ap. 07 - 11)	Holiday: April 11 Cultural Adaptation
Easter (Ap. 14 - 18)	
Week 6 (Ap. 21 - 25) Semana U	Cultural Adaptation Worldview and values
Week 7 (Ap. 28 – May 02)	Holiday: May 1st Preparation for Exam I
Week 8 (May 05 - 09)	Partial Exam I (Tribunal)

Part II (Culture and Identity)

Week 9 (May 12 - 16)	National identity Ethnocentrism and stereotypes
Week 10 (May 19 - 23)	Cultural domination and resistance
Week 11 (May 26 - 30)	Gender and culture
Week 12 (June 2 - 6)	Gender and culture
Week 13 (June 09 - 13)	Critical incident discussion (15%)
Week 14 (June 16 - 20)	Culture and conflict Evaluated Pronunciation activity
Week 15 (June 23 - 27)	Preparation for Exam II
Week 16 (June 30 – July 04)	Partial Exam II (Tribunal)

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Final Grades Due: Monday, July 7, 2025

Ampliación Exam: Wednesday, July 16, 2025, 8 am to 12 pm

Note: This schedule is tentative; therefore, it is subject to change, as the instructor deems necessary depending on the number of enrolled students, the progress of the group, and any other factor or situation that may affect the proper development of the lessons or the achievement of the course learning outcomes. The dates for partial, final, and *ampliación* exams are assigned by the Faculty and cannot be changed.