

# First-Year Seminar in WSUA 102 Cross Cultural Communication 3 hrs, FA 2018

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| **Office Hours:** | 8:30-9:20 |
| **Classroom; Days/Time:** | EH 105 9:30-10:45 MW |

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**How to use this syllabus**

This syllabus provides you with information specific to this course, and it also provides information about important university policies. This document should be viewed as a course overview; it is not a contract and is subject to change as the semester evolves.

# Academic Honesty

Students are responsible for knowing and following the Student Code of Conduct <http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch8_05.htm>and the Student Academic Honesty policy [http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch2\_17.htm.](http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch2_17.htm)

# Course Description

This general education seminar course will be an integral part of your general education at Wichita State University. You will explore Cross Cultural Communication from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. In this course you will become part of the community of academic learners whose responsibility it is to ask questions, explore and exchange ideas, and become effective critical thinkers. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to engage with your fellow students and WSU faculty and staff by participating in activities aimed to further connect you to WSU.

The mission of general education is to provide a well-rounded education that enables you to live the fullest most meaningful life possible regardless of your particular career preparation. Embedded throughout this course and furthered in the major are the skills that enable graduates to contribute productively to society and the on-going culture.

Cross Cultural Communication will teach you to appreciate the cultural diversity located on the Wichita State Campus. You will meet people from other cultures to help you understand their world perspectives. In addition, you will learn speaking and writing skills to improve your own communication with people from other cultures.

# Definition of a Credit Hour

# Success in this 3 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction and preparation/studying or course related activities for a total of 135 hours.

# Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

*Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:*

* *Articulate cultural differences among different populations.*
* *Use technology effectively in the delivery of presentations.*
* *Discuss global current events* *and the impact they have on students’ lives*.
* *Write their opinions about global/cultural issues*.
* *Adapt to and engage in the culture of WSU.*

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| **General Education Goal**  The goal of general education is to enable you to live a rich, meaningful life by developing an informed appreciation of the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences; an ability to intelligently follow and participate in current events, and a sensitive and tutored appreciation of diverse cultures and way of living. | |
| **Course Learner Outcomes (CLO)**  Upon completion of this course you will | **General Education Outcomes (GEO)**  Upon completion of this course, you will have started on your journey to: |
| be able to describe the inter-disciplinary nature of communication; locate the geographic areas to which certain cultures belong; identify various cultures represented on the WSU campus; discuss how financial literacy is taught in other cultures | Acquire knowledge in the arts, humanities, and/or natural and social sciences |
| * be able to write opinions about information presented by guest speakers; analyze when stereotyping has occurred; explain how differences in verbal style can lead to misunderstanding; develop cross-cultural competence | Demonstrate the ability to think critically and independently |
| * be able to outline ideas and present a one-point speech about one’s own culture; outline a 3-5 and 4-6 minute informative speeches requiring visual aids; work on a small group project; write 5 paragraph observation and opinion papers; write thank-you notes to guest speakers | Write and speak effectively; organize ideas; manage PowerPoint |
| * collaborate on a small group assignments; | Employ listening and problem solving techniques |
| * use creativity to compose and design something original | Work on a service learning project |
| * be able to research independently in Ablah Library | Develop fundamentals of information literacy and library research |
| be able to identify classmates’ cultural backgrounds; articulate nonverbal differences and similarities between various cultures; discuss the way people with disabilities are treated in various cultures    **Student Success Outcomes (SSO)**  During this course, you will have the opportunity to: | Develop an appreciation for diversity |
| 1. Connect to faculty and other students to develop an appreciation for others and respect for diversity.  2. Develop more effective study and life skills in areas including information literacy, time management, note taking, test taking, personal finance, and learning styles.  3. Immerse yourself into the Wichita State community to understand resources, campus traditions and culture, and the value of student involvement. | 1. You will learn of the cultural diversity on the WSU campus.  2. You will learn how to become a successful university student.  3. You will appreciate the culture of WSU. |

# Required Texts/Readings Textbook

# Nordyke, Rebecca. *FYS; Cross Cultural Communication WSUA 102D.* McGraw Hill Create, 2016.

# Important Academic Dates

*For Fall semester 2018, classes begin, August 20, 2018, and ends December 6, 2018. The last date to drop a class and receive a W (withdrawn) instead of F (failed) is October 30, 2018. There are no classes on September 3, October 15-16, and November 21-25, 2018. The final day of class is December 5, 2018.*

Course Requirements:

**Readings, Class Participation, and Writing Assignments.**

Class discussions, presentations, and activities are based on the assigned readings. **You should read the assigned material before you come to class** because we may doing an in-class assignment over the cross cultural communication concepts. Students who are late to class may miss the opportunity to participate in the assignment. **Attendance counts (28 class days @ 5 points a day = 140 points)**

All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced. They will be graded on your understanding of the assigned cross cultural communication concepts: on how well you follow directions for the assignment; on clear organization of ideas; and on correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. This includes four small **observation papers** **(100 points)** as well as any other assigned papers.

Students should keep a copy of all written work submitted. Late assignments will receive a letter grade penalty. However, if I have already graded and returned (or am ready to return) an assignment, then no late papers will be accepted.

2. Various **in-class and out-of-class activities** will have points assigned to them. Specific information will be provided via class announcement, Blackboard and/or handout. Many of these are non-repeatable assignments—if you miss the class, then you miss the points. Check Blackboard frequently to see if you are supposed to print assignment directions to bring to class. **(50 points)**

3. There is no final exam for this class. Instead you will do a group project about the WSU international athletes where you briefly interview an athlete, research information about his/her country, and present your information to the class using PowerPoint. **(100 point paper and 25 point presentation)**

4. Documentation for absences (due within one week of the absence) for official university functions, illness (from a physician or Student Health Services), or other dire emergencies may be excused at the instructor’s discretion. Conscientious students will phone (978-6891) or email the instructor to explain their absences.

**Course Definition and Assignment of Credit Hours:** The expectation of work in order to be successful in this 3 credit course is three hours of out of class work for each hour spent in class. This includes work assigned online through Blackboard, readings, written assignments and other course related activities.

**Diversity Expectations:** Issues related to diversity are considered in all general education courses (e.g., ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, gender, exceptionalities, language, religion, sexual orientation, and geographical area). All course content and required assignments will demonstrate a value of and respect for diversity.

Class meetings: Attendance and active participation are required at all class meetings. Since the majority of the time spent in class will consist of discussions (in pairs, small groups as well as the large group), it is expected that each of you will actively participate. Active participation means showing up, completing reading assignment(s) in advance and coming to class prepared to participate in the discussion.

**Readings:** The readings for this course include assigned current literature including scholarly articles. The student is expected to identify and bring to class scholarly articles appropriate to the current topic (see class schedule).

**Writing Assignments:** There will be several different types of writing assignments (reflective essays, journals, free writing and focused writing) for this course. Some assignments will be graded and taken through the writing process; others will be given credit, but will not receive a letter grade. **See above information about Observation papers.**

**Information Literacy and Library Research:** Information literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning, encourages critical analysis, highlights the global nature of information, and creates informed citizens and professionals. Through its instruction program and liaison services, the University Libraries provides support by teaching information literacy skills to students – skills that involve the ability to find, retrieve, analyze, use, and critically evaluate information needed for library assignments and research. A liaison librarian will be assigned and embedded in Blackboard for this course.  The librarian will work with your instructor to customize library instruction for the class which may include face-to-face sessions, online tutorials, videos, and/or resource guides. **(25 point presentation)**

# Student Success: There a number of skills you will learn that will contribute to your overall success in this course and beyond. They include improved study skills and exploration of learning styles and campus resources that can help you reach your academic potential. Throughout the course, you will participate in exercises and receive information on a number of topics and in various formats such as class presentations, reflection papers, classroom activities, peer mentoring or online modules.

**Involvement on Campus:** As part of this course you will be required to attend three events outside of class. Some of these events will require a reflective writing piece and others will not. Regardless, attending these events is an integral part of the course requirements. You will be required to provide evidence of attendance. **(35 points)**

**Attendance points 28 days @ 5 pts = 140**

**4 Observation Papers @25 pts = 100**

**In-class assignments = 50**

**WSU Involvement = 35**

**Term Project = 125**

**Total Points = 450**

**Course Evaluation and Assessment**

WSU uses a plus/minus letter grade system for final grades and to calculate grade point averages. In this course, grades are assigned according to the following chart and students will receive a letter grade using the standards of evaluation described below. (Note: In other courses grades might be assigned differently.)

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| **Percentages** | **Letter Grade** | **Grade Points** | **Interpretation** |
| 100-93% | A  ( must have 418 pts.) | 4.00 | The A range denotes excellent performance. |
| 92-90% | A- ( must have 405 pts.) | 3.67 |  |
| 89-87% | B+ (must have 391 pts.) | 3.33 |  |
| 86-83% | B (must have 373 pts.) | 3.00 | The B range denotes good performance. |
| 82-80% | B- (must have 360 pts.) | 2.67 |  |
| 79-77% | C+ (must have 340 pts.) | 2.33 |  |
| 76-73% | C (must have 328 points) | 2.00 | The C range denotes satisfactory performance. |
| 72-70% | C- (must have 315 pts.) | 1.67 |  |
| 69-67% | D+( must have 301 pts.) | 1.33 |  |
| 66-63% | D (must have 283 pts.) | 1.00 | The D range denotes unsatisfactory performance. |
| 62-60% | D- (must have 270 pts.) | 0.67 |  |
| 59% &below | F (269 pts. and below) | 0.00 | F denotes failing performance. |

The following descriptive and numerical criteria are used for all graded activities (papers, projects, reflections, participation) in this course.

Grade of A-, A (90-100)

“A” level work exudes “excellence”. Excellence is demonstrated through completeness, reason, reflection, a high level of critical thinking, creativity, original thought and application of knowledge, readings, experiences, class discussions, and theory beyond what would be expected. This is a **WOW** assignment.

Grade of B-, B, B+ (80-89)

“B” level work shows a clear understanding of concepts/topics/processes and is well-organized, clear, concise and complete. Originality of thought, reflection, and creativity are evident although not to the extent found in “A” work. Application of prior knowledge, experiences, readings, and theory is evident. This is a **GOOD** assignment.

Grade of C or C+ (74-79)

“C or C+” level work shows a completed assignment with minimal critical thinking. Little original thought, reflection or application of knowledge, experience, readings, or theory is evident. Creativity is lacking. This work demonstrates a very basic understanding of the course concepts/topics/processes. This is a **FAIR** assignment.

Grade of D+, D, D- or C- (60-73)

“D or C-” level work demonstrates a lack of understanding of the theories and concepts/topics/processes addressed in class and in the coursework. Minimal or no effort is observable. No original thought or application of knowledge is demonstrated. Oral or written communication skills are poor, and the work may be incomplete. This is an **UNACCEPTABLE** assignment.

Grade of F (below 60)

“F” quality work is not expected in this course.

# Tentative Schedule for 15 week class – this will be adjusted for guest speakers

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| **Week** | **Date** | **Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines** |
| 1 | 8/20-22 | Get Acquainted  Introduction to the course  Read: The First Week of Class pp. 2-7; The Culture of College, pp. 8-10.  Discussion Topics: How was your previous school different from WSU? What have you learned about the culture of college? |
| 2 | 8/27-29 | Tell us about your hometown and previous schools on Google Earth or use Powerpoint.  **Assigned: Observation Paper #1: How did you get to WSU? (25 points)**  **Due: 9/5** |
| 3 | **9/3**  9/5 | **No Class. Labor Day**  **Library Assignment: join a group, pick a topic, research for a PowerPoint presentation. This is a 10 pt. assignment (2-3 minutes) to help you for the 25 pt. Cultural Presentation.**  Why Study Intercultural Communication? pp. 53-89  Outlining, PowerPoint, citing sources  Check outlines for presentations |
| 4 | 9/10-12 | Library Presentations—10 points, 2-3 minutes for each person |
| 5 | 9/17-19 | **25 point Cultural Presentation assigned.**  What is your learning style? Read pp. 11-28  What is your personality type, pp. 29-52  How will your learning style and personality type help you in college? |
| 6 | 9/24-26 | **Outline check for the Cultural Presentation**  **Begin the Presentations on Wednesday** |
| 7 | 2/26-28 | **Finish the Presentations on Monday**  Culture, Communication, Context, Power. pp.53-91  What are your cultural beliefs?  **Assign Observation #2 When have you experienced an intercultural**  **Encounter. Due 10/3** |
| 8 | 10/1-3 | History and Intercultural Communication, p. 134  Term Project assigned over family history  Possible Guest Speaker about Geneology  **Observation #2 due 10/3** |
| 9 | 10/8-10 | Culture, Communication, Context, Power. 95  **What is your personal culture? 10 pts. Bring a flag representing your culture** |
| 10 | 10/15  10/17 | **Fall Break**  **Communication Week** |
| 11 | 10/22-24 | Identity and Intercultural Communication, p. 175  When have you been stereotyped or when have you stereotyped someone else? 10 point report  **Observation #3 Assigned: Family Traditions** |
| 12 | 10/29-31 | Understanding Intercultural Traditions, p. 229  Weddings in other cultures  **Observation #3 Due** |
| 13 | 11/5-7 | Popular Culture, p. 271  How have we adopted pop culture from other countries?  Possible guest speaker about pop culture |
| 14 | 11/12-14  11/19 | Cross Cultural Communication and Current Events  Term Project Update **Observation #4 Assigned: What have I learned?** |
|  | 11/26-28  12/3-5 | Term Project Presentations |
|  | 12/7 | **Shocker SpeakOut—Extra Credit Opportunity** |
|  | 5/7 | **Email Observation#4** to me on or before noon on Mon., Dec. 10. |

#### Important Notes

**Academic Honesty:** A standard of honesty, fairly applied to all students, is essential to a learning environment. Students abridging a standard of honesty must accept the consequences; penalties are assessed by appropriate classroom instructors or other designated people. Serious cases may result in discipline at the college or University level and may result in suspension or dismissal. Dismissal from a college for academic dishonesty constitutes dismissal from the University. (WSU Student Code of Conduct)

**Intellectual Property:** Wichita State University students are subject to Board of Regents and University policies (see http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch9\_10.htm) regarding intellectual property rights. Any questions regarding these rights and any disputes that arise under these policies will be resolved by the President of the University, or the President’s designee, and such decision will constitute the final decision.

**Disabilities:** ADA: If you have a physical, perceptual, psychiatric/emotional, medical, or learning disability that may impact your ability to carry out assigned course work, contact the Office of Disability Services (DS), Grace Wilkie Annex, room 173. (Voice/TDD 978-3309). ODS will review your concerns, confirm your disability, and determine, with you, what accommodations are necessary. All information and documentation of your disability is confidential and will not be released by DS without your written permission.

**Inclusive Excellence:** Wichita State University is committed to achieving “Inclusive Excellence” and institutional strength through curricula, co-curricula, and other practices, which promote and encourage the intermingling of its students, faculty, and staff from different backgrounds, in a challenging intellectual and multicultural climate that is marked by respect and appreciation for the spectrum of human diversity. The University is also committed to an “all-inclusive” diversity and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, disability, religion, national origin, or military status.

**Counseling & Testing:** The WSU Counseling & Testing Center provides professional counseling services to students, faculty and staff; administers tests and offers test preparation workshops; and presents programs on topics promoting personal and professional growth. Services are low cost and confidential. They are located in room 320 of Grace Wilkie Hall, and their phone number is (316) 978-3440. The Counseling & Testing Center is open on all days that the University is officially open. If you have a mental health emergency during the times that the Counseling & Testing Center is not open, please call COMCARE Crisis Services at (316) 660-7500.

**Student Health Services:** WSU’s Student Health clinic is located in Ahlberg Hall. Hours are 8:00am to 4:00pm (3:00pm on Fridays), though the clinic may be closed occasionally on Wednesdays from noon to 1:30pm. In addition to outpatient and preventive care (including immunizations, a prescription service, and testing/counseling for sexually transmitted infections), Student Health can handle minor injuries. All services are confidential. For more information see [www.wichita.edu/studenthealth](http://www.wichita.edu/studenthealth).

**The Heskett Center and Campus Recreation:** Whether you want to be active on campus, relieve the stress from classes or take care of your body, Wichita State Campus Recreation is the place for you. Campus Recreation, located inside the Heskett Center, contributes to the health, education, and development of Wichita State University students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members by offering quality programs and services. With many programs and facilities that are free to all students and members, Campus Recreation offers its members limitless opportunities. For more information about our services see www.wichita.edu/heskett.

**Shocker Alert System:** SAS facilitates electronic emergency notification to individual faculty, staff, and students within the University community are delivered through mass e-mail and cell phone text messaging. See [www.wichita.edu/alert](http://www.wichita.edu/alert) to elect to opt-in to SAS to receive emergency notification by text message.