

## **Intercultural Communication : Shannon Ahrndt**

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### **Journal**

#### **All Chapter Homework**

##### **Chapter #1 :**

1. Culture is defined as the ongoing negotiation of learned and patterned beliefs, attitudes, values, and behaviors.
2. Personal identities include the components of self that are primarily intrapersonal and connected to our life experiences. Our social identities are the components of self that are derived from involvement in social groups with which we are interpersonally committed. Cultural identities are based on socially constructed categories that teach us a way of being and include expectations for social behavior or ways of acting.
3. Dominant identities historically had and currently have more resources and influence, while nondominant identities historically had and currently have less resources and influence. There are five stages to dominant identity development. They include their unexamined stage of dominant identity, acceptance, resistance, redefinition, and integration. There are four stages to nondominant identity development. They include unexamined identity, conformity, resistance and separation, and the integration stage.
4. It is normally one's differences that contribute to communication troubles. Difference matters in the study of culture and identity because learning about difference and why it

matters will help us be more competent communicators. We will also learn that we are all not the same and start to appreciate the differences of others around us.

5. The self is formed through our interactions with others and in relation to social, cultural, and political contexts is seen to be the social constructionist view of culture and identity.
6. Cultural identities discussed include race, gender, sexuality, and ability. Race didn't become a socially and culturally recognized marker until European colonial expansion in the 1500s. In 1790 there was no category for race. In 1900 racial categories included White, Black, Chinese, Japanese, and Indian. In 2000 individuals were allowed to choose more than one racial category for the first time in census history. In 2020 individuals who identified as White, Black/African American, and/or American Indian or Alaska Native were asked to specifically identify their racial origins. Gender has been constructed over the past few centuries in political and deliberate ways that have tended to favor men in terms of power. In 533 Byzantine Emperor Justinian makes adultery and same-sex sexual acts punishable by death. From 1900 to 1930 Doctors "treat" homosexuality with castration, electro-shock therapy, and incarceration in mental hospitals. In 1999 The Vermont Supreme Court ruled that the state must provide legal rights to same-sex couples. In 400 bce The Greeks made connections between biology, physiology, and actions. For example, they make a connection between epilepsy and a disorder of the mind but still consider the source to be supernatural or divine. In 1990 the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed through Congress and signed into law.
7. All of these cultural identities discussed relate to communication because, to communicate, you will need to understand and accept that people come from different identities such as race, sexuality, gender, and ability.

8. Intercultural communication is communication between people with differing cultural identities.
9. A dialectic is a relationship between two opposing concepts that constantly push and pull one another. The cultural-individual dialectic captures the interplay between patterned behaviors learned from a cultural group and individual behaviors that may be variations on or counter to those of the larger culture.
10. Intercultural communication affects interpersonal relationships in a multitude of ways. Differences in appearance that have been used to create hierarchies that privilege some and disadvantage others. Gender creates boundaries because rights between men and women have not been equal. Sexuality can create division because in the earlier years doctors would try to “treat homosexuality”. Ability can affect one's interpersonal relationships because if one is not able to do something it can hinder their day to day activities, restricting them from doing things with other people who are more able.
11. Intercultural communication competence is the ability to communicate effectively and appropriately in various cultural contexts.
12. Motivation relates to intercultural communication competence because if one is not motivated to communicate with people from different cultures, then the components of intercultural communication competence discussed next don't really matter. If one has a healthy curiosity then, in return, they will be driven towards intercultural encounters making intercultural communication competence a rewarding process. Self and other knowledge relates to intercultural communication competence because knowledge supplements motivation and is an important part of building intercultural communication competence. We will start to learn more and more about ourselves through our

interactions with others. Tolerance for uncertainty relates to intercultural communication competence because some people tend to perform better in uncertain situations than others, and intercultural encounters often bring up uncertainty.

13. Three ways to cultivate ICC are to foster attitudes that motivate us, discover knowledge that informs us, and develop skills that enable us. To foster attitudes that motivate us, we must develop a sense of wonder about culture. To cultivate ICC through discovering knowledge you will have to learn more about our cognitive style, or how we learn. To cultivate ICC through developing skills that enable us by learning the ability to empathize, accumulate cultural information, listen, resolve conflict, and manage anxiety.
14. “Thinking under the influence” refers to a reflective process that can help us hone our intercultural communication competence. To reflect building ICC using this concept we can monitor our thoughts and feelings about other people, both similar to and different from us and, in return, we will start to realize that we might be thinking based on prejudice and previous misconceptions of others around us.

## **Chapter #2 :**

1. Social categorization is the natural cognitive process by which we place individuals into social groups. This occurs when we see someone as, for example, a man versus a woman. As we start to categorize these people into social groups based on their appearance we start to see them only as social groups and not individuals. These categorizations start to influence our thoughts and behaviors because when conversation with someone from a “category” you will have preconceived notions about this person, same vice versa, creating a hostile environment.

2. Stereotypes are defined as the positive or negative beliefs that we hold about the characteristics of social groups. Stereotypes are measured through prejudice and discrimination. Prejudice is an unjustifiable negative attitude toward an outgroup or toward the members of that outgroup. Discrimination is unjustified negative behaviors toward members of outgroups based on their group membership.
3. Stereotypes influence our academic performance, the careers that we choose to follow, our experiences at work, and the amount that we are paid for the work that we do.
4. Ingroup favoritism is caused when we divide people into arbitrary groups and is the tendency to respond more positively to people from our ingroups than we do to people from outgroups. Outcomes of ingroup favoritism include a norm of favoriting your ingroup and people talking differently about their ingroups than their outgroups. The causes of ingroup favoritism is just simply because it is natural, we belong to the ingroup not the outgroup, and self-enhancement because we want to feel good about ourselves.
5. In Henri Tajfel's research small groups of highschool students were brought into a laboratory to study concerning artistic tastes. The first group is shown a series of paintings by two artists, based on which they preferred they were put into two groups. None of the boys were told the group membership of the other boys. Then, they were given a chance to allocate points to the other boys in their own group, determining how much each boy would be paid for participating. It was found that ingroup favoritism was found to occur on the basis of such arbitrary and unimportant groupings.
6. A personality dimension that influences ingroup favoritism is authoritarianism. This is a personality dimension that characterizes people who prefer things to be simple rather than complex and who tend to hold traditional and conventional values. They participate in

ingroup favoritism because they feel the need to self-enhance. Another characteristic is social dominance orientation (SDO). This is a personality variable that refers to the tendency to see and to accept inequality among different groups.

7. Prejudice and discrimination. To reduce discrimination we can practice responding in non stereotypical ways so members of other groups become better able to avoid activating their negative stereotypes on future occasions. We also become less prejudiced when we are exposed and have to think about group members who have non stereotypical characteristics.
8. Contact hypothesis is the idea that intergroup contact will reduce prejudice. This method worked, schools slowly started to integrate white and black children making it very effective for reducing segregated schools. This method will not work if the ingroup does not have information on the outgroup. Other conditions include Interdependence which is a state in which the group members depend on each other for successful performance of the group goals and Jigsaw classroom which is an approach to learning in which students from different racial or ethnic groups work together, in an interdependent way, to master material. This can work when classroom activities are divided into subgroups.

### **Chapter #3 :**

1. What Is the Inherent Nature of Human Beings?

- Evil, mixed, good

What Is the Relationship between Human Beings and the Natural World?

- Subordinate, harmont, dominant

What Is the Best Way to Think about Time?

- Past, present, future

What Is the Proper Mode of Human Activity?

- Being, becoming, doing

What Is the Ideal Relationship between the Individual and Society?

- Hierarchical, collateral, individual

2. Power Distance :

Individualism vs. collectivism : Describes how people define themselves and their relationships with others.

Masculinity vs. femininity : Describes the extent to which strong distinctions exist between mens and womens roles in society.

Uncertainty avoidance : Measures the extent to which people value predictability and view uncertainty or the unknown as threatening.

Long term vs short term orientation : Long term is associated with thrift, savings, persistence toward results, and the willingness to subordinate oneself for a purpose. Short term is associated with less savings, a preference for quick results, and unrestrained spending in response to social pressure.

Indulgence vs. self restraint : Considered a new dimension. Indulgence relates to people living in countries that score high on indulgence are more likely to value the free gratification of human desires. Self restraint relates to people in countries high on restraint are more likely to believe that gratification should be curbed and that it should be regulated by strict social norm.

3. Hofstede's theory has been criticized. This is because the initial questionnaire was developed to assess job satisfaction within IBM instead of exploring cultural values. It

seems to be hard to understand how questions framed to explore workplace attitudes could be relevant to cultural attitudes.

Critics also pointed out that Hofstede's conclusion is based on insufficient samples.

Results from only 40 countries were used, in 15 of those countries less than 200 people responded.

Critics also pointed out that there was a low possibility that IBM employees are representative of national cultures as a whole, as the surveys were only given to a certain category of workers, restricting the sample.

Finally, critics pointed out that Hofstede had been promoting research that had a largely static view of culture. The world has changed in many dramatic ways since the research began, leaving it out of date.

#### **Chapter #4 :**

1. Race is something that previously correlated with ancestral and familial ties but now has become more connected with superficial physical traits. Ethnicity is a term that describes shared culture. Which is considered to be the practices, values, and beliefs of a group.
2. A majority group (dominant group) is often substituted for the group that's in the majority.
3. A minority group (subordinate group) is any group of people who, because of their physical or cultural characteristics, are singled out from the others in the society in which they live for differential and unequal treatment, and who therefore regard themselves as objects of collective discrimination.
4. Stereotypes are oversimplified generalizations about groups of people. Stereotypes can be based on race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation. Prejudice refers to the beliefs,

thoughts, feelings, and attitudes someone holds about a group. Discrimination consists of actions against a group of people. Racism is a stronger type of prejudice used to justify the belief that one racial category is somehow superior or inferior to others.

5. Discrimination consists of actions against a group of people. An example of discrimination includes white privilege, which is the benefits people receive simply by being part of the dominant group. Another example is racial steering, in which real estate agents direct prospective homeowners toward or away from certain neighborhoods based on their race.
6. The death of Michael Brown presents racial tension. Brown was a young unarmed black man who was shot by Darren Wilson, a white police officer. Where in this altercation Wilson attested to shooting for self defense while Dorian Johnson, a friend of Brown attested that Brown was the one to run first. Brown was shot 6 times. This shooting, in return, focused attention to race related tensions in the US.
7. Sociological perspectives include functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. Coming from a view of functionalism racial and ethnic inequalities must have served an important function in order to exist as long as they have. While they look at functions and dysfunctions caused by racial inequality such as they way racism can contribute positively to a functioning society by strengthening bonds of ingroups. Conflict theory would examine the numerous past and current struggles between the White ruling class and racial and ethnic minorities. In relation to the conflict theory the intersection theory was created. This theory states that when we examine race and how it can bring us both advantages and disadvantages. Symbolic interactionism states that interactionists propose that the symbols of race, not race itself, are what lead to racism.

8. Culture of prejudice refers to the theory that prejudice is embedded in our culture. This could be considered stereotypes in movies or television shows and racist imagery in grocery stores.
9. Genocide, the deliberate annihilation of a targeted group, is the most toxic intergroup relationship. Segregation refers to the physical separation of two groups, particularly in residence, but also in workplace and social functions. Expulsion refers to a subordinate group being forced, by a dominant group, to leave a certain area or country.
10. The most known case of genocide was Hitler's attempt to exterminate all Jewish people. This was known as the Holocaust. Known cases of segregation are de jure and de facto segregation. De jure segregation refers to segregation enforced by laws, which is to be considered the apartheid movement of South Africa. Black South Africans were stripped of their civil rights and forcibly relocated to areas that segregated them physically from their White compatriots. De facto segregation refers to segregation that occurs without laws but because of other factors and cannot be abolished by any court mandate, which is simply racism. A case of expulsion would be considered when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 in 1942, after the Japanese government's attack on Pearl Harbor which authorized the establishment of internment camps for anyone with Japanese ancestry. Japanese residents were held in these camps for up to four years, despite the fact that there was never any evidence of collusion or espionage.
11. African Americans were originally brought to the US as slaves and that ultimately laid the foundation of inequality for them. African Americans have been faced with racism. Despite this hardship they have developed a strong cultural identity. White Americans

have historically been the dominant group of the US. This group benefits from these privileges to get better paying jobs and better education.

12. Conflict theories often relate to inequalities of gender, social class, education, ethnicity, and race. The rising power of Black Americans after the Civil War resulted in harsh Jim Crow laws that severely limited Black political and social power.

### **Chapter #5 :**

1. Socioeconomic status refers to a person's position in the social hierarchy and is determined by their income, wealth, occupational prestige, and educational attainment. This status relates to distribution of social opportunities and resources because the higher up the class hierarchy one is in America, the better health, educational, and professional outcomes one is likely to have.
2. When one has a low socioeconomic status they are more likely to have their health be impacted. There are more risk factors found in one's living and working conditions rather than personal factors when someone is in a low socioeconomic status. They also are unable to use healthcare as often as people of higher status and when they do, it is often of lower quality.
3. Mental health describes a level of psychological well-being or the presence/absence of a mental disorder. Mental health is understood differently among different societies, meaning what could be stressful for one might not be for another. In relation to socioeconomic status lower class people likely face more financial stress as it pertains to day-to-day sustenance and well-being, while upper class people might experience stress from the intense social pressures.

4. Couples with a lower socioeconomic status are more likely to experience financial stress which will increase likeness to divorce. In a middle class or higher class relationship they are more likely to succeed and stay together. In countries with a low socioeconomic class birth rate are generally higher while in higher socioeconomic status countries birth rates are lower. Single parent households are more common in low socioeconomic countries, these families will face greater economic challenges due to childcare costs and low household incomes.
5. Individuals who come from higher social classes have the funds and resources, such as location to attend private schools or well funded public schools, in return providing them with a better education. Schools in a low income area struggle with limited resources and funding and higher income areas which receive more funding will have more opportunities for better facilities and resources. Many colleges and universities prefer to have applicants have a tie with the school, for example, if they are an alumni. This benefits upper class students reinforcing the cycle of making it harder for lower income students to access these colleges.
6. Lower class individuals are more likely to be a part of fundamentalist groups while middle and upper class individuals normally belong to churches. Religious groups such as Jews tend to be higher class while Jehovahs Witnesses tend to have lower. Religiosity is explained as how strongly a person practices their faith. This is not directly correlated with social class. This is because people within all social classes show varying levels of religious commitment.
7. Social class impacts political participation and influence in a variety of ways. People with a higher social class are more likely to vote, donate to campaigns, and attend public

forums. The lower class is more likely to skip out on voting due to political education and time restraints. When you are in a high social class you have more influence within politics.

8. Earlier societies used exile, execution, and shame as punishment. Prisons later became more common and focused on isolation but then moved to rehabilitation. This was influenced by the Quakers. In 1967, reforms pushed for a coordinated justice system that focuses on fairness.

### **Chapter #6 :**

1. Sex refers to the anatomical and other biological differences between females and males that are determined at the moment of conception and develop in the womb and throughout childhood and adolescence. Gender refers to the social and cultural differences a society assigns to people based on their (biological) sex. Femininity refers to the cultural expectations we have of girls and women, while masculinity refers to the expectations we have of boys and men.
2. Socialization theories state that young boys and girls are taught gender norms from a young age. While, biological explanations suggest that gender roles are due to prehistoric survival needs. Biology may influence some behaviors, but cultural and socialization explanations provide a more accurate understanding of why.
3. Agents of gender socialization include peers, schools, and mass media. Peers affect gender socialization because different genders of children will play different games. Boys tend to play sports in relatively large numbers of roles while girls play smaller, cooperative games. In schools teachers treat female and male students differently in ways that the person might not even realize. Teachers tend to call on boys more often to answer

questions in class and to praise them more when they give the right answer. They also give boys more feedback about their assignments and other school work. In mass media, specifically on children's television shows, the lead characters are male while women are side characters. In television shows women are depicted as unintelligent and in commercials they are happy when they finally get a clean floor.

### **Chapter #7 :**

1. A person is sexually socialized in various ways. Specifically, religion teaches individuals about appropriate sexual behaviors based on their religion. For example, Jewish leaders encourage sexual activity within marriage to strengthen bonds and promote procreation, and Islam supports sexual activity within marriage. Though not every follower strictly follows these teachings. Laws criminalizing prostitution and rape teach that these behaviors are socially unacceptable. Media significantly influences sexual socialization by displaying and normalizing certain sexual behaviors.
2. Kinsey's study of sexuality changed public perceptions by challenging the idea that sexual orientation is fixed and permanent. Instead of labeling people as strictly heterosexual or homosexual, Kinsey introduced the Kinsey Scale, showing that sexuality exists on a fluid spectrum and can change over time.
3. Kinsey's studies changed public perceptions of sexuality by showing that sexual behavior was more varied than society had acknowledged. *Kinsey Reports* revealed that many people did not fit neatly into heterosexual or homosexual categories, introducing the idea of sexuality as a continuum. Kinsey helped make conversations about sex more acceptable and encouraged greater acceptance of diverse sexual behaviors.

4. Sexual orientation describes lasting patterns of attraction, typically labeled as heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or asexual. A static view sees orientation as fixed, while fluid sexuality recognizes that attraction can change over time. Some people prefer the term "queer" to avoid rigid labels and challenge heteronormative norms.
5. Institutional discrimination involves the state apparatus. Informal discrimination is not necessarily sanctioned by the state, but involves social pressures against LGBTQ individuals, behaviors, and identities.
6. Prior to the 1970s, most states in the United States had laws against sodomy, generally defined as any sexual contact other than heterosexual intercourse. Thus, homosexuality was essentially illegal. Stonewall Riots of 1969, sparked greater visibility and demands for change. Over time, the movement fought for protections against discrimination and marriage equality.
7. People can express their sexual desire through flirtation. Flirting is a playful activity involving verbal communication and body language by one person toward another, used to sometimes indicate an interest in a deeper relationship with the other.

**Weekly Narrative :**

**1/27 :** This previous week I had my swimming championships. At champs it was interesting to see all of the team dynamics and how they interact towards each other versus swimmers on another team. Some teams were extremely open to talking with other teams and others were very against it. It shows how each team's environment is when they are alone together.

**2/3 :** To go with last week's journal, teams that play the same sports are not the only teams coming from different cultures. I have noticed that within UNE there is a sort of clique culture with teams. Especially ones that are perceived as "better" than others.

**3/24** : I worked at Starbucks this semester and dealing with customers means that you have to deal with people from different cultures. There was this older man that came in with a heavy accent. The first time I took his order it took me a long time to understand what he was saying and what he wanted but after some time I started to remember what his order was and what he wanted. So maybe you won't be able to understand someone else's culture but you will be able to adapt to it.

**3/31** : My roommate last semester went to Semester at Sea for the Spring Semester and she texts me all of the time telling me about the new countries that she will be visiting. There are many things that she says casually that she has to do that I find compelling. Like the fact that she has to have her phone attached to her in certain countries to not get it stolen is surprising to me.

**4/7** : This past week I was recruited to play in an intramural soccer game. I got along with all of the players and had a good time but at the end of the day I suck at soccer. Meaning no matter how good you are at getting along with people that doesn't mean that you will fit in with them culturally because you are not good at the things they are good at and at the end of the day that might be the other cultures breaking point with you.

### **What to Keep in Mind :**

For the future I will keep in mind that every single person comes from a different set of cultures than yourself. You should never assume what to expect when you are entering a situation and when you assume that is when things will possibly go bad. You will come from a place of prejudice and give humans more and less than what they are valuable. So, when moving into interaction later in my life I will not have presumptions of what type of people I will interact with and never assume off of stereotypes. This will make me a person that is open to more experiences in life and with humans coming from different cultures in my life.