
The Global Consumer: China and the African Continent

Dr. Molly Rapert

Associate Professor of Marketing

Director, Center for Teaching Effectiveness

Sam M. Walton College of Business

University of Arkansas

mraper@walton.uark.edu

office hours: after class every day or by appointment

The Global Consumer will focus on exploring the global marketplace, delineating the vast differences and commonalities within our worldwide village. The course is designed to examine the global marketplace in three primary regions: Italy, China, and various countries in Africa. We will explore several basic principles of defining the identity of people, focusing on the triad of everyday experiences: personal life/consumption patterns, business experiences, and the role of government. Within this framework, we will also explore business strategies that have been used to succeed in the regions of study. Every effort has been made to design a course that appeals to all majors, but in the end, I am a marketing professor and those are the examples that I tend to use on a regular basis.

General Framework: The course is comprised of four themes. We will explore Southeast Asia, focusing primarily on China's role in the world during contemporary history. Second, we will examine emerging markets in Africa, including the heartbreaking atrocities suffered recently on the continent as well as the promising consumer segments arising in many marketplaces. Third, we will delineate the intersection of these two worlds, laying out China's march for resources and relationships with African countries. Throughout, we will focus on your current home: Italy, providing you with some first-hand experiences in several Italian companies.

Course materials: This is a seminar-style, readings based course. You will be responsible for numerous readings as assigned in the course pack as well as two books.

Assessment of your performance: You will be provided with a diverse set of ways in which to prove your knowledge of the material. My view of assessment is one which incorporates in-class exams, quizzes, and experiential assignments. A total of 300 points will be assessed and grades will be assigned using a standard 90-80-70-60% split. NO rounding will occur. ...for example, a grade of 89.99% is a B. Plus/minus grades will not be assigned. Please pay attention to the Tippie grade policy as explained further on their website:
<http://tippie.uiowa.edu/undergraduate/advising/grading-policies.cfm>

Attendance: Attendance is required and we will strictly follow all rules established by CIMBA, including the "three strikes and you're out" policy. 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 Undergraduate Office Staff and/or the Istituto 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.

Because our class relies heavily on discussion, it is expected that you will arrive in class on time. While occasional lapses in timeliness can be tolerated, consistent tardiness will result in an "absence" which will then be reported to the front office. Whether consistent or inconsistent, a tardiness of 10 minutes will absolutely be considered an absence. We'll discuss this in class.

Professional behavior: As upper-level students, you are expected to engage in an enthusiastic pursuit of knowledge. Attending class, arriving at class on time, contributing to the class discussion, using appropriate resources when classes are missed, and behaving in a respectful manner are all minimum expectations. Accordingly, you will not receive rewards for doing so.

Rather, I reserve the right to lower your course grade by as much as one-letter grade if you do not behave in a professional manner. I will provide verbal notice of concern in advance of the grade reduction.

Miscellaneous policy issues: : If you have a *disability* that may require some modification of seating, testing, or any other class requirement, please let me know as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Similarly if you have any *emergency medical information* about which I should know, or if you need special arrangements in the event the building must be evacuated, please let me know. Please see me after class hours or during my scheduled office hours or schedule an appointment. One part of integrity is abstaining from acts like *cheating*, so cheating either on the tests or the assignments will result in an appropriate consequence, usually a zero for the grade in question. Moreover, all incidents of cheating will be reported to the Senior Associate Dean of the Tippie College of Business. In general, the decision of the Professor may be appealed to a Judicial Board, then to Dean Lon Moeller. The Honor Code for the Tippie College of Business will determine the appeal process (<http://tippie.uiowa.edu/honorcode.cfm>).” The Tippie College of Business and the University of Iowa are committed to providing students with an environment free from *sexual harassment*. 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, <http://www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/index.php>,

Closing thoughts: If you speak with peers who have had my class, I think you will find a consistent theme that, while I mandate and enforce high standards for professional behavior, my purpose in doing so is to provide an energetic, distraction-free, experience. I am committed to making this course as beneficial for you as possible and my top priority is to reward those students who are willing to work hard, behave professionally, and enthusiastically engage in the course. I greatly enjoyed putting this course together. I’m looking forward to the opportunity to share with you the latest material delineating global consumers. ☺ *This will be fun!*

Teaching Credentials:

- Recipient, UA Office of Nationally Competitive Awards: Faculty Gold Medal
- Recipient, UA/AMA Professor of the Year
- Recipient, Honors College Distinguished Faculty Leadership Award 2014
- Recipient, University of Arkansas Baum Teaching Award 2012
- Recipient, WCOB Excellence in Teaching Award 2012
- Recipient, Honors College Distinguished Faculty Award 2011
- Recipient, Hormel Master Marketing Teacher 2010 (national winner)
- Recipient, Hormel Teaching Award Excellence 2010 (top three in nation)
- Recipient, Hormel Meritorious Teaching 2010 (ten ten in nation)
- Recipient, Beta Gamma Sigma Faculty of the Year Award 2008
- Recipient, WCOB Excellence in Service Award 2007
- Recipient, Arkansas Alumni Assn Excellence in Teaching Award 2002
- Recipient, WCOB Excellence in Teaching Award 2001
- Recipient, WCOB Excellence in Teaching Award 1998
- Nominee, WCOB Excellence in Teaching Award 1991-2008
- Member, University of Arkansas Teaching Academy
- Affiliated with the CIMBA program since 1999

Courses taught:

Doctoral

- Seminar in Marketing Strategy
- Seminar in Teaching

Masters

- Foundations of Marketing/Management
- Consumer and Market Research

Undergraduate

- Marketing Management
- Marketing Research
- The Global Consumer