Cross-cultural exam

Short answers 40%
(7 themes: identity gaps, ultimate attribution error, Mackintosh notion of privilege, communication accommodation theory - good/bad accommodation, and high/low contact cultures interacting, face negotiation theory - talk through the complications of conflict in different cultures, chronemics - issues of time management)

These themes may be different year to year but loosely revolve around the same topics.

Only have to answer 4 of the themes.

**Theme 1: Identity gaps**
Describe what is meant by an “identity gap” and give an example of a potential consequence of experiencing an identity gap.

Identity gaps: These occur when there is an imperfect alignment between identity frames. Personal/enacted gaps can occur from blind spots, or conscious effort.

When a personal enacted gap is mindfully formed, this involves closeting an identity that may bring persecution by passing: thus a co-cultural sexual/religious/ethnic ID is masked. -Although this is intended to be self-protective it carries documented risks such as self-alienation (Hochschild), poorer physical health (Cole et al) & depression (Jack).

With reference to Hecht’s Communicative theory of identity, describe what is meant by an “identity gap” and give an example of a potential consequence of experiencing an identity gap.

**Theme 2: Ultimate attribution error**
The ultimate attribution error is a group-level attribution error that offers an explanation for how one person views different causes of negative and positive behaviour in ingroup and outgroup members.

**Theme 4: Communication accommodation theory (good/bad accommodation)**

Distinguish between what is meant by the ideas of attunement, over-accommodation, and under-accommodation. Give an example of each in the context of a conversation between a native English student and a foreign exchange student whose first language is not English.
**Communication accommodation theory** (CAT) is a theory of communication developed by Howard Giles. It argues, "**When people interact they adjust their speech, their vocal patterns and their gestures, to accommodate to others**". Even if non-native speakers can get the hang of slang, communication accommodation theory suggests there’s an optimal use-level of slang by outsiders.

**CAT strategies:**

- **Convergence:** refers to the strategies through which individuals adapt to each other’s communicative behaviours, in order to reduce these social differences.
- **Divergence:** refers to the instances in which individual’s accentuate/exaggerate the speech and non-verbal differences between themselves and their interlocutors.
- **Exigence:** s an issue, problem, or situation that causes or prompts someone to write or speak.
- **Maintenance:**

**Malevolence:** the state or condition of being malevolent; hostility.

**Theme 5: high/low contact cultures interacting**

Contact cultures feature greater proximity, direct gaze, mirrored posture, louder conversation and more touch. Non-contact cultures don’t.

Boundary management: Attitudes towards crowds and privacy vary dramatically. Depending on the culture, different forms of communication can be taken completely out of context.

**Proxemics:** At stake is an issue of boundary regulation. We are territorial creatures who often find things threatening. Violations of norms may eliminate conversation entirely. We respond strongly, and rapidly from attributes for violations.

**Theme 6: Face-negotiation theory (the complications of conflict in different cultures)**

Describe Ting-Toomey’s face negotiation theory.

Describe two of the different orientations to conflict proposed by Mitchell Hammer (and described in Martin & Nakayama). Discuss how persons embodying these two orientations might experience challenges in resolving differences as a consequence of their different orientations to conflict

Face represents an individual’s claimed positive image, and its concept relevant across all cultures. It has 2 elements both of which reflect things an individual wants.
Positive face reflects the desire to be appreciated and approved of. Negative face reflects the desire to be autonomous (independent, self-directed).

The Face Negotiation Theory (FNT) is about how individual's from different cultures work through conflict risen in communication. FNT can be how a person reacts passively or aggressively to conflict.

Essays: 60%
5 choices: Answer 2

1- Microaggressions: describe, explain, whether it’s a useful concept or is problematic.

Microaggressions are the everyday verbal, non-verbal and environmental slights, snubs or insults, whether intentional or unintentional that communicate hostile and negative messages to target persons based solely upon their marginalized group membership.

With microaggressions some people think that it is just imagining a problem where there is none - being hyper-sensitive etc.) And then in regards to being useful, microaggressions help identify implicit racism or slights when they’re not so obvious or to recognise the underlying mindset (that are often racist perhaps) and then addressing them.

2- Ting-Toomy & Chung grid of conflict: 4 possible styles. Describe 2 styles and discuss how people who have the styles would struggle to deal with conflict.

4 possible styles: discussion, accommodation, dynamic and engagement. Accommodation is the use of ambiguity, silence or avoidance sacrificing face/resources a fair price for keeping peace. Use of saves face, not weakness. Emotional restraint. Dynamic manages to be indirect yet expressive. It’s the use of colorful language, metaphors and stories. Emotional expressiveness.

3- Pro’s and cons of intimate intercultural relationships.

With reference to concepts and theories examined in class and in the course textbook, discuss the rewards and challenges associated with forming intimate (i.e., romantic) relationships with persons who are culturally different.

With respect to forming intimate relationships, what challenges (interactional, communicative, and relational) might be experienced by a