

**CMCL-C 427: Cross-Cultural Communication (online)**  
**Spring 2019**  
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**Indiana University East**

**TEXTBOOK**

Baldwin, J. R., Coleman, R. R., Gonzalez, A., Shenoy-Packer, S. (2014). *Intercultural Communication for Everyday Life*. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

In this course, you will heighten your cultural awareness and intercultural communication competence. We will explore the notions of culture, identity, difference, history, and power. Our discussions will focus on the reasons to study intercultural or cross-cultural communication, the popular culture representations of intercultural contact, and ways to develop intercultural communication competence.

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Apply communication theories related to cultural communication in academic, personal, and professional contexts.
2. Identify and explain one's own worldview and that of others as the views influence and emerge in situations.
3. Plan supportive behavior that recognizes the feelings and experience of other cultural groups.

**NCA LOCs**

LOC#2: Employ Communication theories, perspectives, principles and concepts

- Explain Communication theories, perspectives, principles and concepts
- Synthesize Communication theories, perspectives, principles and concepts
- Apply Communication theories, perspectives, principles and concepts

LOC#5: Critically analyze messages

- Identify meanings embedded in messages
- Recognize the influence of messages

LOC#8: Utilize communication to embrace difference

- Articulate the connection between communication and culture
- Appreciate individual and cultural similarities and differences
- Demonstrate the ability to be culturally self-aware
- Articulate one's own cultural standpoint and how it affects communication and world view
- Adapt one's communication in diverse cultural contexts

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Week 1 Community building activities (20pts):** A set of activities to help you become familiar with the course and the people: syllabus quiz, self-introduction, Canvas set-up.

**Notes for assigned texts (75pts):** This assignment helps focus your work with assigned texts (chapters, videos, etc.) and will be formatted as a quiz. Questions will be provided in advance, and the program will choose only 5 of the questions. Each submission is 15 pts.

**Application activities (100pts):** These are bi-weekly discussions or activities in groups based on a prompt or assignment. One student in the group will serve as discussion or activity curator. Each activity is 20 pts.

**Media representation project (50pts):** Discuss culture represented in popular movies. Specific titles will be suggested. Watch a movie, summarize an episode, and analyze the episode based on the theories and concepts we have studied. The project includes movie sign up, analyses shared in groups, a discussion, and a final word.

**Cultural Experience project (80pts):** Visit a culturally significant place or event in the location where you reside. Examples of events include various local festivals, and examples of places include museums. Conduct mini-ethnography during your visit, and report about your findings to the class. The project will include proposal, mid-project check, presentation, and peer feedback.

**Final exam (60pts):** The exam is comprehensive and will include 3 types of questions: true-false questions with rationale, multiple choice with possible multiple correct responses, and short essay questions.

**Housekeeping tasks (appr. 10pts):** sign up sheets or survey needed to organize the course, if submitted or completed before the deadline. Optional assignments for extra credit: course feedback, if 90% of the class complete the feedback (5pts).

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Wk 1:            *Introduction to the course and the people*  
Read/study/explore: syllabus and calendar, Canvas site  
Complete: Introductory and community building activities

Wk 2-3:        *Why do I need to know about other cultures?*  
Read and submit notes: Chapters 1 & 2  
Complete: Application activities  
Submit: Proposal for the cultural experience project

Wk 4-5:        *What is "culture"? What is cultural communication?*  
Read and submit notes: Chapters 3 & 4  
Complete: Application activities

Wk 6-7:        *How can I think about identity? How can I make the world a more inclusive*

*place?*

Read and submit notes: Chapters 5 & 6

Complete: Application activities

Wk 8-9: *How can I reduce cultural misunderstandings in my verbal communication?*

*How can I avoid nonverbal blunders?*

Read/watch and submit notes: Chapters 6 & 7 and "Class Divided"

Complete: Application activities

Submit: Mid-project check for the Media Experience project

Wk 10-11: How do media shape our views of others? How do culture and globalization influence each other?

Read and submit notes: Chapters 10 & 11

Complete: Media Representation project

Wk 12-13 Topic of choice

Wk 14 Cultural experience project presentations

Wk 15 Final exam and course feedback