



## 036. 042: Intercultural Communication Course Syllabus

CIMBA Program, Paderno del Grappa, Italy – Spring 2013

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### Course Description:

This course will examine “[r]elationships among culture-based assumptions, values, thought patterns, communication behavior; theory and practice”(from University of Iowa course catalogue). Basically, we will be studying human communication and culture in various contexts!

From UI General Catalogue: “Culture [is] defined as a system of taken-for-granted assumptions about the world that influence how people think and act; cultural differences that produce challenges and opportunities for understanding and communication; those differences from several theoretical perspectives; opportunities to examine culture and cultural differences in practical, experience-driven ways.” Culture is what makes us tick!

### Goals & Learning Outcomes:

Through completing the reading/writing assignments, cultural events/trips, and classroom discussions/lectures, students will:

- Be aware of how human thought and behavior are influenced by the culture in which people live;
- Understand how these aspects originate and vary in particular cultures around the world;
- Become more informed about cultural norms, particularly those in Italy and America;
- Appreciate history’s and economic geography’s roles in shaping a society;
- Respect the culture of whatever country they visit.

### Texts:

- *Communication Between Cultures* (5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> ed.), Larry A. Samovar & Richard L. Porter. Wadsworth, 2007. ISBN for 5<sup>th</sup> edition: 0-534-56929-3. ISBN for 6<sup>th</sup> edition: 0-495-00727-7.
- *Under the Tuscan Sun*, Frances Mayes. Broadway Books (pbk.), 1996. ISBN: 0-767-90038-3
- Supplementary viewings (in class) and readings from Course Packet and handouts.
- Some local and regional cultural events/trips throughout the semester which may require minimal entry/transportation fees. NOTE: such events depend upon student and faculty course scheduling for the semester.

### General Course Policies:

- Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is submitting someone else's idea or work as your own, intentionally or unintentionally, without proper acknowledgment of sources. All sources must be documented according to a standard style (e.g., MLA, APA, CM). Incorrect acknowledgment or failure to cite sources will result in a zero grade for that project with the option to redo.
- Grading System: The +/- grading system for final grades and letter and percentage grade equivalents are as follows: A (95); A- (92); B+ (88); B (85); B- (82); C+ (78); C (75); C- (72); D+ (68); D (65); D- (62); F (ranges from 0 to 59). However, be aware that the University of Iowa’s College of Liberal Arts & Sciences requires professors adhere to the following recommended grade distribution for upper-level courses:

	A	B	C	D	F	Average
Intermediate courses	18%	36%	39%	5%	2%	2.63
Advanced courses	22%	38%	36%	3%	1%	2.77

Also, you may find two grades for your assignments: the first reflects content and genre organization; the second, style, grammar, and presentation. The overall grade is an average of the two. In marketing terms, “packaging” is important and makes the first impression on the audience; nevertheless, the best packaging is worthless if its contents do not deliver what is needed or wanted.

- Attendance/Participation: Regular attendance is expected per CIMBA guidelines – see below.  
*Attendance at all classes and CIMBA sanctioned activities is MANDATORY. All unexcused absences will have the following consequences:*
  - a. 1st absence will result in a loss of a 1/3 of a letter grade in that class
  - b. 2nd (cumulative) absence will result in a loss of an entire letter grade in that class
  - c. 3rd (cumulative) absence will result in a dismissal from the program*Absences due to illness require a note from the CIMBA Undergraduate Office Staff and/or the Istituti Filippin medical staff. If a student is sick and cannot attend class, he/she must inform the CIMBA Staff immediately. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.*

If you miss a class for excused reasons, contact me and please keep to the course schedule; understand that you will be responsible for that day’s material.

- Writing: Although we will review writing basics, you are expected to be able to develop a thesis or control statement suitable to the assignment, to construct effective paragraphs or sections and sentences, and to have sound grammatical and usage skills. Your papers are assessed on both content and style/grammar – please review the handout of each writing requirement’s description for detailed assessment criteria.
- Classroom Environment: We learn and function best in a comfortable, collaborative environment of common courtesy and respect. Disrespect or harassment of any type will NOT be tolerated; for UI’s stated policies, see <http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/teaching/policies.shtml>. Be professional: don’t talk during presentations (faculty or student) and do not text in class. If you have a laptop in class, use for class work. Be prepared and on time! Accommodations for students with disabilities are easily made.
- Other:
  - We will enjoy some campus cultural events, exchange visits w/ Italian classes from the Istituti Filippin, and possibly have a class trip or two. These will be in lieu of some class, but understand that they are part of the course’s learning experience and will be incorporated into your course grade through short assignments (directly) and the exams (indirectly). Suggestion: take notes either during or immediately after the events or trips.
  - You are responsible for completing the assigned readings in the *Intercultural Communications* textbook, *Under the Tuscan Sun*, and the Course Packet as they help you prepare for class discussion and your assignments.
  - Preparation and participation are essential as this is not a lecture class – we learn from each other as we work on the various documents and discuss ideas. Please come prepared; do not hesitate to ask questions or spark discussion; and grant others the courtesy of your attention and feedback.
  - Some classes will be devoted to workshops which provide critical reader feedback on your work in progress. Be prepared for the workshop which may be peer or instructor-led in small group work.

Actively engage in these sessions and be a critical reviewer of peers' writing. Note: "critical" does not mean negative; rather, it is a careful, engaged analysis of the draft.

- Some assignments require documentation. Use a standard style such as MLA (Modern Language Association), APA (American Psychological Association), or CM (Chicago Manual). **ALL BORROWED MATERIAL MUST BE CREDITED TO ITS SOURCE, WHETHER YOU HAVE QUOTED, PARAPHRASED, OR SUMMARIZED.**
- **Saturday Classes:** Due to the extensive amount of travel time incorporated into the CIMBA Undergraduate program, we [may] have a few Saturday classes to ensure the appropriate amount of class sessions (per UI regulations). These Saturdays have NOT been confirmed yet; however, they will be arranged by the end of the first week of classes. Note that these Saturday classes will NOT be during any of the scheduled travel breaks.
- **My availability:** I am on campus nearly every week day and on some weekends. Please see me in the faculty offices or e-mail me if you need to schedule a specific time to meet with me. NOTE: although I check e-mail regularly, I do not have internet access at the apartment.
- **Technology & computers.** If you have a MAC, you must also have a VGA connector for the overhead projector as many MAC's do not have those ports. Also, teams should check for compatible software applications for sharing and sending documents with each other. Sometimes saving documents as RTF (rich text format) or as PDF's aids compatibility. Also, flash drives or USB's are very helpful for large files that may take some time to download or upload.

#### Intercultural Communication Assignments (*tentative; detailed handouts distributed 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of class.*)

- Participation in class discussion, short assignments, cultural events, & quizzes (10%)
- Country Profile document w/ analysis and short presentation (15%)
- Collaborative Discussion group based on Course Packet readings (15%)
- Cultural Analysis, slide presentation and document (15%)
- Travelogue/Travel blog (15%)
- 2 Exams (15% each)

#### TENTATIVE Course Schedule

The finalized course schedule will be distributed the first or second day we meet as a class, at which point CIMBA will have finalized all course schedules (A & B bands) and other program- and course-related activities; however, here is a brief and TENTATIVE overview:

Weeks 1-4, with approximately 9-10 class meetings:

Introduction; theoretical backgrounds; country profile assignment; *Under the Tuscan Sun* excerpts

Week 5:

*Travel*

Weeks 6-8, with 7 class meetings:

Collaborative Discussion groups; *Under the Tuscan Sun* excerpts; Exam 1

Week 9:

*Travel*

Weeks 10-11, with 4 class meetings (*and w/ extended travel weekend*):

Cultural Analysis presentations; Travelogue

Week 12, with 2 class meetings including the final:

Final – Exam 2

**University of Iowa CLAS (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences)**  
**Recommended Syllabi Insert w/ links for more information.**

**Administrative Home**

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS [Student Academic Handbook](#).

**Electronic Communication**

University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences. (*Operations Manual*, [III.15.2](#). Scroll down to k.11.)

**Accommodations for Disabilities**

A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See [www.uiowa.edu/~sds/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~sds/) for more information.

**Academic Honesty**

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences expects all students to do their own work, as stated in the [CLAS Code of Academic Honesty](#). Instructors fail any assignment that shows evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, also reporting the student's name to the College. A student reported to the College for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

**CLAS Final Examination Policies**

Final exams may be offered only during finals week. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. Students should not ask their instructor to reschedule a final exam since the College does not permit rescheduling of a final exam once the semester has begun. Questions should be addressed to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum.

**Making a Suggestion or a Complaint**

Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS [Student Academic Handbook](#).

**Understanding 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. See the UI [Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment](#) for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

**Reacting Safely to Severe Weather [omitted]**

Follow CIMBA staff's guidelines.

\*These CLAS policy and procedural statements have been summarized from the web pages of the [College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#) and The University of Iowa [Operations Manual](#).