

## CMST 3330 INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Department of Languages, Philosophy, and Communication Studies  
Section: 004  
Room: Old Main 301

FALL 2018

MWF: 9:30-10:20 AM

**Instructor:** Dr. Sidi Becar Meyara  
**Email:** sidi.meyara@usu.edu

**Office:** Lundberg 202  
**Office Hours:** MW: 11:00 AM–1:00 PM  
**Also available by appointment.**

Most people are other people.

Oscar Wilde, British Novelist and Playwright

...we should learn about other people in other places, take an interest in their civilizations, their arguments, their errors, their achievements, not because that will bring us to agreement, but because it will help us get used to one another.

Kwame Anthony Appiah, Ghanaian philosopher

### **Required Texts:**

Hall, B. J. (2005). *Among Cultures: The Challenge of Communication* (3rd ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

\*\*Other required weekly readings will be available on the CANVAS site. Check the syllabus.

### **Course Description/Objectives**

In a world that has increasingly become interconnected, we are prone to come in contact with individuals/groups from different cultural backgrounds. While this provides the possibility for developing intercultural relationships, it has the potential for creating possibilities for misunderstanding and conflict. Throughout this course, we will learn about the role that culture plays in influencing our communication practices. Understanding the role culture plays will provide some insight into why we do the things we do as well as provide some new perspective into why others are the way they are. The goal of this class is to expose you to different theoretical issues of importance to intercultural communication. My hope is that this course will help you improve as intercultural communicators who appreciate cultural differences and are able to bridge them.

### **COURSE POLICIES**

**Written Assignment Format:** All written assignments will be in typed in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins on all sides of the document. No extra spacing should be added between paragraphs or before or after lines. Everyone is expected to follow APA 6<sup>th</sup> edition manual (unless otherwise negotiated) when citing sources for your written assignments.

### **Late Work/Missed Assignments:**

- Late work will not be accepted unless a valid reason is provided. When accepted, you may receive a 5-point deduction per 24 hours for up to 5 days after the due date (including weekends). No papers will be accepted beyond 5 days and will result in a zero on that assignment.
- If you miss **any assignment** due date because of a documented illness or emergency situation, you **MUST** provide me with an official note (doctor, police, etc.) justifying why you were not able to make the due date. All notes must be accompanied by a contact number, as this number will be called to verify your illness or emergency.

### **Special Needs and Accommodations**

Disability Resource Center at Utah State University will work with students needing additional accommodations to academically succeed in this class. Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, (435)797-2444 voice, (435)797-0740 TTY, (435)797-2444 VP, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible.

### **24/7 Rule Regarding Assignment and Grade Discussions**

You are encouraged to discuss assignments and course grades with me frequently to assess your progress throughout the semester and so we can discuss ways to achieve your goals in this course. In general, grades will not be discussed via email or phone. If you should have a question or complaint regarding a grade, please wait 24 hours before bringing it to my attention. After 24 hours, call or email me with a brief description of your concern. As a general approach, please review any assignment feedback in detail and prepare specific questions and concerns you have before our meeting. In essence, develop your argument before you set up the meeting. You must, however, address the issue within one week of receiving the grade/feedback. After one week, the issue is no longer open for discussion (this time will obviously be truncated for the end of semester assignments). This policy ensures that you think through the points you wish to make, review feedback against assignment criteria, and make improvements for future assignments.

### **Attendance and Participation**

You are required to attend class and participate in different activities with your peers. Failure to miss class will greatly affect your participation grade for both the class and group. You have two excused absences that you can use for family emergencies. Any subsequent absences will result in lowering your participation grade 4 points. You should also know that being late twice will count as an absence. This will come from your class participation. You will receive a ZERO = for anything done in your absence unless your absence is excused (a result of a documented illness or a university sponsored travel).

### **Professionalism**

Professionalism includes respecting others' opinions, being respectful to those who are speaking during lectures and discussions. It also includes working together in a spirit of cooperation. This is an extremely interactive class, and it is important that we all respect one another, participate to

the best of our abilities, and learn to feel comfortable with one another. I will not allow you to be disrespectful toward others.

**Class conduct:**

- No student is permitted to create a threatening, intimidating, or harassing environment in this course. Classroom civility is a part of the Student Code, and infractions will be pursued through the Student Conduct Coordinator. This course will be conducted in a safe and tolerant environment, and any person who detracts from that environment will be first given a verbal warning about the behavior. If said behavior persists, the student will be asked to leave the class and will not be able to return until the case is settled to the satisfaction of the professor.
- Cellular phones and other electronics are not to be utilized during class time as they distract both the user and the rest of the class. Laptops are permitted for note taking and collaboration, so you should not have your laptop open unless it is time to take notes.

***COURSE REQUIREMENTS: ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE THROUGH CANVAS BY 11:59 PM ON THEIR DUE DATE.***

1) Major Assignments: There will be **TWO** major assignments due this semester.

Descriptions of the major writing assignments are provided in the Appendix at the bottom of this document and will be discussed in class.

2) Reflection Papers: You are required to complete **FIVE** one-page, single-spaced, and typed reflection papers. In these papers, you will synthesize the readings for that week by discussing how they relate to one another and to concepts and theories discussed in this class. You are required to use concepts and theories from the class to help explain your evaluations and analyses. You may relate the readings and class concepts back to events and happenings you are exposed to in the real world, to personal experiences, or to information you have learned in other classes. A description of this assignment is found on canvas.

3) Discussion Leader: You will be required to serve as the discussion leader on **TWO** different occasions throughout this semester. You will lead your discussion on the readings for that week. These discussions should be lively and last between 30 – 35 minutes. You will lead the discussion in a group of 4 – 6 students. As a discussion leader, you will write a 1-2 paragraphs synthesizing the readings and highlighting the main arguments. On the same document, you will come up with a list of open-ended questions (5-6 questions to ask of your group) in order to help you lead a discussion.

On a different page, you will also need to create a discussion activity to do with your group and provide a full description of that activity. The activity should help student discuss the issues from the readings. It is your job to keep the discussion going and your group members involved in the discussion. You will be graded based on your ability to concisely synthesize the materials, ask open-ended questions, and keep the discussion lively. Please note that what you write for your discussion leadership assignment does not count your regular reflection papers. Also, note that a discussant does not dominate the conversation, but rather help students consider new perspectives and distinct ways of thinking about the subject matter.

NOTE: BE SURE TO TURN IN YOUR DISCUSSION DOCUMENT ON CANVAS BEFORE CLASS. BRING ANOTHER COPY TO CLASS AS A REFERENCE.

4) *Class participation*: Because this is a 3000-level class, a high level of individual participation is expected of each student. As you cannot participate if you are not in class, regular attendance is therefore vital to your overall success in this course. Please arrive *on time* having already completed the assigned reading, ready to engage in our discussion of the materials.

NOTE: Please see Attendance and Participation for more information on how your participation grade will be calculated.

5) *Examinations*: There are **TWO** examinations this semester. Both exams will cover assigned readings and lectures. Early exams or make-up exams rarely will be given, and only to students who have unavoidable conflicts—that can be documented—with the exam time. The exams will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

### Grading System

***Major Assignments:***

Cultural Immersion Project 80 Points

***Reflection Papers:***

5 Reflection Papers @ 20 points each 100 Points

***Exams:***

Midterm 80 Points

Final 80 Points

***Discussion Leadership 2 @ 30 points each*** 60 points

***Participation*** 40 Points

**Total:** 440 points

**The following grading scale will be used in the course:**

A = 93%-100%	A- = 90%-92%	
B+ = 87%-89%	B = 83%-86%	B- = 80%-82%
C+ = 77%-79%	C = 73%-76%	C- = 70%-72%
D+ = 67%-69%	D = 63%-66%	D- = 60%-62%

## **Appendix A: Major Assignments**

**Cultural Immersion Project:** For this project, I want you to find someone from a different cultural background. Over the course of 4 weeks, I want you to meet up with this person at least 3 different times and conduct a 30 – 45 min interview (every time you meet them) to find out about their culture. For these interviews, you should focus on 3 different themes/areas. For example, you may choose to focus on areas such as worldviews, identity, verbal communication, non-verbal communication. Your questions should be guided by concepts from our readings.

### **Interview Protocol (20 points):**

- You will create an interview protocol and show it to me for approval. Your interview protocol should include your three areas of focus, the questions you intend to ask, and the order in which you intend to ask them.

### **Interview Notes: (20 points):**

- When you meet your interviewee, you will keep detailed notes of your interview. You should have a separate set of notes for every visit. These notes will be judged based on organization and quality. Make sure you do not lose or misplace your notes from these interviews. This will negatively affect your grade.

### **Cultural Immersion Presentation (40 points):**

- In class, you will give a 7-10 minutes presentation on the culture you explored. During this presentation, you will provide a brief overview of what you did and what you have learned about this culture. Your presentation should accomplish the following:
  - Provide a brief overview of your interviewee's background
  - Highlight the areas you focused on and why
  - Show the conclusions you have drawn from this interview
  - Explain the implications of your findings for us as students of intercultural communication

Note: You will submit all your materials for the cultural immersion project (your interview protocol, your interview notes, and your PowerPoint) together on canvas.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule provides an outline for our time together this semester. The schedule is displayed by week and day below. Please note that this schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Due * On CANVAS	Assignments Due
1	Aug 27 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to the Course		
	Aug 29 <sup>th</sup>	Difference Matters	*Allen- Difference Matters	
	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Continued ...</i>		
2	Sep 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>NO CLASS - LABOR DAY</b>	
	Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>	Intercultural Communication	Textbook Ch.1	
	Sept 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Immersion Project Schedule Discussions</b>		* <i>Reflection #1</i>
3	Sept 10 <sup>th</sup>	Communication and Culture	Textbook Ch. 2 *American Worldviews	
	Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Continued ...</i>		
	Sept 14 <sup>th</sup>			* Discussion Leader
4	Sept 17 <sup>th</sup>	Learning and Adaptation	Textbook Ch. 3 *Wolf-Heart of Whiteness	
	Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Continued ...</i>		
	Sept 21 <sup>st</sup>			* Discussion Leader * <i>Reflection #2</i>
5	Sept 24 <sup>th</sup>	Culture and Identity	Textbook Ch. 4 *Third Culture Kids	
	Sept 26 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Continued ...</i>		* Discussion Leader
	Sept 28 <sup>th</sup>		<b>NO CLASS – PROJECT DAY</b>	
6	Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	Verbal Communication	Textbook Ch. 5 *Ellis&Moaz – Cultural Codes	
	Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>			* Discussion Leader

	Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MIDTERM REVIEW</b>		
7	Oct 8 <sup>th</sup>	Nonverbal Communication	Textbook Ch. 6 *Bond-Emotions in China	
	Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>			* Discussion Leader
	Oct 12 <sup>th</sup>		<b><u>MIDTERM EXAM</u></b>	
8	Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	Stereotypes, Ethnocentrism and Prejudice	Textbook Ch. 7 *Mheiri-Muslims & Stereotypes	
	Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>		<b>NO CLASS – FINISH YOUR PROJECT</b>	* <i>Reflection #3</i>
	Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FALL BREAK</b>	<b>NO CLASS – FALL BREAK</b>	
9	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b><i>CULTURAL IMMERSION-PRESENTATION</i></b>	<b>PRESENTATION DAY</b>	SEE SCHEDULE ON CANVAS  * <i>Immersion Project</i>
	Oct 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>CULTURAL IMMERSION-PRESENTATION</i></b>	<b>PRESENTATION DAY</b>	SEE SCHEDULE ON CANVAS
	Oct 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>CULTURAL IMMERSION-PRESENTATION</i></b>	<b>PRESENTATION DAY</b>	SEE SCHEDULE ON CANVAS
10	Oct 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>CULTURAL IMMERSION-PRESENTATION</i></b>	<b>PRESENTATION DAY</b>	SEE SCHEDULE ON CANVAS
	Oct 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b><i>CULTURAL IMMERSION-PRESENTATION</i></b>	<b>PRESENTATION DAY</b>	SEE SCHEDULE ON CANVAS
	Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b><i>CULTURAL IMMERSION-PRESENTATION</i></b>	<b>PRESENTATION DAY</b>	SEE SCHEDULE ON CANVAS
11	Nov 5 <sup>th</sup>	Managing Conflict	Textbook Ch. 8 *Tutu –Truth/Reconciliation	
	Nov 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Continued ...</i></b>		
	Nov 9 <sup>th</sup>			* Discussion Leader

12	Nov 12 <sup>th</sup>	Travel and Adaptation	Textbook Ch. 9 *Christofi & Thompson – Re-acculturation	
	Nov 14 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Continued ...</i>		
	Nov 16 <sup>th</sup>			* Discussion Leader
13	Nov 19 <sup>th</sup>	Culture and Applied Context	Textbook Ch. 10	* <i>Reflection #4</i>
	Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>		<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
	Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup>		<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
14	Nov 26 <sup>th</sup>	Intercultural Communication and Diversity	Textbook Ch. 11 *Chen-Media, Globalization, and communication	
	Nov 28 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Continued ...</i>		
	Nov 30 <sup>th</sup>			* Discussion Leader * <i>Reflection #5</i>
15	Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Communication and Intercultural Competency	Textbook Ch. 12	
	Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>			* Discussion Leader
	Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FINAL REVIEW</b>		
<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading Due</b> * On CANVAS	<b>Assignments Due</b>
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8	Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	Stereotypes, Ethnocentrism and Prejudice	Textbook Ch. 7 *Mheiri-Muslims & Stereotypes	
	Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>		<b>PROJECT DAY – FINALIZE PROJECT</b>	* <i>Reflection #3</i>
	Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FALL BREAK</b>	<b>NO CLASS – FALL BREAK</b>	
9	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b><i>CULTURAL IMMERSION-PRESENTATION</i></b>	<b>PRESENTATION DAY</b>	SEE SCHEDULE ON CANVAS  * <i>Immersion Project</i>

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	Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>			* Discussion Leader
	Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FINAL REVIEW</b>		

***FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 12th, 9:30-11:20 AM***