

**Common Course Outline**  
**CMNS 252**  
**Intercultural Communication**  
**3 Credits**

**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**CMNS 252 – Intercultural Communication** explores theories and skills in multicultural settings, and examines how cultures filter information and communicate messages in a variety of contexts. Students develop competence through analysis and application of theories for effective intercultural communication.

**3 Credits**

**Prerequisites:** CMNS 101 and ENGL 101

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. explain the factors that define culture;
2. explain barriers to multicultural communication, such as intolerance, stereotyping, fear;
3. analyze cross-cultural communication misconceptions;
4. explain differences between the many forms of nonverbal behavior in different cultures;
5. describe listening differences between cultures and methods to enhance listening skills;
6. evaluate the manner in which cultural influences affect identity formation and perception;
7. differentiate between theories of cultural communication;
8. apply the theory of cultural value dimensions (Geert Hofstede) to various settings;
9. evaluate how cultural influences affect communication in a variety of settings such as interpersonal, community, and professional;
10. analyze causes of conflict between cultures, emphasizing conflict-reduction strategies;
11. demonstrate skills for enhancing ethical multicultural communication; and
12. explain elements of culture shock and its resolutions.

**Major Topics**

- I. Communication and Diversity
- II. Definition of Culture
- III. Beliefs, Values, Attitudes, and Norms
- IV. Social Practices and Traditions
- V. Identity and Culture
- VI. Barriers
- VII. Listening

- VIII. Language
- IX. Nonverbal Communication Differences
- X. Ethics
- XI. Culture Shock
- XII. Approaches to Culture:
  - Ethnocentrism
  - A. Ethno-Relativism
- XIII. Cultural Value Dimensions
  - A. High & Low Context
  - B. Individualism and Collectivism
  - C. Feminine and Masculine
  - D. Power Distance
  - E. Tolerance for Ambiguity
  - F. Time Orientation
- XIV. Managing Conflict in Intercultural Relations

### **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by individual faculty members but will include the following:

#### **Grading/Exams:**

- minimum of 2 written tests
- minimum of 1 oral presentation using academic research and professional audio-visual aids (may be a group or individual project)
- minimum of 1 paper of at least 1000 words, using academic research sources
- minimum of 2 substantive assessed assignments as defined by instructor, such as group projects, analyses of communication simulations, reflective papers, and/or journals.

#### **Written Assignments:**

Students are required to use appropriate academic resources

#### **Other Course Information:**

This course is a requirement for the Communication and Media Studies Area of Concentration.