IELI 2470 Cross-Cultural Perspectives / IELI 2475 Cross-Cultural Explorations

IELI 2470 Cross-Cultural Perspectives is a 4-credit course for students enrolled in IELI. IELI 2475 Cross-Cultural Explorations is a 3-credit course for non-IELI students.

Time & Place  Both courses: Tues & Thurs, Main 006, 10:30-11:45  
2470 (language support): Fri, Geol 405, 11:30-12:20

Lecturer  Kim Andrus - kim.a.andrus@usu.edu  
Office - Old Main 076. Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 Mon & Wed, 12:00-1:00 Tues & Thurs

Required Materials  • *Speaking of Culture* by Nolan Weil (2017 Open Source Text, available freely online)  
• (legal) access to streaming service or DVD of a film depicting intercultural situation which will be chosen later in the semester

Important Spring 2020 Dates

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Day of IELI Classes</td>
<td>Tues, Jan 7</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</td>
<td>Mon, Jan 20</td>
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<td>IELI curriculum day</td>
<td>Fri, Feb 14</td>
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<td>Presidents' Day</td>
<td>Mon, Feb 17</td>
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<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Mon-Fri, Mar 02-06</td>
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<td>No-Test Week</td>
<td>Wed-Tues, Apr 15-21</td>
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<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
<td>Tues, Apr 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Test 3)</td>
<td>Tues, Apr 28, 9:30-10:30</td>
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Course Description
This course brings together students from a variety of ethnic backgrounds for the purpose of cultural exploration. Students examine the influence of culture on beliefs, behaviors, and values.

Course Goals
Students will...

- learn about various definitions of culture and how cultures influence behavior, beliefs, and values,
- increase their awareness of cross-cultural similarities and differences in area such as communication, life-styles, business practices and institutional settings,
- gain an understanding of the stages and symptoms of culture shock,
- gain an understanding of fundamental value systems that inform and determine all cultural practices, and
- explore the value systems of the culture of the United States and the cultures of the international students enrolled in the class.

Expected Learner Outcomes
Students can...

- provide a written definition of culture,
- analyze the multiple influences that have contributed to their own cultural makeup,
- identify the different stages and symptoms of culture shock and coping strategies for this condition,
- compare and contrast cultural differences in areas such as educational systems, gender roles, business practices, or the areas of the students’ interests,
- identify and analyze, given a cultural interaction (including episodes from films), the underlying values of the participants, and
- understand ethnocentrism and recognize stereotypical characterizations.
**Evaluation**

**Assessments:** Your demonstration of the course outcomes will consist of work on brief reflection papers, a paper and group presentation about a film reflecting intercultural communication themes, quizzes & homework, and three tests.

The course Canvas will have assignment details and grading rubric for the reflection papers and the film project.

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection Papers</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>(2 papers, each 500-600 words / about 2 double-spaced pages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes/Classwork</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>(4 15-pt reading quizzes which may be unannounced; up to 6 5-pt homework assignments or classwork activity/participation scores)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(collaborative presentation and individual paper)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>(3 50-pt tests, the 3rd given on the final exam date, the lowest score dropped)</td>
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**TOTAL** 100%

**Extra Credit Opportunities:** Extra credit opportunities (max 5 pts each for up to 30 points, added to the Quizzes/Classwork Score) are available for participation in activities or events involving cross-culture engagement/communication. To receive credit, submit an email to your instructor within a week of the activity with a brief (4-6-sentence paragraph) description of the event and how it was a cross-culture experience. Your instructor may ask you to briefly share your experience with the class as well.

Suggested opportunities include attending Conversation Partner Program partner meet-ups (for details contact Marta Halaczkiewicz at martahala@usu.edu), USU International Council organization events, USU International Friends activities, IELISA activities, and (for non-native English speakers) USU Writing Center's TEA Time.

**Final Grade:** Your final grade for the class will be assigned as follows, based on the percentage of points earned throughout the semester. Note that a grade of at least C- is required to pass IELI courses.

- 93%-100% = A
- 90%-92% = A-
- 88%-89% = B+
- 83%-87% = B
- 80%-82% = B-
- 78%-79% = C+
- 73%-77% = C
- 70%-72% = C-
- 68%-69% = D+
- 63%-67% = D
- 60%-62% = D-
- Below 60% = F

**Exam Dates / Major Assignment Due Dates**

Readings: A reading schedule for Speaking of Culture will be given in Week 2.

Quizzes will cover the readings as scheduled and may be unannounced

- Tues Feb 4, TEST 1 (Covers Speaking of Culture Ch 1-3 and other classwork/lectures)
- Tues Feb 11, Paper 1
- Tues March 17, Paper 2
- Tues Mar 24, TEST 2 (SoC Ch 4-6 and other classwork/lectures)
- Tues Apr 14, Film Project Paper
- Thurs Apr 16, Film Project Presentation
- Tues Apr 28, TEST 3 (SoC Ch 7-8 and other classwork/lectures)
Cautionary Note

This course covers areas of beliefs and values and other potentially sensitive topics. Most of us are likely to feel challenged or uncomfortable with one or more of the topics and class discussions. Such situations are opportunities to learn and grow, to reflect on our own perspectives, and above all, to develop and practice the art of understanding and respecting others who have differing worldviews.

Attendance & Make-Up Work

It is important to come to class and arrive on time. If you cannot attend a class, remember that you are the one responsible for finding out what you’ve missed. Please contact classmates or your instructor by email if you have questions about missed class information or work.

If you miss any announced exams, quizzes, or other graded activities or due dates, because of a situation beyond your control (such as a health emergency), and you can provide evidence that this is the case (such as a doctor’s note) the instructor will allow you to make up the work. However, if you miss a graded assignment or fail to complete classwork for other reasons, the instructor generally will NOT allow you to make up missed work. The instructor will decide in each case, based on the above and IELI / USU policies.

Participation

Active Involvement: During class you are expected to actively participate in partner and group discussions and activities, and continue to focus on and extend your practice if you complete tasks early. Be prepared to participate as well in general class discussions and activities. You must be attentive and should be prepared to take notes, share ideas, ask questions, and be involved.

Tips for Success

In the classroom
• Attend class every day. Don't be late. Bring class materials.
• Pay attention. Take notes. Have a positive attitude.
• Ask your instructor if you need help or have a question.
• Try hard. Participate actively in class and group discussions.

Outside the classroom
• Take care of yourself. Make healthy habits and get enough sleep.
• Always do the readings and complete assignments early. Review for tests individually and/or with classmates.
• Look for chances to discuss, use and practice what you are learning.

IELI Program Policies and Practices

USU and IELI attendance policy
Attendance is not only important for learning but essential for international students on an F-1 or J-1 visa to maintain their 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.
IELI Policy - 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 an international 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 class meetings 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.

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.

USU Policies and Practices

Grievance Process
Students who feel they have been unfairly treated [in matters other than discipline, 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: Article VII Grievances

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 (435) 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 (435) 797-2444, preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration related 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 will be provided in alternative format (e.g. large print, audio, diskette, or Braille) upon request.

**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 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.