Course Description

In this class, students will develop skills, knowledge, and understanding that will help them communicate and engage more appropriately and effectively in the UAE as well as in other intercultural contexts. Students will explore various topics in intercultural communication in the context of the student experience abroad and will practice intercultural learning processes that they can apply when working across difference in a wide variety of contexts. Students will increase their own cultural self-awareness and develop personal leadership skills to help them become more effective in an interdependent world.

Learning Objectives

By participating in this course, students will:

- Increase their own self-awareness, particularly their cultural self-awareness.
- Develop a deeper understanding of the field of intercultural communication and intercultural concepts/theories and their relevance to their own experience in the UAE culture.
- Increase their ability to recognize and bridge cultural gaps.
- Develop an intercultural leadership practice that helps them translate their culture-specific and culture-general knowledge into moment-to-moment competence.

Course Prerequisites

Previous coursework in communication is recommended but not required.

Methods of Instruction

Learning will involve in-class exercises, active reflection, discussion, readings, field reports, short lectures, and out-of-class activities that help students engage in the local culture on a deeper level.

Assessment and Final Grade

Grading will be based on the following:

1. Journal (6 entries): 20%
2. Mid-semester cultural comparison project: 20%
3. Homework & Cultural Partner activities: 20%
4. Final Digital Storytelling project: 20%
5. Class participation: 20%

Course Requirements

Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) Pre and Post-Assessment
The IDI is an online assessment tool that measures our intercultural development. It contains 50 questions and takes about 20 minutes to complete. All ICL students take the IDI at the beginning and the end of the course. The student’s final grade will not be based on the results of the IDI, but they must complete it twice in order to pass the course. The instructor will provide students with the login information. The results allow CIEE to analyze the effectiveness of the ICL curriculum and measure the overall intercultural learning of our students.

Journal Entries

Students will be asked to complete six different reflective journal entries over the course of the semester. Students are free to write about whatever is on their mind at the moment as long as it is relevant to the course; students will be provided with ideas and suggestions for possible topics to address throughout the course of the semester. The goal of the journal entries is to give students a chance to reflect on their intercultural experience in a personally-relevant way.

As outlined in the schedule, two entries each are due at three different points throughout the semester. The journal entries should be typed and no more than 500 words each. They will be graded on the depth of reflection and application of course concepts to their personal experience.

Mid-Semester Cultural Comparison Project

For this project, students are asked to examine a theme within the local Emirati culture in comparison to their home culture(s) (as defined by the student). Themes may be any topic that is of interest and relevant both in the local context and in the student’s home culture and should be relatively specific rather than sweepingly general. Examples of possible themes include: food and eating habits; attitudes and practices around alcohol consumption; displaying affection; parenting; inequality and difference (based on religion, sexuality, race, etc.); expectations in higher education; exercise or sport; news consumption; advertising; etc. The chosen topic/theme should be something the student has experienced or has had close contact within both Emirati and the home cultures. Students should discuss the similarities and differences between Emirati vs. home cultures with regards to the student’s topic of choice, particularly with respect to two or three of the cultural value patterns discussed in class. Students should aim to integrate personal experience with concepts learned in class.

The paper should be typed, double-spaced with a word count of 1000-1250. It may be written in the first person. Students should cite at least three academic sources (from the course readings or other). It is also highly recommended students consult with at least two locals (such as their Cultural Partners) about this topic and incorporate any useful insight they offer into the paper (although be careful not to present anyone’s opinions as fact).
Students should address the following:

- What similarities and differences have you noticed and/or experienced between (as well as within) Emirati culture and your home culture(s) with regards to your chosen theme?
- To what extent and how do cultural value patterns help you understand these similarities and differences?

In addition to the paper, students should be prepared to present to the class on their topic in class 14. The presentation may take any form and creativity is encouraged.

**Homework & Cultural Partner Activities**

Homework will include assigned readings and activities to complete outside of class. Students are responsible for completing the homework outlined in the syllabus and asking for clarification when needed. Students should bring copies of any readings due that day to each class, as we may need the readings in class.

As part of this course, students are required to identify a Cultural Partner—someone who has been a resident of the Emirati culture for many years—with whom students will need to complete several activities throughout the semester. More information about choosing a Cultural Partner will be provided in class.

**Final Digital Storytelling Project**

As a final capstone for this course, students will create their own Digital Story. Digital Storytelling involves short (three- to five-minute) first-person stories embedded with images, videos, and any other visual means. Students will share their own narrative of the study abroad experience via video by using iMovie (Apple), Apple Clips, Microsoft Photos, Shotcut (all free to download), or another video editing app.

**Weekly Schedule**

Following is the course schedule for the semester, subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment/Reading Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1: Introduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 1</td>
<td>What is this class about?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 2</td>
<td>Perception and Suspending Judgment</td>
<td>Bennett, ‘Intercultural communication: A current perspective’ (pp. 1-34)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2: Who am I in the context of this experience?</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Class 3 | How do I learn? | Complete Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)  
| | | Name Game with Cultural Partner |
| Class 4 | Identity in Context | • Yep  
|         |                   | • Paige |

### Week 3: Cultural Value Patterns

| Class 5 | Introduction to Cultural Value Patterns and Discussion of Digital Storytelling Project | • Ting-Toomey & Chung, ‘What is intercultural communication flexibility?’ and ‘What are the essential cultural value patterns?’ (pp. 22-37 & 38-63)  
|         |                                             | • Porter |
| Class 6 | Host Culture Value Patterns | • ‘I am...’ activity with CP  
|         |                                             | • Hofstede et al., ‘The rules of the social game’ (pp. 3-26)  
|         |                                             | • Hofstede et al., ‘I, we, and they’ (pp. 89-134) |

### Week 4: Introduction to Intercultural Communication: How do we interact?

| Class 7 | Culture & Communication | • Ting-Toomey & Chung, ‘What is the connection between verbal communication and culture?’ (pp. 110-129)  
|         |                             | • Deutscher  
|         |                             | • Topic for Cultural Comparison Project |
| Class 8 | How do we interact non-verbally? | • Ting-Toomey & Chung, ‘What are the different ways to communicate nonverbally across cultures?’ (pp. 130-153)  
|         |                             | • Journal entries 1 & 2 |

### Week 5: Stereotypes

| Class 9 | Stereotypes | • Plous, ‘Understanding prejudice and discrimination’ (pp. 3-48)  
|         |             | • Zemach-Bersin, T. American students abroad can’t be ‘global citizens.’ |
| Class 10 | Perceptions of Us | • Local reading TBD |

### Week 6: Engagement in the Host Culture

| Class 11 | Cultural Engagement Activity |
| Class 12 | Culture Shock and Intercultural Adjustment | • Ting-Toomey & Chung, ‘What is culture shock?’ (pp. 91-109) |
### Week 7: Examining Our Personal Values

**Class 13**  
What do I value?

**Class 14**  
Cultural Comparison Project Presentations  
- Cultural Comparison Projects!

### Week 8: Practicing Intercultural Competence

**Class 15**  
Intercultural Competence  
- Trompenaars & Hampden-Turner, ‘Relationships and rules’ and ‘Reconciling cultural dilemmas’ (pp. 29-50 & 200-217)  
- Hammer

**Class 16**  
Cultural Detective  
- Journal entries 3 & 4  
- Personal Values activity with CP

### Week 9: Practicing Personal Leadership

**Class 17**  
Introduction to Personal Leadership  
- Schaetti et al., Parts I & II (pp. xxi-118)

**Class 18**  
Aligning with Vision  
- Recognizing Something’s Up activity

### Week 10: Digital Storytelling and Cultural Engagement

**Class 19**  
Digital Storytelling: Story Circles  
- Draft of script for final project

**Class 20**  
Cultural Engagement Activity

### Week 11: Practicing Personal Leadership: The Critical Moment Dialogue

**Class 21**  
Practicing with the Critical Moment Dialogue  
- Schaetti, et al., Part III (pp. 119-151)  
- Come to class having identified a Something’s Up you wish to discuss

**Class 22**  
Practicing with the Critical Moment Dialogue (continued)  
- Solo Challenge activity

### Week 12: Practicing Cultural Detective and Personal Leadership Together

**Class 23**  
Personal Leadership + Cultural Detective = EPIC  
- Long-form personal CMD

**Class 24**  
Partner Work outside of class (no official class meeting)

### Week 13: Debriefing this Experience

**Class 25**  
Debrief EPIC application  
- EPIC Flow
Class 26
How can we articulate and use what we’ve learned?
• Journal entries 5 & 6
• British Council et al.
• Matherly

Week 14: Re-Entry and Wrap-Up

Class 27
Re-Entry
• Storti

Class 28
Digital Storytelling Viewing Party
• Digital Stories!

Readings

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Week 1:


Week 2:


Week 3:


Optional reading:


Week 4:


Week 5:


**Week 6:**


**Week 8:**


**Week 9:**


**Week 11:**


**Week 13:**


Week 14: