

IS 406 FINAL PAPER

For your final paper, please write a typed, double-spaced 5-7 page paper in response to the ideas listed below. This paper must have at least 6 citations from 4 different sources. It should be written using APA style with a Title Page, Table of Contents, Topic sub-headings and a Reference page. The paper is worth 80 points distributed as follows:

| | |
|----|---|
| 20 | Introduction & statement of the problem to be discussed |
| 28 | Supporting arguments |
| 20 | Conclusion |
| 12 | Style & grammar |

As members of various groups, we bring with us the influence of our own cultures and learn the culture of the group in order to survive. Select an organization or group of which you are a member. Describe the culture of that group. Points you may wish to consider are:

1. How much diversity is there in the group? How are the differences managed? What do you contribute to the group? How do the individuals or groups of individuals contribute to the group?
2. What norms have been established? What happens to group members who break norms?
3. How much interaction is there with the outside environment? How open is the group to change? How is change managed?
4. What role does leadership play in the group? What is the power structure?
5. What characteristics would a member need to possess to be very successful in this group?
6. What is the communication structure in this organization? What are the strengths and weaknesses? Discuss both formal and informal channels.
7. What is the code of ethics in this group?
8. How are conflicts handled?

Please focus on some but not all of these issues and include in your conclusion suggestions for improvement.

You also may write on a topic of your own choosing as long as it relates to either organizational or intercultural communication (or both).

The paper is due the last night of class.

OTHER OPTIONS

1. Consider an organization you know well. Discuss instances within that organization in which you have observed each of the functions communication plays in an organization (see p. 65, Andrews & Baird).
2. Select an organization with which you are very familiar. Describe how the attraction factor is shaped within that organization; that is, how do proximity, attractiveness, and so on play a role in interpersonal attraction there? (see p.121. A&B).
3. Choose an organization that you know well. How does that organization's physical environment show status differences? How does it control who talks to whom?
4. Suggest principles related to the dominance dimension of human relationships that you might use to be a better supervisor (see p. 122, A&B).
5. Choose an organization and arrange for an interview with someone in a management position. As you interview this individual, address some of these issues:
 - a. In what ways has this organization experienced conflict?
 - b. What role, if any, has the union played in conflicts that have occurred?
 - c. What kinds of groups or departments within the organization experience the most conflict? Why?
 - d. What approaches to resolving conflicts have been tried? To what extent have they been successful?
 - e. Is the conflict beneficial in any way? If so, how? If not, why not?
 - f. What are some different techniques of conflict resolution that might yet be tried?

You may write on a topic of your own choosing as long as it relates to either organizational or intercultural communication (or both).

The paper is due the last night of class.