

Hello!

Welcome to **Intercultural Communication**! I'm very pleased you've chosen to take this course, and I'm looking forward to working with you over the semester.

Intercultural communication is one of the most fascinating and practical fields you can study. Every day we interact with people whose experiences, values, and communication styles may be different from our own. Understanding how culture shapes the way we think and communicate—how we interpret behavior, express ideas, and build relationships—can transform the way we see the world.

My own interest in this field comes from both academic study and lived experience. I spent 16 years living and working in Japan, an experience that deeply shaped my understanding of culture and communication. I'm a cross-cultural trainer and coach, helping executives prepare for international assignments as well as supporting professionals who are relocating from various countries to the United States, and I've taught communication courses at the university level in the US and Japan, and conducted corporate training programs focused on leadership, teamwork, and effective communication across cultures. I look forward to sharing my personal and professional experiences with you.

I'm also excited that **the textbook for this course is completely free for students**. The open resource we'll be using is an excellent introduction to the key ideas and research in the field. You can access it here, and also download it in PDF:

[https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Courses/Butte_College/Exploring_Intercultural_Communication_\(Grothe\)](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Courses/Butte_College/Exploring_Intercultural_Communication_(Grothe))

One of the things I love most about this subject is that it is immediately relevant to real life! Whether you plan to work internationally, collaborate with diverse teams, or simply want to better understand people whose perspectives differ from your own, the skills you develop in this course will stay with you long after the semester ends.

Most importantly, my intention for this class is to be an engaging, respectful, and thought-provoking learning community. Everyone brings unique perspectives and experiences, and sharing these will enrich our discussions and learning together.

I'm excited to begin this journey with you and look forward to getting to know each of you throughout the course.

Warm regards,
Dr. Annie Shibata