

## CMST280: Intercultural Communication

Fall 2012

MWF 9:30-10:20am; Room D102

**Instructor:** Whitney Anspach

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Contact:** #1-Canvas; #2 [wanspach@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:wanspach@bellevuecollege.edu)

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### Required Reading

Samovar, L.A., Porter, R.E., & McDaniel, E.R. (2013). *Communication between cultures* (8th ed.). Boston, MA: Wadsworth Publishing Co.

Free Student Resource Site: [http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course\\_products\\_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product\\_isbn\\_issn=9781111349103&token=](http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=9781111349103&token=)

*Note:* The assigned reading is critical to your understanding and appreciation of course concepts. I have selected a textbook that will introduce you to important theoretical concepts and provide concrete examples of issues related to intercultural communication. In some cases, the text will provide valuable background for issues we will discuss further in class. At other times, the text will supplement what we discuss in class by addressing issues and concepts that we do not have time to cover in class sessions. Please complete the day's listed reading prior to coming to class.

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### Course Description & Learning Outcomes

This course aims to increase student intercultural competence by examining the effects of culture on both the communication process and individual. Students taking this course will explore: communication and culture, intercultural messages, the role of context in intercultural communication, how culture affects one's identity, how culture influences communication style, language, and non-verbal communication, and how to improve one's own intercultural competence.

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Explain how environmental factors affect and make cultures different.
- Explain how cultural variables influence intercultural competency in communication
- Explain why appropriateness and effectiveness are critical in constructing messages in intercultural contexts.
- Explain how individualism and collectivism affect the communication in intercultural communication contexts
- Apply various models of cultural values to intercultural interactions.
- Define ethnocentrism and demonstrate your competence in applying the concepts across cultures.
- Identify and analyze one's own cultural identity.

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## Course Format and Expectations

### Format:

You will be engaged in activities and discussions designed to aid your understanding of the concepts explored in this class. This course includes a group project. Lectures by the instructor will be kept to a minimum. Given this format, students need to commit to being active participants in this class. In addition, this area of study contains complex theories and difficult social science jargon. I will do my best to assist you, but **a college reading level and college writing level in English is needed to succeed in this course.**

### Expectations:

Your active participation in the learning process is expected and valued. We will address a variety of topics, many involving controversies that touch upon our personal values and beliefs. I encourage you to share your thoughts, concerns, and opinions in class—we will have a stimulating learning environment and a richer learning experience if we can discuss a wide range of perspectives. At the same time, the issues we will address can be highly emotional ones and we won't always agree with one another. It is vital that everyone feels safe to air her or his ideas and opinions. *Please be sensitive and respectful to other viewpoints when making comments and contributing to discussion.*

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## Learning Assessment

In order to earn a passing grade in this course you will need to submit **all** of the assignments listed below and take all exams. Submission of all assignments and exams constitutes a necessary, but insufficient condition for passing the course. In other words, you need to submit all assignments and exams *and* need to earn 63% of the total possible points in order to pass the course. Incompletes will not be offered for this course.

Exams (3 @ 50 pts each)	150
Applied Assignments (4 @ 75 pts each)	300
Group Project	200
- Presentation = 100 pts	
- Presentation Outline = 50 pts	
- Group Participation = 50 pts	
First Week Assignments	50
Participation	300
- Attendance	
- Contribution to Class Discussions	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1000</b>

### Grading Scale:

94-100 = A	73-75 = C
90-93 = A-	70-72 = C-
86-89 = B+	66-69 = D+
83-85 = B	60-65 = D
80-82 = B-	0-59 = F
76-79 = C+	

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## Assignment Descriptions

*(More detail will be provided for each of these assignments in class.)*

### Class Participation (250 Points):

**Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, blackberries, ipods, etc. before class begins.**

#### *Attendance & Contributions to Course Discussions*

Students will be evaluated on the quality of their contributions to discussion in class. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having read all required reading assignments for that meeting; bringing to each class meeting the course textbook; ready to share relevant and constructive information with the class.

*Note:* More than one (1) unexcused absence will result in a reduction of your course participation grade in addition to any lost points for failure to complete in-class assignments. **Students who miss 6 or more classes (including on-line sessions) will fail the course. See <http://bellevuecollege.edu/artshum/policy.html> for more information.** Students are also expected to come to class on time. Arriving late to class or leaving early is disruptive and inconsiderate to those who are on time and unexcused **tardiness of more than 10 minutes will be considered an absence for the day.**

#### Discussion Responses

The majority of your class participation grade will come from my evaluation of your *Discussion Posts & Responses*. You are required to post at least three (3) substantive and well written responses to your peers' discussion posts **each time a post is due**. Please see the course calendar for discussion post response deadlines.

*For example, if you post twelve responses for the first round of discussion posts and zero responses after that you will only earn credit for **three** responses.*

Given that there are **5** required discussion posts, you will need to submit a minimum total of **15** substantive and well written responses by the end of the quarter.

#### **What constitutes a substantive response?**

A substantive response is one that refers to a specific portion of the original discussion post and attempts to spark discussion about that portion. An example of an unsatisfactory post is: "I really like what you wrote about Madonna. Good job!" This post is unsatisfactory because it doesn't attempt to spark a discussion about what the person wrote about Madonna. A better/satisfactory response post would be:

*Your comments about Madonna's video in relation to what we read in the chapter by bell hooks really struck home for me. When reading your post I couldn't help but wonder if one could argue that Beyonce's (insert song name and maybe a link to the video on youtube) video could also be an example of this phenomenon. What do you think?*

This post is far superior to the first sample because it explains what the reader found so compelling about the original discussion post and, in doing so, attempted to further discussion on this topic.

### Discussion Posts

There are five **(5)** required discussion posts this quarter. You will be provided with a topic and/or debatable claim to discuss for each of these required posts.

**Exemplary discussion posts** should include the following:

- A clearly stated thesis statement (or key argument)
- Evidence from relevant course materials (e.g., lecture content or the course texts) to support your argument.
- Accurate application of relevant course content
- Few (if any) writing errors
- Links/URLs to any *non-course related* materials referenced within your posting

### **First Week Assignments (50 points):**

You will also earn points toward your total class participation grade by completing the required First Week Quiz, the technology plan assignment, sending a message to me via Canvas, and participating in the first discussion post titled “10 Things about You”. The quiz contains multiple choice and true/false questions about the course website and course assignments. For details about the first discussion post, please see the discussion board. The technology plan assignment details are available on our class site.

### **Exams (3 @ 50 points each):**

There will be a total of three exams worth 100 Points each. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions and will be completed on Canvas. One week prior to each exam, an exam review will be distributed.

### **Application Assignments (4 @ 75 points each):**

These assignments are intended to promote critical application of course concepts to day-to-day experiences. Each assignment will be closely related to the material covered in the previous class meeting and the assigned reading. More details about these assignments will be provided in class.

### **Group Project (200 Points):**

Students will be assigned to a small group. Each group will choose a culture to explore from a list provided by the instructor. The goal of this assignment is for each group to enlighten the class regarding their chosen culture's: worldview, cultural patterns, values and practices in a presentation before the class. Students will be given adequate time to meet in class or online in order to complete this project. The entire project grade consists of three parts: group performance and effectiveness of the presentation (100 pts.), a written, detailed outline of the presentation with accompanying bibliography (50 pts.), and the student's contribution to his/her group (50 pts). Presentations will begin the 12th week of the quarter. More details regarding this assignment will be provided in class.

Note: Students who contribute little or inadequately to their group project (or group meetings) can be voted out of their group at any time during the quarter. If a student is voted out of his/her group, he/she will research and write a 15 page research paper on an Intercultural Communication topic of the instructor's choice. The research paper will have a minimum of 15 cited journal sources and a comprehensive bibliography. The student will present his/her paper and findings to the class in a 30 to 45 minute presentation.

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## General Policies

### Grade Appeals:

You have the opportunity to appeal any grade that you are given in this class. All grade appeals must be typed, stating your reason for appeal. If you so choose, I will accept appeals via e-mail. *Grade appeals must be submitted no sooner than 24 hours after the grade has been issued. I will not discuss any grade on the day the grade is administered. If you send me an appeal prior to 24 hours, I will not review any appeal for that assignment.*

### Late Assignments:

For purposes of equity and fairness for all students, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to complete all written assignments. Deadlines for all assignments will be announced on the course website calendar and are listed in the syllabus.

#### Please note:

You are responsible for ensuring that any assignment submitted as an attachment is capable of being opened (i.e., not a corrupted file). **I will evaluate any corrupted files as being an incomplete assignment – in other words, you will earn a zero for that assignment.**

In the event that you do not turn in your assignment on the day/time it is due, you will be assessed the following academic penalty: late assignments will receive a one point grade reduction for every day they are late (i.e. B+ to C+)\*.

**\*1 FREEBIE** – In order to be fair, I have always stuck to the whole you must have a doctor's note or other documentation to have a late penalty excused. This policy, however, makes much less sense to me today than it did when I started teaching over 10 years ago. Who goes to the doctor these days for a common head cold or nausea? Some of us (including me) do not even have health insurance, so we don't go to the doctor unless it is a life-or-death situation. Given all of this, I have decided to offer you all one freebie. You can pass in one (1) assignment **up to 72 hours late without penalty** this quarter – no documentation or excuses required. Exams and the final project are NOT included in this deal.

### Statement on Academic Integrity:

You should know that plagiarism is a serious violation of your contract as a student and will be treated severely. It is important for you to understand that plagiarism is *any* representation of another person's words or ideas in a manner that makes it seem as if they were your own, in either oral or written form. Obviously, this means that you may not copy another person's papers.

**Students caught cheating on an exam or assignment will not receive any credit for that portion of the class and will be reported to the Dean of Student Programs.**

If you do not know what constitutes plagiarism, please check out this handy [game](#)/guide.

### Special Needs:

If you need course modifications /adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, I can refer you to our Disability Resource Center (DRC). The Disability Resource Center is located in B132 and can be reached at 425-564-2498. Please meet with me if you have any questions.

## **IMPORTANT LINKS**

**Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC:** All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam>

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the Computing Services site - <http://ac.bcc.ctc.edu/LabsInfo/ComputerLabs.aspx>

**Public Safety:** The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is [425.564.2400](tel:425.564.2400). The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/>

**Academic Calendar:** The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- Enrollment Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/deadlines/>. On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.
- College Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/holidays/1013.asp>. This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

### Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic & Assignments	Reading
1	Wed. 19 Sep	Intercultural Communication in Action	None
	Fri. 21 Sep	Intercultural Communication in Action Cont.	Chapter 1 Canvas <i>Optional: Chap 1 Tutorial Quiz</i>
2	Mon. 24 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revisit of Key Terms</li> <li><i>Discuss 1<sup>st</sup> Applied Assignment</i></li> <li><b>Discussion Board #1 Due!</b></li> </ul>	Chapter 2 <i>Optional: Chap 2 Tutorial Quiz</i>
	Wed 26 Sep	Worldview / Religion	Chapter 5 <i>Optional: Chap 5 Tutorial Quiz</i>
	Fri 28 Sep	Disaster Planning Activity	Canvas Chapter 6 <i>Optional: Chap 6 Tutorial Quiz</i>
3	Mon 1 Oct	Hofstede: Fairy Tale Exercise <b>3 Responses: Discussion #1 Due</b> <b>Discussion Board #2 Due!</b>	Fairy Tales (Canvas) Complete
	Wed 3 Oct	Cultural Patterns Wrap-Up Exam Review <b>Applied Assignment #1 Due (Canvas)</b>	Exam Study Guide
	Fri 5 Oct	Roots of Cultural Identity <b>Exam #1 Due! (Canvas)</b>	Chapters 3&4 <i>Optional: Chap 3&amp;4 Tutorial Quiz</i>
4	Mon 8 Oct	Cultural Identity <i>Discuss Applied Assignment #2</i> <b>3 Responses : Discussion #2 Due!</b>	Chapter 7 <i>Optional: Chap 7 Tutorial Quiz</i>
	Wed 10 Oct	Cultural Identity Cont.	Canvas
	Fri 12 Oct	Discuss Final Project	Final Project Details
5	Mon 15 Oct	<b>No Class! Professional Development Day</b>	
	Wed 17 Oct	Language Group Work <b>Applied Assignment #2 Due (Canvas)</b>	Chapter 8 <i>Optional: Chap 8 Tutorial Quiz</i>
	Fri 19 Oct	Language Cont.	Canvas
6	Mon 22 Oct	Exam Review Group Work <b>Discussion Board #3 Due!</b>	Complete Exam Study Guide
	Wed 24 Oct	Nonverbal Communication <i>Discuss Applied Assignment #3</i> <b>Exam #2 Due! (Canvas)</b>	Chapter 9 <i>Optional: Chap 9 Tutorial Quiz</i>

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
6 cont.	Fri 26 Oct	<b>No Classes – Professional Development Day</b>	
7	Mon 29 Oct	Nonverbal Continued <b>3 Responses: Discussion #3 Due!</b>	Canvas
	Wed 31 Oct	<b>Applied Assignment #3 Due (Canvas)</b> Intercultural Business Settings	Chapter 10 <i>Optional:</i> Chap 10 Tutorial Quiz
	Fri 2 Nov	Business Settings Cont. Group Work <b>Discussion Board #4 Due!</b>	Canvas
8	Mon 5 Nov	Intercultural Health Care Setting	Chapter 10 <i>Optional:</i> Chap 10 Tutorial Quiz
	Wed 7 Nov	Health Care continued <i>Discuss Applied Assignment #4</i> Group Work	Canvas
	Fri 9 Nov	Group Work <b>3 Responses: Discussion #4 Due!</b>	None
9	Mon 12 Nov	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	
	Wed 14 Nov	<b>Applied Assignment #4 Due</b> Ethical Issues: Activity	Canvas
	Fri 16 Nov	Intercultural Listening & Conflict Group Work	Canvas
10	Mon 19 Nov	Conflict Continued Group Work <b>Discussion Board #5 Due!</b>	None
	Wed 21 Nov	Exam Review Group Work	Complete Exam Study Guide
	Fri 23 Nov	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	
11	Mon 26 Nov	Course Wrap-Up Group Work <b>Exam #3 Due! (Canvas)</b> <b>3 Responses: Discussion #5 Due!</b>	None
	Wed 28 Nov	Group Work	None
	Fri 30 Nov	Group Work	None
12	Fri 7 Dec	<b><i>Final Presentations, Outlines, &amp; Peer Evaluations Due! (9:30-11:20)</i></b>	