

## COMM:2042 Intercultural Communication

Summer, 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.

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

*Italian Neighbours*, Parks, 2001.

*Strange Fruit*, Malik, 2008.

*Venice in Environmental Peril? Myth and Reality*, Standish, 2012.

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.....	50 pts.
Presentation activity.....	50 pts.
Tests.....	200 pts
Final exam.....	300 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.

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:

- a. 1st absence will result in a loss of a 1/2 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 Office 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.

## **Learning 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:**

All CLAS students or students taking classes offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's [Code of Academic Honesty](#): "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled ([CLAS Academic Policies Handbook](#)).

## **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](http://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](mailto:brandelle-unkrich@uiowa.edu).

## **Academic Grievances:**

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](mailto: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](mailto:dominic-standish@uiowa.edu)

## **Schedule:**

### Week One:

- Day 1            Introductions and syllabus.  
Language and culture. Blogs.
- Day 2            Imperatives for Intercultural Competence  
*Readings:*  
Intercultural Competence, Chap. 1.
- Day 3  
Class 1           Cross-cultural strategies.  
*Readings:*  
Culture and Intercultural Communication, Chap. 2.
- Class 2           Cross-cultural business game and strategies.
- Day 4            Italian people and communication.  
*Readings:*  
Italian Neighbours, Chap. 1.

### Week Two:

- Day 1            Intercultural Communication Competence.  
*Readings:*  
Intercultural Competence, Chap. 3.
- Day 2            Cultural Patterns and Communication Foundations.  
*Readings:*  
Intercultural Competence, Chap. 4.
- Day 3  
Class 1           The burden of culture.  
*Readings:*  
Strange Fruit, Chap. 7.
- Class 2           Culture and human resource management.
- Day 4            Italian people and communication.  
*Readings:*  
Italian Neighbours, Chap. 2.  
**Assignment due.**

Week Three:

- Day 1  
Class 1 Cultural Patterns and Communication: Taxonomies.  
*Readings:*  
Intercultural Competence, Chap. 5.
- Class 2 Cultural clash movie.
- Day 2 Cultural Identity.  
*Readings:*  
Intercultural Competence, Chap. 6.
- Day 3  
Class 1 Cultural Myths.  
*Readings:*  
Venice in Environmental Peril? Myth and Reality, Chap. 2.
- Day 4 Italian people and communication.  
*Readings:*  
Italian Neighbours, Chap. 3.  
**Assignment due.**

Week Four:

- Day 1 Italian people and communication.  
*Readings:*  
Italian Neighbours, Chap. 4.
- Day 2  
Class 1 Cultural Narratives.  
*Readings:*  
Venice in Environmental Peril? Myth and Reality, Chap. 7.
- Class 2 Presentations. Communication Styles and Values: a case study on Italians.
- Day 3 Global Comparisons seminar, De Marchi Room, 5.15-6.45pm
- Day 4 Exam review.  
*Readings:*  
Strange Fruit, Chap. 10.
- 12 June 16.00-18.00 Final exam.