INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

E58.2115  Intercultural Communication
Karina Horsti
Thursday 4:55 - 7:05
Call number: 43283 (4 credits)

Required Readings

Books:


Other articles and chapters listed below will be available on Blackboard. Additional readings will be assigned and/or posted on the blackboard site through the semester. Please take note of announcements on Blackboard regarding any new or changed readings.

Course Description
This course examines the production and reproduction of culture, nation, race and ethnicity through communicative practices. Globalization, transnational and translocal influences have profoundly complicated the idea of cultural difference in contemporary life. We will critically explore how (particularly mediatised) communication advance understandings of stereotypes, prejudice, borders, citizenship, identities, and difference. We will explore these issues through analysis of mediatised representations of minorities and majorities. The course offers an overview of discourses and policies used to manage cultural difference. We will examine firstly multiculturalism and cultural diversity and secondly recent developments that address certain minorities with uncompromising discourse of "zero cultural tolerance". Students will get tools to critically analyse identity, difference and representation in various contexts.

Requirements and Grade Structure

Paper 1: 20%; Paper 2: 25%; Final project: 40%; Participation: 15%.

You are expected to turn in all work on time. ALL components have to be completed as per schedule to receive a course grade. Scholastic integrity is
essential; please take issues of plagiarism very seriously and make references.
The essays should be 2000-2500 words and the final project 3000-3500 words.
Participation in discussions is an important element of the class. Hence, you must complete the readings assigned for each meeting. It is to your benefit to come prepared with critical notes, comments, or questions based on the readings in order to be able to participate effectively in class discussions. Regular attendance is expected.

INTRODUCTION

**Sept. 10**
**Introduction:** intercultural communication – difference, culture, communication, and social relations

**MULTICULTURALISM**

**Sept, 17**
**Multiculturalism and media**


**Sept, 24**
**Crisis of multiculturalism in Europe**


**Oct, 1**
**NO SEMINAR,** Independent work on essays
Oct, 8 (extended 4:55 pm-8:05 pm)  
**Minorities and majorities**


Film: Jalla! Jalla!, 2000, Sweden, Directed by Josef Fares.

First essay due.

Oct. 15  
**Minorities and majorities in globalization**


**DIFFERENCE AND BELONGING**

Oct, 22  
**Difference and borders of strangeness**


Oct, 29 (extended 4:55 pm-8:05 pm)  
**Identity and ethnicity**


Film: The Edge of Heaven (international English title) (original title German: Auf der anderen Seite), 2007 Turkish-German film written and directed by Fatih Akin.

**TRANSNATIONAL AND TRANSLOCAL COMMUNICATION**

Nov 5
Mediated communication and transnationalism


CITIZENSHIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Nov, 12
Citizenship, nation, and culture: Case of Sub-Saharan migrants in Europe


Documentary by Elina Hirvonen, 2007, Finland, Paradise –three journeys in this world

RACISM AND ANTI-RACISM

Nov, 19
Racist discourses: racism or racisms? Cultural racism and biological racism. Why is discourse important in analysis of racism?


Second essay due

Nov, 26 NO SEMINAR, Thanksgiving

Dec, 3, Anti-racist discourses


**Dec. 10**

**Constructing Whiteness**


Film: *Hate* (original French title *La Haine*) 1995, France. Directed by Mathieu Kassovitz.

**Dec. 15.**

**Conclusions. Final projects due.**

This project is an opportunity to elaborate upon on a topic of your choice as it relates to intercultural communication, multiculturalism, race/ethnicity, migration, racism or anti-racism in the context of media and/or communication. You can choose a case of your own choice and analyze it drawing upon theory discussed in this course. Although you are free (and encouraged) to draw upon external sources, you must refer to at least four of the reading materials provided in this course.

Some further guidelines: 1) You are free to choose any topic as long as you make a case for its relevance to our understanding of culture and identity; 2) Your analysis must be grounded in theory discussed in class; 3) In terms of external sources, you may use books, films, magazines, journals, fashion, television, advertising, internet findings, ‘the everyday’ in New York City, etc. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, and in APA style. It should be approximately 5,000 words. Upload your final projects to Blackboard by December 15 and provide some examples of your research material if it is in electronic form (links to online data, scanned documents etc).