Intercultural Training

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TIMELINE

1. Critical Cultural Awareness
2. Attitudes
3. Knowledge
4. Skills of Discovery and Interaction
5. Skills of Interpreting and Relating
6. Career Guidance
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Critical Cultural Awareness
Warm up

Reflect: Cultural identity and background

Discuss & share: Why culture is important to you & what aspects of culture make you proud?

Think: How cultural competency is important in your personal and professional lives?

Example: Common cultural misunderstandings or conflicts

Brainstorm: Strategies for avoiding or resolving conflicts
Activity 1

Two groups

Team 1: List top ten popular foods in your culture

Team 2: List top ten popular foods in the US

Change Teams

Share and present:
- Similarities and differences
- How these reflect the cultural differences and values
Role Swapping
Activity 2

One day, when you wake up and find that you have become an American, and then find out that you are going to live and study in China...

- What other factors should be considered when in a new cultural environment?
- What strategies can be employed to effectively integrate into the local culture and foster positive relationships with community members?
- How can American culture be promoted in a culturally sensitive and respectful manner to maximize its impact and effectiveness in China?
Reflection 1

- Reflect on your own cultural background and identify how it has influenced their perceptions of US culture.

- Let us think about our own cultural assumptions and biases, and consider how they can develop a more nuanced and open-minded perspective.
Reflection 2

- Create a SIX-word memoir on the cultural differences between the United States and China.

- Write a sentence to express what you consider to be critical culture awareness.
02

Attitudes
Warm-up

What is curiosity in your minds?

- What does curiosity look like?
- What does curiosity sound like?
- What does curiosity feel like?

- What are people's attitudes toward curiosity in China?
- What are people's attitudes toward curiosity in the United States?
How do students demonstrate their curiosity in social situations?

In China, how would students present their curiosity in social situations?

How can students show their curiosity in social situations in the United States?

Social situations:
1. Attending a party
2. Meeting someone for the first time
3. Going on a date
4. Networking with professionals in your field
5. Going to a job fair or career expo
6. Attending a sports event or game
7. Volunteering in the community
Activity 1

Play a video clip of an American traveler in China who shows an open attitude and great interest in local food and culture.

- **Brainstorming** through Padlet: Share your impressions of American food

- **Discussion** questions:
  1. Do you think your impressions of American food culture are stereotyped or biased?
  2. What are the reasons and motivations that shape American food culture?
  3. Are you familiar with typical Chinese food in the United States?
  4. What are the differences between Chinese food in the United States and in China?
  5. What are the reasons behind the adapted Chinese food in the United States?
Think Pair Share

What differences do you find between Chinese and American cultures when it comes to asking questions as a foreign resident?

Create a list of cultural aspects that are unique to each culture in customs, traditions, and social norms.

Example: how to do Chinese and American people behave differently in the elevator?
Let us talk about the values and beliefs of the host culture from different perspectives in the real world.

- In what ways has this learning experience influenced your attitudes and values towards the culture?
- What specific aspects of the culture were you curious to learn about during this experience? Did you develop a deeper understanding of these aspects?
- Can you identify any specific instances where you were able to see your own values, beliefs, or behaviors from an outsider's perspective? How did this realization affect your understanding of the culture?
Common pronunciation mistakes

- What does self-awareness look like with regards to mispronouncing Western names?
- Has your name been mispronounced? How did you feel about it?

Activity 1

Do you speak the dialect?

Why there are different dialects or accents?

Are there dialects in different parts of the United States?
Activity 1

Do you know AAVE?

How can we understand and respect others’ accents?

Historical and cultural significance of AAVE

African American Vernacular English
Former Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd is a long time scholar of China. In his new book, The Avoidable War, he argues that it is cultural misunderstanding and historical grievance which make Chinese-US relations so volatile. Rana Mitter asks him how he sees China's current positioning of itself on the world stage. We hear why it is that the ideas of Hegel and not Kant resonate in Chinese politics. And, in the spirit of better understanding the rich artistic traditions and cultural history of China, we hear from three researchers about the latest thinking on Hong Kong ink art, representations of sleep, Chinese identity and contemporary classical music and insomnia from the cultural revolution to the present day.
How do linguistic and cultural differences influence negotiations and diplomacy between different countries, particularly in the case of China and the US?

How can the study of sociolinguistics help to bridge the gap between different cultures and promote better understanding between countries?

How can language be used as a tool of diplomacy and conflict resolution in international relations, particularly in the context of China and the US?
Reflection

- What specific language and intercultural communication skills did you work on during this experience? How did you improve in these areas?

- How has this experience helped you to become more aware of the differences in communication styles and language use across different cultures?
Skills of Discovery and Interaction
Warm up

- Have you ever found yourself pretending to laugh even when you didn't understand the joke?
- Do you believe there are differences between the humor of Chinese and American cultures?
Li Ming, a Chinese international graduate student in the program of computer science. It is Li Ming’s first year in the United States and he has made efforts to make friends with American students on campus. Recently, Li Ming encountered some difficulties and came to you for help.

"Last weekend one of my American friends, Charlie, in the same program invited me to watch a comedy show in New York. I love Chinese talk shows and short sketches, you know, and I thought it was basically the same thing, except in different languages. The show turned out to be a nightmare for me. I just could not catch the humor. But I can tell Charlie really enjoyed it and laughed a lot during the show. He kept talking about it throughout the following week. Each time I had nothing to say or respond to and was forced to stay silent. I think Charlie has noticed that.
Activity 2

Collaborate with a partner to analyze the jokes and punchlines presented in the video clip, and conduct brief research in the classroom to uncover the cultural origins and shared values behind them.

Afterward, reconvene with the whole class to share your findings, followed by a short presentation by the teacher on common themes and elements in Chinese crosstalks and sketches.
Reflection

- Can you identify specific knowledge, attitudes, or skills that you have developed or improved through this experience? How have you used these in real-time communication and interaction?

- How has this experience helped you to understand the cultural context of communication and interact more effectively with people from different cultures?

- Can you identify any challenges or obstacles you faced in acquiring new cultural knowledge or applying it in real-time communication? How did you overcome these challenges?
Skills of Interpreting and Relating
Mindfulness: Derived from Eastern contemplative traditions, mindfulness involves attending to the present in a sustained and receptive fashion.

Mindfulness Exercise and Warm-up

1. Practice of sitting meditation
2. Sharing feelings guided by questions after the practice
   
   A. Do you think sitting meditation is easy to carry out?
   B. Would you like to make it one of your daily practices?
Scenario A:

A professor in the US advised her student not to speak Chinese loudly in public, which the Chinese student perceived as an act of racism.

- What is your opinion on this issue?
- What are the cultural variations at play in this situation?
- What steps can be taken to resolve this cultural misunderstanding?
Activity 1

Scenario B:

A professor sent a gentle reminder to one of her students, advising them to be mindful of plagiarism in their writing assignment. The professor also warned the student that this would be their last warning before reporting them to the student affairs office. The student is upset and feels misunderstood, as they had used a personal tutor to edit their writing.

- How can this issue be resolved through mediation?
- What are the potential outcomes of this issue?
- How can effective communication be established between both parties?
Activity 2

1. Did this documentary resonate with you?

2. In what ways has this learning experience improved your ability to interpret and relate to documents from different cultures?

3. Can you identify specific examples of how your existing knowledge of your own culture and the culture of others has helped you to interpret or relate to documents in this class?

4. Can you identify any challenges or obstacles you faced when interpreting or relating to documents from different cultures? How did you overcome these challenges?

Being Asian in America
Reflection

● How has this experience improved your language proficiency and cultural awareness, and how has this impacted your ability to interpret and relate to documents across different cultures?

● What steps can you take to continue to develop your skills in interpreting and relating to documents from different cultures, and how can you apply these skills in your academic or professional pursuits?
Group discussion

Identify the various offices available on campus

Have you ever worked with the international students center, student affair office, or DEI office?
Activity 1

Discuss about how to reach out and search for help from those offices.

What is intercultural communication in networking?

Guest speakers: Melanie Gao & Carol Guan from previous ITGL Cohort
1. Awareness of cultural differences: Interacting with people from different cultures requires an understanding of cultural differences. This includes knowledge of different communication styles, customs, values, and social norms.

2. Active listening: Effective communication in intercultural networking involves active listening. This means paying attention to not only what is said but also how it is said, and being open to different perspectives.

3. Use of appropriate language: The use of appropriate language is crucial in intercultural communication. Avoid using jargon or slang that may be unfamiliar to people from different cultures, and use clear, concise language.

4. Respect for diversity: Respect for diversity is key in intercultural networking. This means showing respect for different cultural beliefs, customs, and practices.

5. Building relationships: Networking involves building relationships, and intercultural networking is no different. Building trust and rapport is essential in intercultural communication.

6. Flexibility: Being flexible and adaptable is important in intercultural networking. This means being open to different communication styles and adjusting your own style to fit the situation.
Different Types of Resume

01 CV

02 Traditional Resume

03 Teaching Resume

04 Counseling Resume
Activity 2

Role-play with HR Professionals:

- Conducting a job interview
- Giving feedback on a performance review
- Resolving a workplace conflict

Roles:

- Job applicant
- HR manager
- Coworker
Reflection

- In what ways has this course improve your intercultural communication skills and understanding of Western business practices?
- What new strategies have you learned for networking and job searching in a different cultural context?
THANKS!

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
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