

Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication:
Paradigms, Principles, & Practice

Chapter Outline

PART I: Contemporary Text

1) Framing Intercultural Communication

- a) Introduction
 - i) Why Intercultural Communication Matters
 - ii) Overview and relationship to *Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication: Selected Readings*

- b) Definitions & Scope
 - i) Objective and Subjective culture
 - ii) Terminology
 - iii) Levels of analysis
 - iv) Levels of abstraction

- c) Conceptual Focus
 - i) Constructivist communication
 - ii) Embodied experience

2) A Paradigmatic History

- a) Positivism and the Hierarchy of Civilization
 - i) Newtonian paradigm
 - (1) Newton's physics
 - (2) Comte's positivism
 - (3) Social Darwinism
 - ii) Implications of positivism for intercultural theory
 - (1) Culture is epiphenomenal
 - (2) Culture is reified
 - (3) Culture is personalized
 - iii) Implications of positivism for intercultural practice
 - (1) Area studies
 - (2) Do's & don'ts
 - (3) Behaviorist learning

- b) Relativism and Cultural Systems
 - i) Einsteinian paradigm
 - (1) Systems theory
 - (2) Post-modernism
 - ii) Implications of relativism for intercultural theory
 - (1) Cultural relativity
 - (2) Linguistic relativism
 - (3) The "silent language" of intercultural communication
 - iii) Implications of relativism for intercultural practice
 - (1) Creating awareness of perspective
 - (2) Paradigmatic confusion

- c) Constructivism and Intercultural Adaptation
 - i) Quantum paradigm
 - (1) Observer/observed interaction
 - (2) Radical constructivism
 - ii) Implications of constructivism for intercultural theory
 - (1) Dynamic worldview
 - (2) Embodiment
 - iii) Implications for constructivism for intercultural practice
 - (1) Self-reflexivity
 - (2) Intercultural empathy

3) Cultural Context and Interaction

- a) Contextual awareness
 - i) Boundary conditions of culture
 - ii) Generalizations and stereotypes
 - iii) Cultural self-awareness & identity
- b) Interaction analysis
 - i) Language use
 - ii) Nonverbal communication behavior
 - iii) Communication style
 - iv) Perceptual/cognitive style
 - v) Cultural assumptions and values

4) Intercultural Adaptation

- a) Developing intercultural sensitivity
 - i) The ethnocentric positions
 - (1) Denial
 - (2) Defense
 - (3) Minimization
 - ii) The ethnorelative positions
 - (1) Acceptance
 - (2) Adaptation
 - (3) Integration
- b) Resolving developmental issues
 - (1) Recognizing simple diversity
 - (2) Establishing common humanity
 - (3) Generating self-awareness; resolving unity & diversity
 - (4) Moving to contextual ethicality
 - (5) Resolving adaptation to difference & authenticity
 - (6) Resolving integration of difference & integrity

5) Intercultural Practices

- a) International/Multicultural Education
 - i) The value of intercultural communication in higher education
 - ii) Linking intercultural communication to traditional liberal arts education
 - (1) The emphasis on multiple disciplinary perspectives

- (2) The emphasis on critical thinking
 - (3) The emphasis on ethical action
- b) International Exchange and Study Abroad
 - i) Turning cross-cultural contact into intercultural learning
 - (1) Strengths and limits of contact
 - (2) Intercultural learning
 - ii) Measuring intercultural learning
 - iii) Intercultural education
 - (1) Resolving Denial and Defense in pre-departure programs
 - (2) Moving beyond Minimization in study abroad
 - (3) Fostering Acceptance and Adaptation on-site
 - (4) Using re-entry programming to establish Integration
- c) Global business management/leadership
 - i) The intercultural mindset
 - (1) Investing in intercultural communication
 - (2) Everywhere is Rome
 - ii) The intercultural skillset
 - (1) Focus on worldview experience
 - (2) Using cultural generalizations, avoiding cultural stereotypes
 - (3) Leveraging learning with culture-general frameworks
 - (4) Creating strategies for mutual adaptation
 - iii) Developing intercultural sensitivity
 - (1) The disinterest of Denial
 - (2) The destructiveness of Defense
 - (3) The small world of Minimization
 - (4) Self-referential Acceptance
 - (5) Perspective-taking in Adaptation
 - (6) Creative Integration
 - iv) Conclusion

PART II: Classic Readings

1. Whorf, Science & Linguistics (10pp)
2. Hall, Hidden Differences (14pp)
3. Singer, Perceptual Approach (12pp)
4. Stewart, Cultural Values (15pp)
5. Barnlund, Global Village (16pp)
6. Barna, Stumbling Blocks (16pp)
7. Bennett, Empathy/Sympathy (23pp)
8. Adler, Cultural Identity (20pp)