GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Intercultural Communication: Concepts and Skills (0000191)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 3.0 **Study time 90 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	English	Incheon	lecture
			practical
			seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Santi, Mara	LW07	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Technology	3	A
Bachelor of Science in Food Technology	3	A
Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biotechnology	3	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

intercultural communication; intercultural interaction; cultural intelligence

Position of the course

The overall objective of this course is to develop students' intercultural social competence, i.e. the knowledge needed to identify and understand cultural differences, and the capability of subsequently acting in an appropriate manner. The course mainly focuses on intercultural communication skills.

Contents

The course is built around a number of case studies and provides insight in fundamental concepts such as: communication; cultural socialization; cultural intelligence; cultural values; ethnocentrism; individualistic & collectivistic cultures; uncertainty tolerant & uncertainty intolerant cultures; high-context & low-context cultures.
The course provides participants with practice and examples on the following skills and communication techniques: confrontational /vs/ non-confrontational communication; techniques for both negative and positive feedback tailored on four degrees of communication behaviors (from highly direct to highly indirect).
The course also offers a first introduction to concepts that are needed to master effective communication in intercultural professional contexts. In particular: low-power distance (egalitarian) and high-power (hierarchical) distance cultures.

Initial competences

No prior knowledge required.

Final competences

1 Have insight in key cultural factors that influence behavior and communication in different cultures.
2 Be able to read a cultural context, detect behavioral patterns different from their own, and to transfer their intercultural competencies in the intercultural situation they encounter.
3 Master the techniques practiced during classes and be able to communicate effectively in intercultural interactions.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Practical

Study material

Type: Handouts

Name: Course notes
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes
Additional information: Set of course notes (Power Point slides; Handouts; Tools)

References

Course content-related study coaching

Team coaching and individualized feedback.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Skills test, Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Participation: compulsory class attendance (at least 80%) and active participation during classes. Exceptional motivated absences can be caught up within the teaching period (individual appointments with the teacher).
Written assessment with MC and open questions: mid-course written assessment on the general concepts, the theoretical aspects, and the case studies covered during classes.
Skills test: final oral examination with simulations and discussion.
Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment
Examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form.
In the second examination period, students retake the part of the evaluation for which they did not pass or were absent (motivated absence) (transfer of passed partial marks).
The written assessment (MC and open questions) will be replaced by an oral examination to be held online.
The skills test will be held online.

Calculation of the examination mark

Written assessment with MC and open questions: 8/20
Skills test: 12/20