



Intercultural Communication

Syllabus

COMM 380 / Fall 2025

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| Instructor | Dr. Kurt Harris |
| E-mail | harrisk@suu.edu |
| Course Meeting Days and Time | TBD |
| Required Experiential Learning Dates | TBD (tentatively Week 5) |
| Office Hours | TBD |

Catalog Description:

Students will study cultural norms, values, and communication practices among people in various contexts around the world. Focus will be on communication between and among individuals of different cultural backgrounds. A visit to Leicester or London will be required.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit.

General Education Requirements:

This course meets the General Education requirements for Outcome 9.

Course Learning Objectives:

Students who complete this course will demonstrate the ability to do the following:

- Identify contexts that influence intercultural communication
- Compare and contrast various culture-based verbal and nonverbal communication behaviors
- Describe ways in which culture influences the development of interpersonal relationships
- Apply intercultural communication theory to practical situations

HARLAXTON



Methods of Instruction: Reading, lectures, videos, films, and discussions.

Textbooks and Required Reading:

Neuliep, James W. *Intercultural Communication: A Contextual Approach*. 8th ed. SAGE: 2021. Print.

Course Schedule:

Preparation for class: Read all assigned texts before class meetings. Take notes about the assigned material in preparation for class discussions.

| Week | Day | Topic of class meeting | Preparation before class |
|------|-------|--|---|
| 1 | A | Introduction to the course | - None |
| | B | The necessity of intercultural communication | - Read Neuliep Chapter 1 - DUE: Reflective Essay 1 |
| 2 | A | Acculturation & Culture Shock | - Read Chapter 12 |
| | B | Cultural Values I | - DUE: Reflective Essay 2 |
| 3 | A | Cultural Context | - Read Chapter 2 |
| | B | Cultural Values II | - DUE: Reflective Essay 3 |
| 4 | A | Microcultural Context | - Read Chapter 3 |
| | B | Cultural Values III | - DUE: Reflective Essay 4 |
| 5 | A | Environmental Context | - Read Chapter 4 |
| | B | Cultures of Leicester or London | - DUE: Reflective Essay 5 |
| 6 | A | Perceptual Context | - Read Chapter 5 |
| | B | Stereotypes & Empathy | - DUE: Reflective Essay 6 |
| 7 | A | Sociocultural Context | - Read Chapter 6 |
| | B | Review | - DUE: Midterm Portfolio |
| 8 | A & B | FALL BREAK | - NOTHING! |
| 9 | A | Verbal Communication | - Read Chapter 7 |
| | B | Nonverbal Communication | - Read Chapter 8 |
| 10 | A | <i>The Namesake</i> (viewing) | |
| | B | <i>The Namesake</i> (discussion) | - DUE: Reflective Essay 7 |
| 11 | A | Intercultural Relationships | - Read Chapter 9 |
| | B | Intercultural Conflict | - Read Chapter 10 |
| 12 | A | <i>American Factory</i> (viewing) | |
| | B | <i>American Factory</i> (discussion) | - DUE: Reflective Essay 8 |
| 13 | A | Intercultural Comm in Various Settings | - Read Chapter 11 |
| | B | Intercultural Comm & Career Plans | - DUE: Reflective Essay 9 |



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|----|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 14 | A | Review | - Drop-in tutorial |
| | B | Individual Meeting | - Outline or draft of final essay |
| 15 | A | Student Presentations | - DUE: Presentation |
| | B | Conclusions | - DUE: Final Portfolio |

Grading Criteria:

Grading scale

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|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Unacceptable |
| | B+ = 87-89 | C+ = 77-79 | D+ = 67-69 | |
| A = 93-100 | B = 83-86 | C = 73-76 | D = 63-66 | F = 0-59 |
| A- = 90-92 | B- = 80-82 | C- = 70-72 | D- = 60-62 | |

Assignments

| Assignment name | % value | Length or duration | Where to submit | Due date |
|------------------------------|---------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 RE 1: Self-assessment | 5 | 1 page | Online | 1B |
| 2 RE 2: Cultural Values | 5 | 1 page | Online | 2B |
| 3 RE 3: Cultural Clusters | 5 | 1 page | Online | 3B |
| 4 RE 4: Core vs. Flex Values | 5 | 1 page | Online | 4B |
| 5 RE 5: Observational | 5 | 1 page | Online | 5B |
| 6 RE 6: Stereotype/Empathy | 5 | 1 page | Online | 6B |
| 7 RE 7: Film 1 | 5 | 1 page | Online | 10B |
| 8 RE 8: Film 2 | 5 | 1 page | Online | 12B |
| 9 RE 9: Career | 5 | 1 page | Online | 13B |
| 10 Midterm Portfolio | 10 | 4 webpages | Online | 7B |
| 11 Presentation | 5 | 5 minutes | Class | 15A |
| 12 Final Portfolio | 20 | 4 webpages | Online | 15B |
| 13 Participation | 20 | ~40 hours | Class | EVERY DAY |

Assignments 1-9 Reflective Essays

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|----------|---|
| Mode | Essay |
| Format | Semi-formal paper following MLA format |
| Criteria | Clearly written, logically organized, intellectually engaging |

Assignment 10 Midterm Portfolio

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|--------|--|
| Mode | Website |
| Format | Google Sites, Weebly, Wix, or other platform |



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|----------|--|
| Criteria | Clearly written text, engaging images and layout, easy to navigate |
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Assignment 11 Presentation

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| Mode | In-class presentation |
| Format | Formal verbal presentation accompanied by visual presentation |
| Criteria | Clearly spoken, logically organized, intellectually engaging |

Assignment 12 Final Portfolio

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|----------|--|
| Mode | Website |
| Format | Google Sites, Weebly, Wix, or other platform |
| Criteria | Clearly written text, engaging images and layout, easy to navigate |

Assignment 13 Participation

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|----------|---|
| Mode | In class discussions |
| Format | Formality appropriate to the situation |
| Criteria | Attendance in all class meetings, with attentive listening and respectful and appropriate contributions to discussions on a regular basis |

Late assignment submissions

1. Assignments submitted within one day (24 hours) after the due date will be assessed a late penalty of 1%
2. Assignments submitted within two days (48 hours) after the due date will be assessed a late penalty of 5%
3. Assignments submitted within three days (72 hours) after the due date will be assessed a late penalty of 10%
4. Assignments submitted within four days (96 hours) after the due date will be assessed a late penalty of 15%
5. Assignments submitted within five days (120 hours) after the due date will be assessed a late penalty of 20%
6. Assignments will not be accepted and will not receive a grade if they are not submitted within five days (120 hours) after the due date

Note: Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension, you must email the instructor at least two days before the due date.

Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek



the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty. In this class, any unexcused absence beyond two will result in a third-letter grade deduction (A- to B+, B+ to B, etc.)

Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must coordinate and confirm academic field trips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.
- Where authorization for an academic field trip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.

The following information is required:

- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.
- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).
- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.



If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

AI may be used only with prior permission or direction by the instructor.

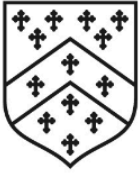
- All work submitted in this course must be your own.
- The use of generative AI composition tools, such as those offered by ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc. is prohibited in this course except for specific assignments and subject to the instructor's guidelines.
- Work generated by such tools without proper attribution is plagiarism and, thereby, a breach of the University's Plagiarism and Academic Honesty policy.

Disability Policy:

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at Harlaxton will meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments.

Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College.



Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole.

Prohibited Conduct and Confidentiality

The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct.

All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees.

Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered “Responsible Employees” under the applicable federal guidelines and the University’s policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity.

You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

- Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator: cs175@evansville.edu
- Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: kg77@evansville.edu
- Title IX Office: titleix@evansville.edu, 812-288-5261
- Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>



You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

University of Evansville

- Counseling Services: counselingservices@evansville.edu, 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: healthcenter@evansville.edu, 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: chaplain@evansville.edu, 812-488-5262

Harlaxton College

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, lselecty@harlaxton.ac.uk
- Counselling Services: counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk