

CUL210 Comparative Cultures

(3 credit hours)

Course Syllabus

Course Description

Introduces the concept of culture, discusses its role in a society, and explores different manifestations of culture. This course may discuss culture in microcosm or macrocosm.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Examine culture in historical, psychological and social contexts.
2. Analyze the significance of culture to society.
3. Evaluate various manifestations of culture.
4. Theorize as to common origins of symbols.
5. Develop new insights by carrying out original conceptual research and projects.

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

Storti, Craig. *Figuring Foreigner's Out, 20th Anniversary Edition: Understanding the World's Cultures*, Nicholas Brealey Publishing, 2018.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays.**
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays.**

Learning Activities

For this course, you will be asked to discuss the weekly readings and research in the forum posts. Because navigating different cultures requires practice, your discussions will involve engaging in scenarios that involve cross-cultural communication. In addition to the discussion, this course involves assignments, two of which build to your final project for the course, an 8-10 page Overseas Job Assignment that acquaints the student with the cultural value dimensions, or the behavior and practices, of three countries of the student's choice. The overseas job assignment compares the cultural values of the three selected countries with the cultural conventions observed in the United States.

Key Assessment (Taskstream Submission)

This TU course features a "Key Assessment" that provides you the opportunity to demonstrate your program's core competencies. It also shows how the course fits within the broader curriculum. For this course the final project, Overseas Job Assignment, is the Key Assessment.

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

| Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 | Week 5 | Week 6 | Week 7 | Total |
|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|------------|
| Forums Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.2 (40) | Activity 2.1 (40) Activity 2.2 (40) | Forums Activity 3.1 (40) Activity 3.2 (40) | Forums Activity 4.1 (40) Activity 4.2 (40) | Forums Activity 5.1 (40) | Forums Activity 6.1 (40) | Forums Activity 7.1 (40) Activity 7.2 (40) | 440 |
| Assignments Activity 1.3 (60) | (n/a) | (n/a) | (n/a) | (n/a) | (n/a) | Assignments Activity 7.3 (110) | 170 |

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| (n/a) | Project Checkpoint #1 Activity 2.3 (10) | Project Checkpoint #2 Activity 3.3 (10) | Project Checkpoint #3 Activity 4.3 (10) | Project Checkpoint #4 Activity 5.2 (10) | (n/a) | (n/a) | 40 |
| Reflection Activity 1.4 (25) | Reflection Activity 2.4 (25) | Reflection Activity 3.4 (25) | Reflection Activity 4.4 (25) | Reflection Activity 5.3 (25) | Reflection Activity 6.2 (25) | (n/a) | 150 |
| (n/a) | (n/a) | (n/a) | (n/a) | (n/a) | Final Project Activity 6.3 (200) | (n/a) | 200 |
| 125 | 115 | 115 | 115 | 75 | 265 | 190 | 1000 |

Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | D: 60-69% | F: <60%

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Start Here

- MON: Activity 1.1: Meet Your Peers - Introductory Post

Week 1 – Why Cross-Cultural Competence Matters

- WED: Activity 1.1: Meet Your Peers – Optional Follow-Up Post
- WED: Activity 1.2: The Danger of a Single Story
- SAT: Activity 1.3: Cultural Identities and Cultural Artifacts
- SUN: Activity 1.4: Reflection

Week 2 – Cultural Awareness

- WED: Activity 2.1: What Would You Do? Part 1
- SAT: Activity 2.2: What Would You Do? Part 2
- SUN: Activity 2.3: Reflection
- SUN: Activity 2.4: Final Project Checkpoint #1

Week 3 – Your Cultural Intelligence and Values

- WED: Activity 3.1: Communication Models
- SAT: Activity 3.2: Nonverbal Gestures
- SUN: Activity 3.3: Reflection

- SUN: Activity 3.4: Final Project Checkpoint #2

Week 4 – Cultural Value Differences

- WED: Activity 4.1: Cultural Values & Communication Roleplay (Part 1)
- SAT: Activity 4.2: Cultural Values & Communication Roleplay (Part 2)
- SUN: Activity 4.3: Reflection
- SUN: Activity 4.4: Final Project Checkpoint #3

Week 5 – Languages and Communication

- WED: Activity 5.1: Language & Cross-Cultural Communication
- SUN: Activity 5.2: Reflection
- SUN: Activity 5.3: Final Project Checkpoint #4

Week 6 – Core Cultural Values and Flexibility

- WED: Activity 6.1: Core and Flex Behaviors
- SAT: Activity 6.2: Reflection
- SUN: Activity 6.3: Final Project

Week 7 – Prejudice and Discrimination

- WED: Activity 7.1: Cross Cultures and Communication
- SAT: Activity 7.2: How to Limit Cultural Misunderstanding
- SUN: Activity 7.3: Reflection Paper

Tips for Success

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

For More Information:

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.