

**IELI 1230: Cross-Cultural Talk I/II  
Fall 2016**

**Instructor:** Stacy Thomson  
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**Office Hours:** Main 076 MW 10:30-11:30pm, or by appointment  
**Time:** MWF: 9:30- 10:20  
**Location:** Huntsman Hall 122

**Fall 2016 Schedule**

Classes Begin.....Monday, Aug 29  
Labor Day.....Monday, Sep 05  
Friday Class Schedule.....Thursday, Oct 20  
Fall Break.....Friday, Oct 21  
Thanksgiving Holiday.....Wednesday – Friday, Nov 23 - 25  
No-Test Week.....Monday – Friday, Dec 05 - 09  
Classes End.....Friday, Dec 09  
Final Examinations.....Monday – Friday, Dec 12 - 16

**Required Text:** *None*

**Course Goal:** Students will:

- improve oral communication with native English speakers in different cross-cultural situations
- develop speaking skills in both formal and informal situations

**Expected Learner Outcomes:**

- 1) Students demonstrate improvement in oral communication with native English speakers in different cross-cultural situations by...
  - engaging in conversations about a variety of topics
  - using idioms, vocabulary, and slang
  - comparing and contrasting aspects of cultures
  - demonstrating comprehensibility while carrying on social conversations (Level 2)
  
- 2) Students demonstrate speaking skills in both formal and informal situations by...
  - using appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication
  - speaking in front of a class and peer groups

**Attendance and Participation:**

This course is designed to help you improve in speaking. You will be given topics and homework to prepare for speaking in class. To be successful, you are expected to come to class on-time and prepared. You are also expected to participate actively in all class discussions and to ask questions, in English, when you do not understand.

Since speaking and interacting with your classmates, in English, are necessary parts of this class, **your grade will be affected by your daily English performance in class.**

**\*Always speak in English in the classroom.** This is critical for your success.

If you are sick and unable to attend class, send me an email ([stacythomson2002@yahoo.com](mailto:stacythomson2002@yahoo.com)) or text message (435-730-0764) to let me know why you will be absent **BEFORE CLASS BEGINS.**

**Immigration rules require** that international students be full-time (18-credits) while at IELI and attend classes every day. Professors must report excessive absences to the International Student Office. An absence of longer than one or two classes due to illness will require a note from a doctor explaining your absence. I will take attendance every day. Please note that class begins promptly at the designated hour, if you are late I will mark you as such.

**Daily activities and Homework:** For each assignment (both in-class and homework) you will get a grade based on the work that you do. It is important that you participate in the class activities in order to receive the full benefits of this course. Homework assignments must be completed, prior to each class, to enable all students to participate fully. Late homework may be accepted, up to 24 hours after the due date, for a point reduction. After 24 hours, no late assignments will be accepted. Extenuating circumstances may be applied.

**Tea Time:** Students are required to attend Tea Time in the USU Writing Center (RWST 104) **8 times** during the course of the semester to practice English with native English speakers. The instructor will give you a handout that you must fill out and have signed by someone in the writing lab, each time you attend. The due dates for handing in the signed worksheets will be posted on Canvas.

**Events in Logan:** Throughout the semester students will be required to attend activities or events on campus and/or in Logan. Students will be provided with a list of activities (some may have admission fees, however, most will be free events to attend and students will never be required to spend money for an assignment). Each student will attend or participate in a minimum of 8 activities on campus or in the community during the course of the semester. Students will complete a talking journal after attending each event and will also have opportunities to share their experiences with classmates during class time.

**Talking Journal:** Once each week you will record yourself speaking on Canvas, throughout the semester. Your topic will be stated in the posted assignment and will be related to an in-class discussion. Your talk should demonstrate natural speech and should not sound rehearsed or read. Some of the talking journals will require a partner and should be completed with a member of this class. Talking journals will **ALWAYS** be posted and completed on Canvas.

**Presentations:** In this course you will be required to give 3 presentations based on a topic that is approved by the instructor. Your presentation must:

- model natural speech
- be within the specified time frame
- be interesting to listen to
- be on a topic that was discussed in class
- meet the requirements detailed in the rubric

A rubric will be provided by the instructor prior to the presentation. Due to the nature of group presentations, an absence on the day of the presentation will result in forfeiting the points for the presentation.

**Oral Interviews:** There will be three oral interviews during the semester.

- Friday, September 30, 2016
- Friday, October 28, 2016
- Monday, November 21, 2016

**Final Exam:** The details of the final exam will be discussed after Fall Break. The final exam will be based on information learned and skills practiced during the course. Active participation and learning throughout the semester will be required to be successful on the final exam.

**Evaluation:**

Daily in-class activities, Homework	20%
Presentations (3)	30%
Oral Interviews (3)	30%
Final Exam	20%

The following grading scale will be used for the final grade:

93%-100% = A	92%-90% = A-	88%-89% = B+
83%-87% = B	80%-82% = B-	79%-78% = C+
77%-73% = C	72%-70% = C-	69%-67% = D+
67%-63% = D	62%-60% = D-	Below 60% = F

*As per IELI policy, any grade below C- is failing*

**IELI Policies and Practices**

**IELI Attendance Policy**

Learning a language requires that you actively attend and participate in your classes. If you do not regularly attend classes, you may miss important information and fail the class, not progressing to the next level in the IELI program. For students studying on a visa, if you miss more than a week of class we are obligated to contact the Office of Global Engagement to report your absence. Missing multiple classes and/or failing multiple courses can have serious

consequences for some students as it can be grounds for revoking their visa and requiring the students to immediately return to their country.

### **Grading**

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**

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**

Academic Integrity – “The Honor System.” Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to establish the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students.

**The Honor Pledge:** To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: “I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity.” A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

Grievance Process (Student Code). Students who feel they have been unfairly treated [in matters other than (i) discipline or (ii) admission, residency, employment, traffic, and parking – which are addressed by procedures separate and independent from the Student Code] may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: [http://studentlife.tsc.usu.edu/stuserv/pdf/student\\_code.pdf](http://studentlife.tsc.usu.edu/stuserv/pdf/student_code.pdf) (Article VII. Grievances, pages 25-30).

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.

Sexual Harassment. Sexual harassment is defined by the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as any “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.” If you feel you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may talk to or file a complaint with the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Office located in Old Main, Room 161, or call the AA/EEO Office at 797-1266.

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.”

Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy. Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.