

Syllabus – Intercultural Competence

Code	247.041
Title	Intercultural Competence
Lecturer(s)	Kata Beck-Biro, PhD Department of International Management Johannes Kepler University Linz kata.beck-biro@jku.at
Number of ECTS credits	2

Course Objectives

This course aims to:

- To enable students to understand, evaluate and apply different models and theories related to intercultural competence
- To provide students with a learning environment that allows for experiencing the benefits and challenges of intercultural encounters in general, and of multicultural teamwork in particular
- To deepen students' intercultural understanding by helping them reflect on the experiences made in class.

Methods of Teaching and Learning

The learning and teaching strategy are designed to develop knowledge and understanding in both theoretical and practical perspectives. In addition to self-directed learning, the teaching and learning methods include a mixture of seminars and lectures with student interactions.

This way, attendance is expected for the entirety of all class sessions. Students who do not attend 80% of the total class time will automatically receive a negative course grade. If students have scheduling conflicts, they must notify the lecturer at least 24 hours in advance. Absences that are not communicated with lecturers before the start of the session will not be excused. Consequently, any missed graded component in the respective session will result in a negative component grade.

Timeline

Session	Topic
12/11 8.30-15.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the course • Introduction to intercultural topics • Multiparadigm perspective • Functional point of view
13/11 8.30-15.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretative standpoint • Critical attitude
14/11 8.30-15.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration • Group work and presentation

Please check KUSSS for final dates, times, and rooms!

Assessment Strategy

Class participation:

Students are required to attend at least 80% of lessons in order to remain eligible for grading as well as not to miss out neither on content nor interaction with their colleagues.

Scoring system:

A total of 100 points can be achieved in this course and the grade distribution as follows:

90 – 100 points	Sehr gut	1
80 – 89 points	Gut	2
70 – 79 points	Befriedigend	3
60 – 69 points	Genügend	4
< 59 points	Nicht Genügend	5

The 100 points are distributed between individual assessment (60%) and group assessment (40%). For a passing grade students must obtain at least 50% in each category AND at least 60% of the total points.

In details:

Individual assessment:

- Reflective essay (50 points):
This assignment should be based upon a short qualitative interview with somebody having intercultural experience. It should contain a reflective analysis about the interviewee's experience - assessing and integrating own learning and personal reflection throughout the course on the interpretative approach as well as reflection on the interpretative viewpoint. Students also need to incorporate at least 3 pieces of academic references in an 8.000-10.000 characters-long paper to create connection between their own learning and the literature.
- Self-assessing: Active participation during classes (10 points):
Self-assessment of the students' contribution to the classes - learned and understood the fundamental concepts and can critically think while applying concepts learned in the course.

Team assessment:

- Case study project (40 points):
Team should analyze 1 case study from the Mahadevan-Primecz-Romani case study book on Moodle from a critical CCM point of view with assessing and integrating own learning throughout the course. It should also include the team reflection on the critical viewpoint. Students need to incorporate at least 3 pieces of academic references in this 8-10 slide-long presentation to create connection between their own learning and the literature.

Reflective essays are expected to follow the rules of academic writing. Please, note that there is *no* replacement exam for the essays as it is a home assignment and you are free to use any sources. Please, also note that deadline is strict and it is not possible to move it. Please, avoid using Chat GPT or any similar AI text producing software. If you choose to support your work with such AI software (e.g. for language editing), include a paragraph at the end of any assignment that uses AI explaining what you used the AI for and what prompts you used to get the results. Failure to do so is in violation of academic honesty policies. AI detection and plagiarism checking apply for all submitted papers.

Plagiarism:

Aligned with the department regulations:

"As an academic institution, the Department of International Management does not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism encompasses presenting as one's own the words, work, opinions, or factual information of someone else without giving that person credit, as well as borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgement. All discovered instances will result in an immediate decrease in grade of the assignment or exam. In severe cases, this may result in a failing grade for the assignment or exam. In addition, there will be an automatic decrease in overall grade. Consequently, this may result in the failure of the course. In the case of group work, the consequences will be extended to the entire team. For details see our code of conduct at www.jku.at/iim

Study and Reading Material

See

- Moodle – Literature – Readings
- American Factory <https://www.netflix.com/at/title/81090071>
- Moodle – Literature - Cases

Moodle support

We offer a reading package containing all preparatory readings and the case studies for this course. Students are *expected to read the texts for each session in advance*. The reading package can be accessed on the Moodle course website prior to the beginning of the course. Points and grades will be posted in Moodle as well.

Sustainability Policy

As a department that strives to promote environmental sustainability, we encourage you to consider the environment and refrain from printing the readings on Moodle.

Contact

In case of changes to the schedule or other important correspondence concerning the course, emails will be sent out via the KUSSS-system. Therefore, please ensure that your email address in the KUSSS-System is one that you are checking on a regular basis.

For questions or problems please contact: office_iim@jku.at

For all administrative questions, please contact the department secretary at office_iim@jku.at

For all general questions that are of interest to the class as a whole, please use the Moodle Forum

For all individual questions that relate to specific sessions (absences, late arrivals, early departures, etc.) please check the schedule and identify which instructor is responsible for that session and contact him/her via e-mail (refer to the top of the course outline for instructor's emails).