

Subject overview

This subject is an exploration of basic theory and how general principles play out in practice in the real world. Topics include communication and meaning; communication in organizations; misunderstandings caused by socio-cultural and language factors; translation theory; globalization; and useful theoretical frameworks as seen through the lens of business, diplomacy, international organizations and conferences, and nongovernmental bodies. Teaching is interactive and draws on the different backgrounds of participating students to illustrate the lessons.

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the basic causes of miscommunication between people from different cultural backgrounds
- Analyze how people communicate in organizations and groups
- Analyze sensitively how other cultures work and how other people think while retaining the right to their own views on morals, to accept other ways of doing things in a tolerant spirit or, at least, to explain what it is they oppose in other cultures and why
- Communicate effectively with people from other cultures by knowing how to get their message across and how to understand what is really being communicated to them

Assessment overview

- Participation in Lectures 10% of total assessment
- Assignment 45% of total assessment
- Class Presentation 20% of total assessment
- Exam (3/6 questions in 1 hour) 25% of total assessment

Subject modules

- Communication
- Meaning
- Organization
- Sociocultural Communication
- Language Failure
- Non-verbal communication
- Translation theory & practice
- Interpretation
- Globalization and some theoretical frameworks
- Multinational business firm
- Diplomatic Communication
- Conference Diplomacy
- NGOs
- Human rights discussion

Required readings

- Scollon, R. & Wong-Scollon, S. (1996). *Intercultural communication: : A Discourse Approach*. Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishers.

Questions?

If you have questions about any of the subject summaries, please contact us.