Syllabus – Elective Course

Course title:

International Teamwork and Communication

Credits:

6 ECTS credits

Teaching language:

English

Target students:

Students in Communication, Humanities, Social Sciences, Business.

Teacher in charge of the course:

Heide Hartmann (Clarife – Centre de Langues et Interculturel, *Université Catholique de Lille*)

COURSE PRESENTATION

Prerequisite:

Students undertaking this course should have successfully completed at least one semester at university or have equivalent experience. They must have some ability to work as a group and be able to communicate easily in English at a standard university level. In other respects, the course is intended to serve a mix of profiles and learning backgrounds for a more diverse international learning experience.

Content:

A theoretical and practical introduction to a wide range of issues concerning teamwork and communication in an international and intercultural environment. Topics covered will include:

- Multiple icebreaking activities
- The influence of communication styles in teamwork
- The influence of value systems in teamwork
- Multiple activities to actively create and increase team cohesion
- Trust building in teams: Theory + practice
- Layers of diversity in teams and inclusion as a leverage for diverse teams (Gardenswartz + Rowe)
- Challenges and opportunities in multicultural teams: Dilemma reconciliation (Fons Trompenaars)
- Stages of team development (Bruce Tuckman)
- From ethnocentric to ethnorelative behaviour (Milton Bennett)
- Analysis of team roles based on students' experiences in class (Meredith Belbin)
- Stretching your comfort zone to increase team efficiency (Andy Molinsky)
- Diversity variables that impact teamwork (Gardenswartz + Rowe)
- Simulation of working in multicultural teams
- Combination of interactive workshops, collaborative team activities, self-discovery and research
- Several group presentations, out of which two are evaluated

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Recognize the different elements that make up team culture.
- Decode elements of verbal and non-verbal communication correctly and adapt communication styles.
- Demonstrate how national and thus personal cultures are a factor that impact communication and behaviour.
- Respect and reconcile the individual characteristics that improve team efficiency.
- Identify their strengths and points to improve on, as well as their preferred roles in teams.
- Apply principles of team management in a (diverse) team.
- Interact more sensitively within (international) teams.
- Develop a capacity for culturally sensitive critical analysis.
- Analyse critical incidents in teams and manage them appropriately.
- Be able to integrate a team by demonstrating inclusive behaviour.

WORKLOAD

French contact hours = 60 minutes (in some countries/institutions, 1 contact hour = 45-50 minutes)

Form	Number of hours	Comments
Face-to-face, in-class, on-site learning	39 hours	13 sessions of 3 hours.
Approximate personal work/homework	15 hours	
Student total workload	**54 hours**	

EDUCATIONAL METHODS

Lecture, interactive workshops, collaborative teamwork, research and project work, simulation, debates, case studies, team presentations.

RESOURCES

All course materials will be supplied in class. Students will need their computer for the course.

ASSESSMENT

Form	Number	Hours	Comments
Continuous assessment (50%)	1	20 minutes	Group mark: Team presentation.
Final exam (50%)	1	30 minutes	Group mark: Team video assignment.

This syllabus is based on information available at the time of publication (November 2026). Changes may occur.

For updated information about course content, please contact us: lilleprograms@univ-catholille.fr