

Linguistics 2600-090
Cross-Cultural Communication
Summer 2025

Course Introduction

Welcome to the course!

- **Course Number:** LING 2600-090
- **Prerequisite:** There is no prerequisite for this course.
- **Requirement Designation:** Diversity & Humanities Exploration
- **Essential Learning Outcomes:**
 - **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
- **Course credits:** 3
- **Faculty:** Yan Shi
 - E-mail: yan.shi@utah.edu
 - Office hours: by appointment. Contact me at the address above and we can set up a Zoom meeting at a time that is convenient for us both.

Course Description

The overall goal of this course is to develop an understanding of the process of communicating across cultural boundaries. Since culture is both a producer and product of communication, the appreciation of communication processes is an essential factor in promoting positive intercultural relations. We will critically examine the economic and political tensions that have systematically and historically occurred in the United States and how they shaped and still shape cultural values and linguistic systems in dominant and non-dominant societies today.

Course Objectives

- Increase understanding of cultural issues that influence the effectiveness of communication
- Enhance appreciation of the diverse ways of communicating in different cultures
- Apply our analysis of systematic discrimination to current intercultural interactions
- Recognise, 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

Required Course Materials

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

Purchase your book now! You will need it 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.

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](#) on the home page 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.

Take a look at the [pop-up](#), which shows the characteristics of successful online students.

Course Due Dates and Instructor Response Times

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](#) to go directly to your email.

I do not allow late work or make-up work. Keep this in mind as you plan to complete your work.

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

My goal turn-around time is 1 week 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 one some weekends I will not respond at all and others I might respond a lot.

Course Structure and Format

As this course is designed to provide an active learning experience, you need to participate in discussions having already studied the assigned readings and lecture videos. Good participation is critical to your success in this course.

Modules are started and finished in one week. Each module page will have all the lectures, assignments and activities listed that are to be completed during that module.

Course Assignments

Assignments for the course are broken up into 4 categories and weighted accordingly:

Writing Assignments 30% (Notice the link to your [semester writing assignments](#) on the homepage)

Activities and Discussions 30%

Quizzes 20%

Final Paper 20%

Grading

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

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.

Is English your second language? Find [extra library help](#).

Technology Issues 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 behaviour 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 says: I don't agree with gay marriage.
 - Student B can say: Could you explain where you're coming from and what you object to about gay marriage?
 - 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).

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.

Academic Integrity

All exams and quizzes in this course are assumed to be conducted independently by each student.

Incidents of academic misconduct (e.g. cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating on an assignment) will be subject to penalty per Section V of Policy 6-400, the [Student Code](#), a penalty which may include a 0 on an assignment, a 0 for a grading category, a 0 on an exam, or an E in the course, and the incident will be referred to the dean of your major-department college.

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 the Title IX Coordinator in the [Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action](#), 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the [Center for Student Wellness](#), 426 SB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677 (COPS).

The Americans with Disabilities Act

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the [Center for Disability Services](#), 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

Withdrawal Policy and Academic Calendar

Students may drop any class without penalty or permission by Friday of the 2nd week of classes. After that date, students may withdraw from a course without permission until midway through the semester (see link below for specific dates). In this case, a "W" grade will be recorded on the academic record and applicable tuition and fees will be assessed. Students may appeal withdrawal deadlines "in cases of compelling, non-academic emergencies" by submitting a petition and supporting documentation to the Psychology office, which will then be forwarded to the dean of their major college.

Deadlines and other important dates during the semester can be found here:

<http://www.sa.utah.edu/regist/calendar/datesDeadlines/deadlines.htm>

Wellness

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, and cross-cultural differences can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources, contact the Center for Student Wellness at www.wellness.utah.edu or 801-581-7776. They have counselors who can help you and treat your concerns with absolute confidentiality.