

CMST 225: INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION (5 Credits)

Winter 2025 - Online (CRN 17885) and In-Person (21037)

Prerequisites: Completion of one of the following: CMST&101, 210, 220 or 230

Class Attributes: Global, Humanities, Social Science, Writing Intensive

Class Notes: This course is taught online. Access to a computer and high-speed internet are required.

Instructor Information

Colleen McGoff (she/ her)

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Office: CAS 156

Office Hours: T/TH 4:00 – 5:00 PM or by appointment (Zoom or in person)

Course Description

CMST 225 – INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION (5)

This course introduces the student to practices and principles in the field of communication as they apply to face-to-face interaction with peoples of diverse cultures both within the U. S. and out. The course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and opportunity to apply skills learned in class to their everyday encounters. Topics covered include intercultural barriers, cultural values, worldview, and the interrelation between the environment and social systems that underpin culture. (SS, Hwgs)

Course outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, each student should be able to

1. Apply social scientific and humanistic theories to the communication process
2. Explain how culture is communicated
3. Identify values of cultures
4. Evaluate intercultural communication skills
5. Research sustainable environmental practices as they pertain to communication

Course Content: This course is designed to provide students with opportunities to learn skills to apply to their everyday interactions. Topics covered in this course include theories and terms relevant to intercultural communication, barriers to communication, cultural values, and specific skills that address the challenges and pitfalls of communicating across and within cultures.

Required Textbooks and Materials

- The book for this course is an OER (Open Education Resource): The book for this course is an OER (Open Education Resource): [Developing Intercultural Communication Competence](https://mlpp.pressbooks.pub/interculturalcommunicationcompetence/chapter/terms/) Copyright © 2018 by Lori Halverson-Wente is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), except where otherwise noted.
<https://mlpp.pressbooks.pub/interculturalcommunicationcompetence/chapter/terms/>
- There is no fee for this material. **I will post each chapter or section as needed.** You do not need to download or print the material unless you wish to.

OVERVIEW OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

A. Application Activities (5 at 30 points each)	150 pts.
B. Chapter Study Guides (8 at 20 points each)	160 pts.
C. Midterm Review	50 pts.
D. Response Activities (number and points will vary)	approx.. 75 - 100pts.
E. Final Project (150 pts.)	
• Proposal	10 pts.
• Outline	15 pts.
• Project	125 pts.

Total possible points:

approx. 610 pts.

There will be **occasional extra credit opportunities** throughout the course. Extra credit will be added after all other points have been compiled, and you must have a C- (70%) or better for extra credit points to be applied. Extra Credit activities are to enhance your learning, not to salvage a grade.

Letter Grade	Points Needed	Percentage
A	568 - 610	93 - 100 %
A-	549 - 567	90 - 92 %
B+	531 - 548	87 - 89 %
B	506 - 530	83 - 86 %
B-	488 - 505	80 - 82 %
C+	470 - 487	77 - 79 %
C	445 - 469	73 - 76%
C-	427 - 444	70 - 72 %
Below C-: Do you really want to know?		

Note 1: You may choose Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading in this course. You must have a C- (or a C depending on the course) to earn an S grade. If you are considering changing to the S/U grading through registration, contact me first to determine your current standing in the course. You should also check with an advisor about this option, as some programs, schools and universities may not recognize the S grade in the same manner as WCC.

Note 2: An "incomplete" for this course is discouraged. If circumstances in your life prevent you from succeeding in this course at this time, you should withdraw before the official withdrawal date (check with Registration Office) and try the course at another time. However, for a number of verifiable personal emergencies we may discuss grading options as long as you have shown sufficient effort and satisfactory progress as defined by the instructor (assignments up-to-date, 74% average grade, group participation, good effort, and discussion with instructor).

General Description of Assignments

- **Application Activities (ApA's):** You will be given opportunities to reflect on and respond to specific concepts covered in the reading material. The questions are designed to help you observe specific mass communication concepts as you experience them in your day-to-day interactions. The ApA's should be submitted as a word.doc or other file, and written as a narrative essay using full sentences, paragraphs, and examples from personal experience.
- **Study Guides:** There will be a Study Guide for each chapter. The Study Guides will help you identify key ideas from the textbook readings and to apply the material to your own understanding and use of mass communication and its influences.
- **Midterm Review:** This is an opportunity to review and describe key concepts and material learned during the first half of the term as preparation for the activities in the second half of the course. Notes and Study Guides may be used to complete the Midterm Review (The textbook and other reading material may not be used.)
- **Final Project:** This is the equivalent of a final exam. Using mass communication concepts covered in the earlier parts of the course, this project provides an opportunity to explore an aspect of Mass Communication of particular interest to you and present it in written or oral form. A formal proposal and a formal outline are also graded parts of this project.

WCC STANDARDS

Affirmation of inclusion

WCC is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the College community feels welcome to participate in the life of the College, free from harassment and discrimination. We welcome people of all races, ethnicity, national origins, religions, ages, genders, sexual orientations, marital status, veteran status, abilities and disabilities. Toward that end, faculty, students and staff will treat one another with respect and dignity; promote a learning and working community that ensures social justice, understanding, civility and non-violence in a safe and supportive climate; and influence curriculum, teaching strategies, student services and personnel practices that facilitate sensitivity and openness to diverse ideas, peoples and cultures in a creative, safe and collegial environment.

Non-discrimination policy, Title IX, and sexual misconduct

WCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, genetic information or age in its programs and activities. WCC's discrimination and harassment policy (policy 615) and the student rights and responsibilities policy (WAC 172-010) prohibit sexual harassment, intimidation, and violence. Anyone who has experienced sexual harassment should contact the Title IX Coordinator (Lindley 116) at 360-383-3080 to

CMST 225: INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION - PROPOSED SCHEDULE

NOTE: This is an **overview only**; all assignments and instructions can be found on Canvas.

Online students: New assignments are posted by noon on Mondays and typically due by 11:59 pm on Sundays unless stated otherwise. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in advance.

In-person students, we will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays of each of the weeks below, unless otherwise stated.

Week 1 (Jan 8 - 12): Welcome! Getting Started; Relevance of Intercultural Communication Studies

- Read and complete Week 1 activities

Week 2 (Jan 13 - 19): Exploring the Complexities of Culture

- Read and complete activities for Chapter 2.
- Watch the recorded class session and complete activity.

Week 3 (Jan 20 - 25): Perception and Intercultural Communication Competence.

- Read and complete activities for posted chapter.
- Watch the recorded class session and complete activity.

Week 4 (Jan 27 - Feb. 2): How Culture Shapes Self and Identity

- Read and complete activities for Chapters 3.
- Attend Zoom class and/ or watch the recording of the class session.

Week 5 (Feb. 3 - 9) The Role of Language in Shaping and Conveying Culture,

- Read and complete activities for Chapter 4 and other posted materials
- Watch the recorded class session and complete activity.

Week 6 (Feb 10 - 14): "OK" is Not "OK" Everywhere: Cultural Influences of Nonverbal Communication [short week due to President's Weekend]

- Read and complete activities for Chapter 5 and other posted materials
- Watch the recorded class session and complete activity.

Week 7 (Feb 19 - 23): Cultural Approaches to Listening and Silence [Short week]

- Read and complete activities for posted materials.
- Watch the recorded class session and complete activity.
- **NOTE:** *The College is closed for Presidents' Weekend on February 15 - 17 and closed on February 18 for Professional Development Day*

Week 8 (Feb 24 - Mar.2) Complete Midterm Review (not exam)

- Watch the video of the instructions for the Midterm Review.
- Complete Midterm Review

Week 9 (Mar. 3 - 9): Social Media and Cultural Influence; Begin Final Project

- Read and complete activities for Ch. 8
- Complete other posted activities
- Watch video of instructions for the final project.

Week 10 (Mar. 10 - 16) Work on Final Project

- Submit proposal for final project option (choices will be posted on Canvas)
- Begin research for Final Project

Week 11 (Mar. 17 - 23) Submit formal outline for Final Project

- Review requirements for the formal outline
- Review how to prepare an APA or MLA style list of resources to add to the outline
- Complete and submit formal outline

Week 12 (Mar. 24 - 26): Complete and Submit Final Project

(Note: This is a short week as it is the final week of the quarter.)

- **Submit Final Project by midnight, Monday, March 24 to receive 5 Bonus points**
- **Submit it by Tuesday, March 25 for 3 Bonus points**
- **Final Project is due by 11:59 pm PST, Wednesday, March 26.**
- **No late projects are accepted.**

Additional resources used in the preparation of this course:

Ingpen, R., and Wilkinson, P. *A Celebration of Customs and Rituals of the World*. Dragon's World Ltd. London, UK.

Jandt, F. E. (2016). *An Introduction to Intercultural Communication* (8th Ed.) Sage Publications. Thousand Oaks, CA.

Meyer, E. (2014). *The Culture Map*. PublicAffairsTM. New York.

United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Newsletters. <https://www.unhcr.org/news-and-stories>

Zuckerman, E. (2010) Listening to Global Voices. TEDTalk. https://www.ted.com/talks/ethan_zuckerman_listening_to_global_voices/transcript

----- (2010) How to Listen to Global Voices. TEDTalk. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXPJVwwEmiM>

Other resources will be posted on Canvas throughout the course.