

Vicky Wason

**LING 2600-090 Cross-Cultural Communication**  
**Cross Listed with LING 260-090 and LINGC 260-090**  
Spring Semester 2025  
Online

**Instructor:** Vicky Wason, M.Ed.  
**Email:** Vicky.Wason@utah.edu  
**Office Hours:** **As Requested online**  
**Office Location:** LINCO 2930 (right across from the elevator)  
**Zoom:** <https://utah.zoom.us/j/3189042002> (no password. I have a waiting room)

**TA:** Olalekan Adabayo

**TA:** Ying Suet Michelle Lung

**Prerequisite:** There is no prerequisite for this course.

**Requirement Designation:** Diversity & Humanities Exploration

**Course Attribute:** Sustainability

**General Education:** Critical Thinking, Written Communication, Foundations and Skills for Lifelong Learning

**Bachelor Degree Requirement:** Ethical reasoning and action, Intercultural knowledge and competence, Foundations and skills for lifelong learning, Written communication, Critical thinking, Creative thinking, Teamwork, and Integrative learning

**Required Materials**

Samovar, L., Porter, R., McDaniel, E. & Roy, C. (2016) *Communication Between Cultures* (9th edition) Boston, MA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning ISBN 13: 978-1285444628

MOST Students will choose the electronic book. You can use Bookshelf. Look for it on the navigation bar to the left when you login to CANVAS.

Or a few of you will want your own hardcopy  
[order from amazon](#)

You will need access from the beginning of the semester.

Note that you will occasionally be required to use websites outside of Canvas. You will need to register to access these sites. I suggest you make a University of Utah Google account so you keep all your work separate from your personal account. Set up your [University of Utah google account](#) and use your new gmail to log in to sites like [padlet](#).

All other materials will be provided online.

## **Course Description**

Explores the theory and practice of communication across languages and cultures to increase understanding of cultural differences that influence communication and enhance appreciation of the diverse ways of communicating in different cultures. Topics may include: language and identity, verbal communication, non-verbal communication, perception, cultural values, history and its cultural impact, and worldview.

## **Course Outcomes**

**By the end of the term, students will:**

- Increase understanding of cultural issues that influence the effectiveness of communication
- Enhance appreciation of the diverse ways of communicating in different cultures
- Apply insights from our investigation of discrimination to modern intercultural exchanges
- Recognize, use, and master techniques for improving intercultural communication within various types of environments
- Critically examine stereotypes and the political, linguistic, and economic systems that created them

## **Grading Scale:**

- A 94-100%
- A- 90-93
- B+ 87-89
- B 83-86
- B- 80-82
- C+ 77-79
- C 73-76
- C- 70-72
- D+ 67-69
- D 63-66
- D- 60-62
- E 59 and below

You must receive a percentage score of > 73% to pass this course

## **How to be Successful in the Course**

Don't fall behind! This course has a large enrollment, and it will be challenging for the instructor to know each of you individually. Use the [Class Forum link](#) to post questions about the course. Perhaps other students have the same question! You can chime in to help each other, and your instructor will check in regularly to post as well. Your instructor will give timely feedback on your assignments, but it is your responsibility to contact her with questions and concerns before

they turn into major issues. Your instructor will be an active participant in the course and expects you to be, also.

This course is worth 3 credits. Since this course is online you can expect to spend anywhere between 9-12 hours each week on coursework. Plan accordingly and look ahead. Some weeks may require more time while other weeks require less.

### **Library Help and Student Support**

If you can come to the University campus, the Marriott Library offers [writing tutors for undergraduates](#).

Need off-campus tutoring help with your writing? Access [etutoring](#) and click the blue button to log in with your Unid.

### **Course Policies**

You can see your entire list of assignments and due dates at the bottom of this page. You can always access this page by clicking the Syllabus link on the left.

In addition, I will use the announcements feature in Canvas to provide students in this course with important and time-sensitive information. Students are responsible for reading all announcements made during the semester. To read announcements, click on "Announcements" in the left-hand navigation menu.

You can [set up notifications in Canvas](#)[Links to an external site.](#) to go directly to your email.

**If an assignment is late you** will lose 10% of the grade for every day something is late. At a certain point you will earn a zero on the assignment.

**Emailed assignments are not accepted.** You must follow the instructions on Canvas and post your assignments accordingly.

My goal turn-around time is 1-2 weeks for all your assignments.

Since this is an online class, we often think messages will get an immediate response. While I'm here to offer you as much support as possible please plan your queries to allow for appropriate response time. M-F I will respond to emails within 24 hours. From 5:00pm Friday until 8:00am Monday I will respond to emails intermittently. This means that on some weekends I will not respond at all and others I might respond a lot.

### **Technology and Netiquette**

It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in this online course. Equipment failures will not be an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignments.

Discussion threads, e-mails, and the Class Forum of Canvas are all considered to be equivalent to classrooms, and student behavior within these environments shall conform to the [Student Code](#). Specifically:

- Posting photos or comments that would be off-topic in a classroom are still off-topic in an online posting.
- Using angry or abusive language is called “flaming” and is not acceptable, and will be dealt with according to the [Student Code](#).
- This class touches on a number of sensitive topics and also works to support cross-cultural understanding and conversation. Please be respectful and supportive even when you disagree. For example:
  - *Student A: "I don't agree with current immigration policies."*
  - *Student B: "Can you explain your perspective and what concerns you have about immigration policies?"*
    - I'm just giving an example and not commenting on the issue, but illustrating how to respond to a comment respectfully and from a place of inquiry. We are learning and starting the conversation in this class on many contentious issues. We are all at different places rooted in our own identity and experience. Remember and know that we are learning together and can support each other throughout this process.

Questions about technical issues? Contact the help desk listed at the bottom of the home page ([classhelp@utah.edu](mailto:classhelp@utah.edu)).

We strongly recommend you have at least two browsers on your computer: Safari, Chrome, or Firefox. If something in Canvas isn't working correctly, **copy the page URL and open it in a different browser**. This often solves the problem.

**Please check the web page regularly for announcements:** This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas under Announcements.

## University Policies

### Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities.

All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the [Center for Disability & Access](#) (CDA). CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. Prior notice is appreciated. To read the full accommodations policy for the University of Utah, please see Section Q of the [Instruction & Evaluation regulations](#).

In compliance with ADA requirements, some students may need to record course content. Any recordings of course content are for personal use only, should not be shared, and should never be made publicly available. In addition, recordings must be destroyed at the conclusion of the course.

If you will need accommodations in this class, or for more information about what support they provide, contact:

Center for Disability & Access

801-581-5020

[disability.utah.edu](http://disability.utah.edu)

162 Union Building

200 S. Central Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **Safety at the U**

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more safety information and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu).

To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, contact:

### **Campus Police & Department of Public Safety**

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

[dps.utah.edu](http://dps.utah.edu)

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **Addressing Sexual Misconduct**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status, or genetic information.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to university officials:

### **Title IX Coordinator & Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action**

801-581-8365

[oeo.utah.edu](http://oeo.utah.edu)

135 Park Building

201 Presidents' Cir.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

## **Office of the Dean of Students**

801-581-7066

[deanofstudents.utah.edu](http://deanofstudents.utah.edu)

270 Union Building

200 S. Central Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

To file a police report, contact:

## **Campus Police & Department of Public Safety**

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

[dps.utah.edu](http://dps.utah.edu)

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

If you do not feel comfortable reporting to authorities, the U's Victim-Survivor Advocates provide free, confidential, and trauma-informed support services to students, faculty, and staff who have experienced interpersonal violence.

To privately explore options and resources available to you with an advocate, contact:

## **Center for Student Wellness**

801-581-7776

[wellness.utah.edu](http://wellness.utah.edu)

328 Student Services Building

201 S. 1460 E.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

## **Academic Misconduct**

It is expected that students comply with University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: [Policy 6-410: Student Academic Performance, Academic Conduct, and Professional and Ethical Conduct](#).

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code:

*"...Includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct."*

For details on plagiarism and other important course conduct issues, see the U's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

### **Critical Discourse**

Our classroom community is an open space for free speech, critical discourse, and the civil exchange of ideas. Throughout this course, you may encounter some difficult discussions about contentious topics. Disagreement can be a valuable learning opportunity for all of us, and discussion of all views is a necessary part of the educational process. All members of our course are asked to do their part in creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and sensitivity toward others.

Disruptive behavior (e.g. harassment, defamatory or obscene speech, threats of violence, etc.) is strictly prohibited. As outlined in [Policy 1-007, Section III.E.1](#):

*"...Students have no right to impinge on the freedom of instructors to teach or the right of other students to learn. If a student persists in behaving disruptively in class after the instructor has explained the unacceptability of such conduct, the instructor may dismiss the student from the class and may refer the matter to the Office of the Dean of Students as described in [Policy 6-400](#)."*

Students dismissed from classes may choose to [appeal the dismissal to the Office of the Dean of Students](#).

[Learn more about how your First Amendment rights apply to you as a student here at the U.](#)

### **Drop Withdrawl Policy**

Students may drop a course within the first two weeks of a given semester without any penalties.

Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A "W" grade is recorded on the transcript and appropriate tuition/fees are assessed. The grade "W" is not used in calculating the student's GPA.

For deadlines to withdraw from full-term, first, and second session classes, see the U's [Academic Calendar](#).

**Lauren's Promise** is a vow that anyone— faculty, staff, students, parents, and community members— can take to indicate to others that they represent a safe haven for sharing incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking. Anyone who makes *Lauren's Promise* vows to:

1. Listen to and believe those individuals who are being threatened or experiencing sexual assault, dating violence or stalking;

2. Represent a safe haven for sharing incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking, and;
3. Change campus culture that responds poorly to dating violence and stalking.

Your instructor is making *Lauren's Promise*. Individuals who make the promise are helping to change campus cultures that respond poorly to dating violence and stalking throughout the nation. Learn more [here](#).

## **Indigenous Land Acknowledge**

The University of Utah has both historical and contemporary relationships with Indigenous peoples. Given that the Salt Lake Valley has always been a gathering place for Indigenous peoples, we acknowledge that this land, which is named for the Ute Tribe, is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Shoshone, Paiute, Goshute, and Ute Tribes and is a crossroad for Indigenous peoples.

The University of Utah recognizes the enduring relationships between many Indigenous peoples and their traditional homelands. We are grateful for the territory upon which we gather today; we respect Utah's Indigenous peoples, the original stewards of this land; and we value the sovereign relationships that exist between tribal governments, state governments, and the federal government. Today, approximately 60,000 American Indian and Alaska Native peoples live in Utah. As a state institution, the University of Utah is committed to serving Native communities throughout Utah in partnership with Native Nations and our Urban Indian communities through research, education, and community outreach activities.

## **Student Wellness**

Your personal health and wellness are essential to your success as a student. Personal concerns like stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, or cross-cultural differences can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in this course and at the University of Utah. Please feel welcome to reach out to your instructor or TA to handle issues regarding your coursework.

For helpful resources to manage your personal wellness and counseling options, contact:

### **Counseling Services**

801-581-6826  
[counselingcenter.utah.edu](http://counselingcenter.utah.edu)  
Student Services Building  
201 South 1460 East, Rm 426  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **Center for Student Wellness**

801-581-7776  
[wellness.utah.edu](http://wellness.utah.edu)  
2100 Eccles Student Life Center

1836 Student Life Way  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

## **Student Support**

Your success at the University of Utah is important to all of us here! If you feel like you need extra support in academics, overcoming personal difficulties, or finding community, the U is here for you. Please refer to the [Student Support Services page for the U](#) for updated information.

## **Basic Needs Collective**

Success at The University of Utah includes learning about and using available resources. The [Basic Needs Collective](#) (BNC) is a coordinated resource referral hub. They educate about and connect students to campus and community resources to help them meet their basic needs. As a central location for resource referrals related to food, housing, health insurance, managing finances, legal services, mental health, etc., any student experiencing difficulties with basic needs is encouraged to contact them. Drop into their office located in the Union basement, or schedule with them online for an in-person or virtual visit through their webpage: [basicneeds.utah.edu](http://basicneeds.utah.edu).