Lecture Notes and Practical Session Material: Fundamentals of Intercultural Communication Theory

# Week 1: Lecture 1 - Intercultural Communication as a Theoretical and Applied Discipline

Objective: To introduce students to the scope of intercultural communication as a discipline.

Lecture Summary:
- Definition of intercultural communication.
- The history and development of intercultural communication as a field of study.
- Importance of intercultural communication in a globalized world.
- Application of intercultural communication in professional, social, and political contexts.

Key Terms: Intercultural communication, cross-cultural communication, global communication, cultural adaptation.

Case Study/Examples: Discuss real-world examples of intercultural miscommunication and its impact in diplomatic, business, or educational settings.

Practical Session Activity:
- In pairs, students will analyze a given intercultural communication scenario and identify where communication broke down due to cultural differences. They will present their analysis and propose solutions to avoid such misunderstandings in the future.

# Week 2: Lecture 2 - The Concept of Culture

Objective: To explore the definition and significance of culture in communication.

Lecture Summary:
- What is culture? Explore definitions by different scholars (e.g., Hofstede, Hall, and Ting-Toomey).
- The components of culture (values, beliefs, norms, symbols, and practices).
- How culture shapes perception and communication.
- Differences between high-context and low-context cultures (Hall's theory).

Key Terms: Culture, cultural values, high-context communication, low-context communication, cultural dimensions.

Case Study/Examples: Compare communication styles in high-context cultures (e.g., Japan) versus low-context cultures (e.g., the USA).

Practical Session Activity:
- Students will create a short presentation comparing the definitions of culture from at least two scholars. They will then discuss how these definitions influence intercultural communication in their specific contexts (e.g., business, education).

# Week 3: Lecture 3 - The Concept of Communication

Objective: To understand the fundamental aspects of communication in intercultural contexts.

Lecture Summary:
- Definition of communication and its basic components (sender, receiver, message, medium).
- The role of verbal and non-verbal communication.
- Barriers to effective communication in cross-cultural settings.

Key Terms: Sender, receiver, message, medium, feedback, noise.

Case Study/Examples: Examine examples where communication barriers have caused misunderstandings in intercultural environments.

Practical Session Activity:
- Role-play activity where students practice effective communication strategies in intercultural settings, highlighting the impact of verbal and non-verbal cues.

# Week 4: Lecture 4 - Psychological Aspects of Communication

Objective: To explore the psychological elements that influence intercultural communication.

Lecture Summary:
- Perception and cognition in communication.
- Stereotypes, biases, and their effects on communication.
- How emotions and psychological states impact intercultural interactions.

Key Terms: Perception, cognition, stereotype, bias, emotional intelligence.

Case Study/Examples: Analyze the psychological dynamics in intercultural interactions where stereotyping and biases affected the outcomes.

Practical Session Activity:
- Group discussion on how biases can be minimized during intercultural communication, with students sharing personal experiences or hypothetical scenarios.