Course title: Intercultural Communication

Credit number: 2/4

**Type of lessons:** seminar format

Number of seminars: 2 hours per week

Type of evaluation: written exam

Place in curriculum: 4th/spring term

Course prerequisites: none

### **Course description:**

### **Course content:**

The course is an introduction to the main directions and developments of intercultural communication with primary focus on intercultural adaptation, adjustment, and acculturation. The course offers different angles to access and problematize the concept of culture—a necessary move to understand the multiple embeddedness even of our own cultural selves and what "intercultural" may mean in different contexts. The central question, however, revolves around how effective communication can be achieved as well as what constraints shape our self-perception and our perception of others in an intercultural encounter.

## **Learning objectives:**

The course seeks to sensitize students to their own multiple cultural embeddedness and to the heterogeneity of their own culture. The course also raises the level of mindfulness in intercultural encounters and offers methods to analyze, manage, and resolve conflicts deriving from cultural differences.

## Required and optional reading

(The 3-5 most important required and optional pieces):

### **Required reading:**

- 1. Minkov, Michael. Cross-Cultural Analysis: The Science and Art of Comparing the World's Modern Societies and Their Cultures. Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2013.
- 2. Hofstede, Geert et al. *Cultures and Organizations: Software of the Mind*. New York: McGraw Hill, 2010.
- 3. Gudykunst, William B., ed. *Theorizing about Intercultural Communication*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2005.
- 4. Eade, John and Michael J. Sallnow. *Contesting the Sacred: The Anthropology of Christian Pilgrimage*. New York: Routledge, 2000.
- 5. Featherstone, Mike and Lash, Scott, eds. *Spaces of Culture: City, Nation, World.* London: Sage, 1999.

#### **Optional reading:**

1. Gilroy, Paul. *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*. London: Verso, 1993.

- 2. Appadurai, Arjun. *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996.
- 3. Clifford, James. *Routes: Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1997.
- 4. Hecht, Michael et al. *African American Communication: Exploring Identity and Culture*. Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2003.

# **Course syllabus:**

Week 1 - Concepts of culture

Week 2 - Layers of culture and cultural dimensions

Week 3 - Beyond culture

Week 4 – Transculturation-interculturation

Week 5 - Culture and identity

Week 6 - Intercultural adaptation

Week 7 - Culture and imagination

Week 8 - Effective communication

Week 9 - Communication incorporating culture

Week 10 - Adjustment and acculturation

Week 11 – Co-cultural and Muted Group Theory

Week 12 - Intercultural space as contested space

Week 13 - Stereotyping

Course instructor in charge: Dr. habil. Péter Gaál-Szabó, college associate professor

Additional course instructor(s): -