Instructor: Nolan Weil  
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Phone: 797-2052  
E-mail: nolan.weil@usu.edu  
Office Hours: T-TH 12:00-1:15 and by appointment  
Class Times: T-TH 10:30-11:45 / (F - 11:30-12:20-IELI 2470 only)  
Location: MAIN 119                MAIN 201

**Important Dates:**

- Jan 08   Classes Begin  
- Jan 15   Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – No Classes  
- Feb 19   President’s Day Holiday - No Classes  
- Feb 20   Follow Monday Class Schedule  
- Mar 5-9   Spring Break - No Classes  
- April 27   Classes End  
- Apr 30-May 4   Final Examinations

**Text:** *Speaking of Culture* - an Open Source Text is available at no cost in three formats. You can download the book below.

- **ePub** (iBooks on Apple computer, iPhone, iPad)  
- **MOBI** (for Kindle app)  
- **Pdf** (Printable)

**About the Course:** This course brings together participants from diverse cultural backgrounds in order to 1) better understand culture as a construct of wide-ranging importance in the social sciences and humanities, and 2) examine the role of culture in structuring human identities.
Course Objectives: If you take full advantage of the opportunities for learning that the course will provide, you will be able to:

- write an extended definition of the concept of "culture"
- discuss the origins of culture and its global dispersion
- define and make use of various secondary concepts closely associated with culture (e.g., ethnicity, nationality, customs, norms, rituals, etc.)
- analyze the multiple influences that have contributed to your own cultural identity
- discuss potential barriers to cross-cultural understanding
- identify elements of culture illustrated in popular movies (as well as in your everyday experiences).

What to Expect in this Course

- The course will consist of a combination of reading, lecture, face-to-face small group discussion, online small group discussion, and 2-3 course projects.
- All Assignments and Activities will be posted on CANVAS (an online platform for organizing course activities and materials). You can also expect announcements throughout the semester.
- Classes may begin with unannounced quizzes over assigned readings or previously covered material. Not every class will begin this way, but if you come prepared, you will never be caught by surprise.

What I Expect of You as a University Student

- That you come to every class (illness and emergencies excepted)
- That when you step into the classroom, you set aside all preoccupations and attend to the business of the day.
- That you not make a habit of leaving the classroom while class is in session except in the case of emergency.
- That you use laptops and smartphones only for purposes related to course activities and objectives.
- That you use class time for pursuing activities related to this course and no other.
- That you contribute to the best of your ability to class activities and discussions and respect the contributions of others.
- That you have set CANVAS preferences to receive notifications of all new postings and that you check CANVAS daily for updates.

Evaluation:

Contribution to Online & In-class Group Discussion - 30%
Unannounced Quizzes, Unit Tests, Midterm Exam & Final Exam - 35%
2-3 Projects / Presentations - 35%
NOTE: All assignments are expected to be submitted by the stated due date, and exams must be taken on the days they are scheduled. (If you must miss an exam for an excused reason, e.g., illness, contact me prior to the exam to make arrangements for making up the exam.

Late submissions of online discussion topics or papers may be reduced by 20%. Discussion topics will generally have termination dates, i.e., at a certain day and time, topics will be closed for discussion. If you miss the deadline, you will receive "0" for the discussion.

Grades:

Grades will be calculated based on the following percentages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>88-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-87%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>80-82%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>78-79%</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>63-67%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;63%</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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USU and IELI attendance policy

Attendance is important. (For international students on an F-1 or J-1 Visa, attendance is not only important for learning but essential for to maintain legal immigration status. IELI works closely with the office of Global Engagement to ensure that our students maintain their immigration status and will report students who regularly miss class. Consequently, the following attendance policy will be enforced.

**Missing consecutive classes**

If a student misses 7 consecutive classes for any one class without contacting the instructor and providing valid proof of absence (e.g. a medical excuse from a doctor), their immigration status will be terminated and they will be sent home.

**Total classes**

If a student misses 7 total class hours for any one class or 22 total class hours in any one semester, their immigration status will be terminated and they will be sent home.

**USU policy - excused absences**

According to the USU policy, a student may not miss more than 20% of any class even if it is excused. This means that you cannot miss more than 9 classes for any one class, even if some of the absences are excused. If a student’s total absences (excused and unexcused) for any class exceeds 9, their immigration status will be terminated and they will be sent home.
**Warnings**

Students will get at least three warnings before their immigration status is terminated. It is the student’s responsibility to provide a current e-mail address to IELI and the office of Global Engagement and check their e-mail regularly. If a student’s immigration status is terminated, they will be given 15 days to leave the U.S.

**IELI Grading Policy**

The grades you get for each class are based on the work you do for that class. Attendance and effort are important factors for successful learning but do not directly affect your grade. It is important for you to do your best on all your in-class and at home activities as they will be graded on how well you complete these activities. Successful completion of these activities will help you gain the knowledge and skills you need to meet learner outcomes for each course.

**Progressing to the next level in IELI**

You must receive a grade of C- or better in any IELI class in order to pass that class and move to the next level of that class. Students who receive lower than a C- are required to repeat the class until they receive a passing grade. If you are not passing a class at mid-term you will be re-registered for the class until final grades are posted. If your final grade shows that you passed the class, you will be moved up into the next level or the class will be dropped.

If you want to check on how well you met the learner outcomes for each class, there are two ways to do so: 1) you can get a copy of the student achievement form from the IELI staff assistants or 2) you can access your grade on the USU website and then compare the grade to the Grade Descriptions on the IELI website (Current Students -> Academics-> Grade Descriptions).

**In-term evaluations**

Your professors will inform you, in writing, of your grade three times during the semester (e.g. approximately 4 weeks, 8 weeks and 12 weeks). For the midterm evaluation, IELI faculty assign a letter grade to students in each of their classes. If you are doing work at a level lower than C in any of your classes, your professor will meet with you to discuss what you will need to do to pass the class.

**University Policies**

**Plagiarism.** Plagiarism includes knowingly “representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.” The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.
Students with Disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act states: "Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center (797-2444), preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, course materials can be provided in alternative format, large print, audio, diskette, or Braille."