

# INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom-left towards the top-right, located in the lower right quadrant of the image.

- ▶ **Education is widely perceived to be an important avenue for advancement in society.**
- ▶ **Our education necessarily frames our worldviews and our particular ways of knowing.**

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF  
EDUCATION?**

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, set against the blue background.

- ▶ **The culture clash over **learning styles** (the different ways that students learn in different cultures) and**
- ▶ **teaching styles** (the styles that instructors use to teach) is common as students increasingly travel to study in other cultures.

## **ROLES FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS**

- ▶ **Notions of “fair” and “unfair” are culturally embedded as well. Our grading system is far from universal. Different cultures use different ways of evaluating student work.**

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENT IS NOT UNIFORM AROUND THE WORLD.**

- ▶ **When you think about grades, how important are they?**
- ▶ **Should grades be private or public information? Different cultures feel differently about grades and you should not assume that everywhere is the same.**
- ▶ **How important are grades?**
- ▶ **What do they mean in our culture? What do your grades communicate to others?**
- ▶ **Grading scales differ around the world and it is not always easy to know what a particular grade means.**

## **GRADING AND POWER**

- ▶ **Students and instructors meet in the classroom, cultural differences can lead to misunderstandings in communication.**
- ▶ **First, it is important to recognize that the educational process reflects cultural power.**
- ▶ **Second, it is important to recognize that the structure of educational institutions, as opposed to the people in them, often plays a significant role in the way that power functions.**

## **SUMMARY**

- ▶ **Education professor William Tierney suggests, “Our colleges and universities need to be noisier—in the sense that honest dialogue that confronts differences is good. To be sure, we must not drown out other voices. . . . We must work harder at developing dialogues of respect.”**

