

COMM:2042 Intercultural Communication

Fall, 2015
CIMBA Undergraduate Program
University of Iowa
Paderno del Grappa, Italy

Professor: Dr. Dominic Standish, University of Iowa/CIMBA.

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(Please refer to the University of Iowa policy on email use. E-mail will be responded to within 24 hours).

Course Overview:

This course will examine “[r]elationships among culture-based assumptions, values, thought patterns, communication behavior; theory and practice” (from University of Iowa course description).

Goals:

After taking this course, students will:

- Be aware of how human thought and behavior are influenced by the culture in which people live.
- Understand how these aspects vary in particular cultures around the world.
- Become more informed about cultural norms in Italy, other European countries, and America.
- Recognize and appreciate the cultural norms of whatever country they visit.
- Be able to assess the relative importance of culture on communication and human behavior.

Textbook:

Intercultural Competence. Interpersonal Communication Across Cultures, Lustig and Koester, 2010. Pearson, Edition 7, ISBN: 7980205861767.

In addition, we will study chapters from the following books:

Italian Neighbours, Parks, Grove Press, Edition 1, 2001. ISBN: 9780802140340.

Strange Fruit, Malik, One World, Edition 1, 2008. ISBN: 9781851686650.

Venice in Environmental Peril? Myth and Reality, Standish, UPA, Edition 1, 2012. ISBN: 9780761856641.

I also will provide relevant articles and texts for case studies.

Living and learning in Northern Italy for nearly one month gives you a unique opportunity to study Intercultural Communication outside America. While some of you will venture beyond the borders of Italy to visit other European destinations, the professor would encourage you to start your research right here in the Veneto region of Italy. To help you take advantage of this great opportunity, we will contrast the particular communication styles of Italians with other cultures. To facilitate this study focus, we will analyze the books *Italian Neighbours* and *Venice in Environmental Peril? Myth and Reality* about the Veneto people, in conjunction with your observations of local Italians.

Grades:

Final grades will be by percentage, following customary scales: 98.00+ = A+; 92.00 – 97.99 = A; 90.00 – 91.99 = A-; 88.00 – 89.99 = B+; 82.00 – 87.99 = B; 80.00 – 81.99 = B-; 78.00 - 79.99 points = C+; 72.00 – 77.99 = C; 71.99 - 70.00 = C-; 68.00 – 69.99 = D+; 62.00 - 67.99 = D; 60.00 – 61.99 = D-. F = below 60 points.

Please note: showing up for class, participating in discussion, having good, error-free papers and presentations is average (“C”), not excellent work. “B” work requires evidence of above-average effort, above-average understanding of the material and above-average depth of thought. “A” work will truly separate itself from the rest of the class. Students cannot request additional activities to earn quality points.

Course grades will be approximately distributed according to the recommended guidelines:

Grade Distribution Chart

	A	B	C	D	F	Average
Elementary courses	15%	34%	40%	8%	3%	2.50
Intermediate courses	18%	36%	39%	5%	2%	2.63
Advanced courses	22%	38%	36%	3%	1%	2.77

<i>Ways to earn points:</i>	Maximum to be awarded
Assignment 1.....	200 pts.
Assignment 2.....	200 pts.
Blog about intercultural observations.....	100 pts.
Presentation activity.....	100 pts.
Final exam.....	400 pts.
Total Points.....	1000 Total.

Ways to lose points:

Attendance (see CIMBA Academic Policy below).

Late assignments. 30 points will be deducted every time an assignment is not brought with you to class and turned in at the start of the class session (printed out). Be aware of printing queues. Arriving at class while your document is still printing means it is late. You may do assignments well in advance, if you choose. If an assignment is late, do it eventually and submit it by the time points are assigned. 50 points will be deducted for each assignment not turned in when the assignments are graded.

The exam format will be written answers to set questions. Excellence in the exam can be achieved by answering set questions completely and through in-depth analysis of set texts.

This course supports the **standards of the Iowa Dozen**, the University of Iowa School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s 12 principles for excellence in journalism education, which include: learning to write correctly and clearly; to conduct research and gather information responsibly; to edit and evaluate carefully; to use media technologies thoughtfully; and to apply statistical concepts appropriately; valuing First Amendment principles; a diverse global community; creativity and independence; truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity; and exploring mass communications theories and concepts, media institutions and practices, and the role of media in shaping cultures.

Requirements

Attendance & Participation:

This small class means you won’t be able to “hide” in a large group. I expect you to be prepared for class and participate.

The program requires mandatory attendance, as outlined in the CIMBA Academic policy below:

CIMBA Academic Policy

- Classes and CIMBA events are mandatory
- 3 unexcused absences is grounds for dismissal from the program
- Our official policy is below.

Attendance at all classes and CIMBA sanctioned activities is MANDATORY. All unexcused absences will have the following consequences:

- 1st absence will result in a loss of a 1/3 of a letter grade in that class;
- 2nd (cumulative) absence will result in a loss of an entire letter grade in that class;
- 3rd (cumulative) absence will result in a dismissal from the program.

Absences due to illness require notification to the CIMBA Undergraduate Office Staff and/or the Istituto Filippin medical staff. If a student is ill and cannot attend class, he/she must inform the CIMBA Staff immediately. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.

Learning Disabilities:

Accommodations for students with disabilities: A student seeking academic accommodations such as a modification of seating, testing, timing, etc. should first register with Student Disability Services, then contact Shannon Lizakowski (Shannon-lizakowski@uiowa.edu) in the CIMBA Office to make further arrangements. See <http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu> for more information.

Academic Honesty:

If I determine that any assignment was not written solely by the student whose name is on the project, the student will receive a zero (0) for the assignment and may receive an "F" for the class. All incidents of cheating will be reported to the Senior Associate Dean and the student may be placed on disciplinary probation for the remainder of his or her enrollment at the University of Iowa. Honor Code for the Tippie College of Business will determine the appropriate appeal process.

Sexual Harassment:

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. If you feel that you are being or have been harassed or you are not sure what constitutes sexual harassment, we encourage you to visit the University website, www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/index.php, and to seek assistance from the CIMBA Director, Brandelle Unkrich, at 319-335-1041 or brandelle-unkrich@uiowa.edu.

Complaints:

Student concerns regarding this course should first be discussed with me, the faculty member teaching this course. If we can't resolve the complaint, you may contact the CIMBA Director, Brandelle Unkrich (319-335-1041, brandelle-unkrich@uiowa.edu). The Director will review the details of the complaint and involve the Associate Dean of the Undergraduate Programs, as needed.

Let's talk:

I am eager to meet with you about the course. I will be available in the faculty office for appointments that you can book by emailing me: dominic-standish@uiowa.edu

Schedule:

- Week 1 Introduction.
Readings:
Syllabus.
Cross-cultural awareness and non-verbal communication.
- Week 2 Intercultural communication.
Readings:
Intercultural Competence, Introduction Chap. 1.

Veneto people and communication.
Readings:
Italian Neighbours, Chap. 1.
- Week 3 Cultural definitions, differences and biological factors.
Readings:
Intercultural Competence, Chap. 2.

Veneto people and communication.
Readings:
Italian Neighbours, Chap. 2.
- Week 4 European Business Etiquette

Diversity in America
Readings:
Intercultural Competence, Chap. 3.

Are culture and race socially constructed?
Readings:
Strange Fruit, Chap. 1.
- Week 5 Veneto people and communication.
Readings:
Italian Neighbours, Chap. 2.

A World Gone Diverse
Readings:
Strange Fruit, Chap. 2.
- Week 6 Race, nature and variety.
Readings:
Strange Fruit, Chap. 4.

Global comparisons seminar – guest speaker.
Readings:
Slides handout.

Company tours

Ex-pat Panel

Readings:

Bios

Week 7

Veneto people and communication.

Readings:

Italian Neighbours, Chap. 3.

The Science of Type

Readings:

Strange Fruit, Chap. 5.

Week 8

Travel week

Week 9

Is a culture a burden?

Readings:

Strange Fruit, Chap. 7.

Venetian Cultural Myths.

Readings:

Venice in Environmental Peril? Myth and Reality, Chap. 2

Week 10

Cultural Knowledge

Readings:

Strange Fruit, Chap. 8.

Race Wars?

Readings:

Strange Fruit, Chap. 9.

Week 11

Cultural/Racial Utopia?

Readings:

Strange Fruit, Chap. 10 and Afterword

Week 12

Venetian Cultural Myths.

Readings:

Venice in Environmental Peril? Myth and Reality, Chap. 7.

Final exam