Intercultural Communication Styles

**Low context**
Meaning is conveyed through explicit statements made directly to the people involved, with little reliance on contextual factors such as situation and timing. Sender assumes responsibility for communicating clearly.

**High context**
Meaning is conveyed by suggestion, implication, nonverbal behavior, and other contextual cues. The receiver or interpreter of the message assumes responsibility to infer the meanings of a message.

**Linear**
Discussion is conducted in a straight line, developing causal connections among sub points toward an end point, stated explicitly. Low reliance on context.

**Circular**
Discussion is conducted in a circular movement, developing context around the main point, which is often left unstated. High reliance on context.

**Direct**
The speakers intentions are obvious, and the content of the speech is enunciated in a forthright voice.

**Indirect**
This features statements that tend to camouflage the speaker’s actual intentions and are carried out with a more nuanced tone of voice.

**Abstract**
Issues are best understood through theories, principles, and data, with emphasis on the general rather than the specific.

**Concrete**
Issues are best understood through stories, metaphors, allegories, and examples, with emphasis on the specific rather than the general. Animated, Expressive, vital, may have more tonal variations, different rhythms

**Informal**
Emphasizes the importance of informality, casualness, and role suspension, Reflects perceptions of a low level of power distance

**Formal**
This is a role centered verbal mode that emphasizes formality and large power distance

**Self-enhancement**
This verbal style emphasizes the importance of promoting one’s accomplishments and abilities.

**Self-effacement**
This emphasizes the importance of humbling oneself via verbal restraints, hesitations, modest talk, and the use of self-deprecation concerning one’s effort or performance.

**Silence**
Isn’t golden – a void to be filled. Empty pause.

**Silence**
Holds strong contextual meaning, indicates reflection. Pregnant pause.