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**CMNS 180 AB1: Introduction to Intercultural Communications  
Course Syllabus, Fall 2025**

**Professor:** Dr. Joy Enyinnaya. **Class Times:** Wednesdays 11:30 – 2:20p.m., Room A305

**E-mail:** I aim to respond to emails within two business days, and often sooner. Please use my faculty email to reach me, rather than the “Instant Messages” feature on Brightspace. You can contact me at [joy.enyinnaya@ufv.ca](mailto:joy.enyinnaya@ufv.ca)

**Office Hours in D3109:** Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 p.m. and by appointment via ZOOM or in person

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**Required Texts**

- Liu, S., Volcic, Z., & Gallois, C. (2023). *Introducing intercultural communication: Global cultures and contexts*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Toronto: Sage. Textbook available [here](#). [LVG]
- Younging, G. (2025). *Elements of Indigenous Style: A guide for writing by and about Indigenous Peoples*. Edmonton, AB: Brush Education. Textbook also available [here](#). [GY]
- Additional weekly readings may be assigned to you. Check your Blackboard for these materials.

**Learning in Stó:lō Territory**

As we engage in this course, I would like to acknowledge the traditional territory of the Stó:lō people, who have lived and continue to live on this land. As someone coming from Nigeria, a country with over 250 ethnic groups and diverse cultural landscapes, I am mindful of the importance of honoring the histories and traditions of the Indigenous peoples here in Canada. It is a privilege to teach, live, and learn on this land, and I commit to fostering an environment that reflects mutual respect of both Indigenous and global perspectives.

**Course Description**

In this introduction to intercultural communication theory and practice, students will learn and apply concepts relating to cross-cultural knowledge, awareness, and understanding as they emerge in communication situations. They will develop their knowledge of verbal and non-verbal intercultural skills; learn about their own cultural worldview and identity; investigate similarities and difference among their own and other worldviews and identities; practice intercultural skills; and learn about the importance of self-reflexivity, flexibility, and mindfulness in their intercultural interactions.

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify intercultural communication theories and practices.
- Apply appropriate verbal and nonverbal skills in intercultural settings, as well as use intercultural collaboration skills.
- Discuss the intrinsic relations between definitions of culture and the communication process.
- Identify how context, history, family, media, and other institutions influence culture and communication.

- Discuss how demography and globalization shape cultural identity and intercultural relations.
- Discern how power, stereotypes, and prejudice are manifest in intercultural communication.
- Demonstrate self-reflectivity, flexibility, and mindfulness during intercultural interactions.

### **Course Assessment**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Value</b>
Weekly reading reflections	3 points x 10	30%
Cultural Learning Team (CLT) essay	15 points x 2	30%
In-class group discussions & activities	2 points x 10	20%
Case study essay	10 points	10%
Final presentation/Course reflection	10 points	10%

### **Course Policies**

#### ***Attendance***

We will meet face to face on **Wednesdays, from 11:30 – 2:20p.m.** starting from Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025, on Abbotsford campus, classroom **A305**. You are expected to come regularly to class, listen, pay attention, participate in class discussions and activities, and take notes. Show up on time and plan to stay for the entire class period. Arriving on time shows respect for your classmates and the learning process. Also, avoid side talking as it can be distracting to others. Please save discussions for designated group activities or breaks. Note that lecture slides will be available after class, but they might not include all the information discussed in class.

#### ***Communication & Professionalism***

You may use a laptop/tablet during class provided that the computer is closed during times when notes do not need to be taken. Cell phones must be switched to mute or off unless being used for research in your team meetings. It is distracting to conduct private business, surf the web, text, or play games through electronic devices during class. Please step outside to respond to any important calls or texts.

You must have my permission to record or photograph lectures or lecture material. In accordance with UFV Policy 204, any students demonstrating behaviors that disrupt or disturb the class will be asked to leave. Visit Blackboard regularly to check updates, including your grades, lecture notes and recordings etc.

Check your emails frequently. You are responsible for reading and/or responding to every email I send in a timely manner, so make sure your mailbox is working. **Email** is the best way to contact me. I reply to your emails within 24 hours, except for weekends and public holidays. Your emails need to be written professionally. I expect you to be courteous and specific when sending an email. Always address the recipient properly (e.g., “Hey Joy” or “Hey there” are not appropriate greetings). I'm happy to **meet** with you online outside of the class time but please give me at least one day's notice.

#### ***Participation***

Weekly, you will be required to participate, and/or submit a task to demonstrate your learning. Tasks could be a padlet exercise, an in-class activity, or a written exercise. Check your weekly Blackboard module for specific information.

### ***Peer Support***

The course is based on collaboration, not competition. You will only be graded on the quality of your work. The best way to learn something is to teach it to someone else. When you are assigned to work in pairs or groups, use the opportunity to learn and help each other out, and develop your friendship and network.

### ***Late Submission***

Assignments are due Mondays at class time and on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Each week has a similar format to help you keep up with assignments. You will complete a reading reflection, participate in group discussion forums, and complete any class activities that are assigned. Each of these must be done by the due date to be graded. If you keep up with your readings and assignments, you will not find the course too heavy or onerous. If you start to fall behind, you can lose marks quickly – consider that each reading reflection is worth 3% of your grade. Missing three or four can bring your final mark down an entire letter grade. If you need to submit your assignment late, approval will be granted on a case-by-case basis. However, keep in mind your work will be subject to a late penalty of 10% per day. I recognize that sometimes, life happens. If something prevents you from submitting assignments on time, let me know at least a day before the due date. Note that technical glitches, a busy work/study schedule, 'my dog ate my assignment' etc. are not considered valid reasons for extensions.

### ***Grading and Feedback***

I do my best to return grades and feedback in a timely manner so you can use them to support your learning. The time it takes may vary depending on the size and type of assignment, but I will always keep you updated if there is a delay. If you would like to talk through your feedback or strategies for improvement, please reach out anytime.

### ***Academic Integrity***

All the work you submit must be your own. You may refer to other sources, but you must cite them properly. You can also ask friends for help, but you need to write your own assignments. Any submitted work that is not a product of your own effort is considered dishonest and a serious offense that can result in various academic penalties. If I see that such an offence has occurred, I will follow the process outlined in Academic Integrity Policy No. 70.

### ***Generative AI Use***

Generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, Quillbot) may be used for small tasks like brainstorming and clarifying ideas. However, they cannot replace your own lived experiences, reflections, or critical engagement with intercultural concepts. For this course, your assignments must center your own voice and lived experiences. If you use AI in your process, you must note it in your reflection. Submitting AI-generated content as your own lived experience or analysis is not acceptable.

### **How to acknowledge AI use**

If you use AI in your process, add a short note in your reflection such as:

- “I used ChatGPT to help me check grammar, but the ideas and reflections are my own.”
- “I asked an AI tool to suggest examples, but I chose not to use them because they didn’t reflect my experience.”

The goal of this class is to strengthen your ability to reflect, analyze, and communicate across cultures. Your lived experiences and personal insights are the most valuable contributions you bring. AI can support your writing, but it cannot substitute your perspective.

### ***Accessibility***

The University of the Fraser Valley is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment. If you need academic accommodations or support because of a disability, I encourage you to connect with the Centre for Accessibility Services (CAS). They will work with you and me to make sure you have what you need to succeed in this course. The sooner you reach out, the easier it is to set things up. You can find more information at <https://www.ufv.ca/accessibility/>.

### ***Extreme Weather***

For more information about UFV's extreme weather policies, please see <https://www.ufv.ca/about/campus-closingsevere-weather-notice/>. If UFV closes because of extreme weather on a day we are expected to meet for class, please check Blackboard for instructions, readings, and assignments. It is important that we keep to our schedule as much as possible. I will also use the announcement feature on Blackboard to send an email to the class so keep an eye on those as well.

### **Institutional Policies**

**Grading:** All undergraduate students at UFV are evaluated using the same grade scale:

A+	90-100	B	73-76	C-	60-62
A	85-89	B-	70-72	D	50-59
A-	80-84	C+	67-69	F	<50
B+	77-79	C	63-66		

GPA calculations are based on this scale, and +/- modifiers affect your GPA accordingly. All students admitted to or declaring a program require a minimum Program Grade Point Average (PGPA) of 2.00 (3.00 for graduate level) on all courses taken at UFV used to meet program requirements. To declare a major/minor or inquire about program requirements, schedule an appointment with an Academic Advisor: <http://www.ufv.ca/advising>

### ***Attendance (Policy 62)***

Instructors may withdraw students who do not attend the first class and may penalize lack of regular attendance. The course syllabus establishes attendance expectations and penalties.

### ***Audit Policy (Policy 108)***

Students intending to audit a course must declare their intent before 30% of the course is complete. Refer to <https://www.ufv.ca/registration/deadlines/> at [www.ufv.ca](http://www.ufv.ca).

### ***Final Exams***

Final exams are held during the official final exam period. Students must be available throughout the entire duration of the exam period and should not make travel or personal plans that conflict with scheduled examinations.

### ***Final Grade Appeals (Policy 217)***

Students may appeal final grades within 14 days of grades becoming available. The process is outlined in UFV Policy 217.

### ***Prerequisites (Policy 84)***

The minimum grade required for a prerequisite course is C– unless otherwise stated.

### ***Safe Student Learning Community (Policy 204)***

“Students are required to conduct themselves in a mature and responsible manner, consistent with the university's mission, policies, and regulations, and in compliance with federal, provincial, and municipal laws. Students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group.” For more details, visit the Safe Student Community website.

### ***Withdrawal (Policy 81)***

Students may withdraw without penalty before completing 60% of the course. Withdrawals before 30% completion will not appear on the transcript; withdrawals between 31% and 60% will result in a “W” grade (not included in GPA). Withdrawals after 60% require a Late Withdrawal application.

### ***Student Support Referral***

Faculty and staff may submit a confidential referral to the Student Support Centre to connect students with academic and wellness resources. Students will be notified of referrals, and participation is voluntary. For more info or self-referral: <https://www.ufv.ca/studentservices/student-support-centre/>

### ***Communicable Disease Prevention***

Follow the Environmental Health & Safety guidelines: <https://ufv.ca/communicable-disease-prevention/>

If you are sick:

- Do not come to campus.
- Notify your instructor.
- Submit a Student Declaration of Absence form.
- Work with your instructor on a plan to catch up or request an Incomplete Grade Contract if needed.

An Incomplete (“I”) is a temporary grade assigned when **extenuating circumstances** prevent a student from completing coursework by term-end, provided **sufficient progress** has been made.

### ***Safety and Security***

Use UFV’s online tools to report incidents or near-miss events. The Safewalk program is available to escort any UFV community member safely on campus.

### ***Course Copyright***

Instructors are the authors of original course materials (lectures, notes, presentations, etc.). These are for enrolled students’ private study only. Materials may not be recorded, posted online, or distributed without the instructor’s written permission. Refer to UFV Intellectual Property policy for details.

**SYLLABUS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments and Readings</b>
<b>Week 1 (Sept 3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Introduction to the course</li> <li>– Icebreaker</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 2 (Sept 10)</b>	Culture and cultural diversity	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– LVG Chapters 1, 2</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Weekly reading reflection starts (3pts/week)</li> <li>– In-class discussions (2pts)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3 (Sept 17)</b>	Culture, communication, and social categorization	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– LVG Chapters 3 &amp; 4</li> <li>– GY Chapters 2, 3</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Weekly reading reflection</li> <li>– In-class discussion</li> <li>– CLT Starts</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4 (Sept 24)</b>	Values, beliefs, and ethics in intercultural Communication	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– LVG Chapter 5</li> <li>– GY Chapter 4, 5</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Weekly reading reflection</li> <li>– In-class discussions</li> </ul>
<b>Week 5 (Oct 1)</b>	Identity	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– LVG Chapter 6</li> <li>– GY Chapter 6</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Weekly reading reflection</li> <li>– In-class discussions</li> <li>– <b>CLT Task 1 due (15 points)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 6 (Oct 8)</b>	Verbal communication	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– LVG Chapter 7</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Weekly reading reflection</li> <li>– In-class discussions</li> </ul>
<b>Week 7 (Oct 15)</b>	Non-verbal communication	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– LVG Chapter 8</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Weekly reading reflection</li> <li>– In-class discussions</li> </ul>
<b>Week 8 (Oct 22)</b>	Business and culture	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– LVG Chapter 9</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Weekly reading reflection</li> <li>– In-class discussions</li> <li>– <b>CLT Task 2 due (15 points)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 9 (Oct 29)</b>	Immigration and acculturation	<p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– LVG Chapter 10</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Weekly reading reflection</li> <li>– In-class discussions</li> </ul>

<b>Week 10 (Nov 5)</b>	Intercultural and intergroup relations	<b>Reading</b> – LVG Chapter 11 <b>Assignment</b> – Weekly reading reflection – In-class discussions
<b>NOV 8 - 12</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>
<b>Week 11 (Nov 19)</b>	Media and cultural change	<b>Reading</b> – LVG Chapter 12 <b>Assignment</b> – Weekly reading reflection – In-class discussions
<b>Week 12 (Nov 26)</b>	Intercultural competence in a global community	<b>Reading</b> – LVG Chapter 13 <b>Assignment</b> – Final presentations start
<b>Week 13 (Dec 3)</b>	Final presentation	<b>Final presentation slides and case study essay due Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> at midnight (10 points each)</b>

**Notes:** Changes may occur to this schedule according to emerging needs of the class.