

**Department:** Modern and Classical Languages

**Course No:** CLCS 2XXX

**Credits:** 3

**Title:** Intercultural Compet. for Global Perspectives

**Contact:** Norma Bouchard

**Content Area:** CA1-Arts and Humanities

**Diversity:** CA4-Diversity and Multiculturalism- International

**Catalog Copy:** CLCS 2XXX. Intercultural Competency for Global Perspectives  
Introduction to the interdisciplinary and international field of intercultural communication in cultural studies, including culturally determined communicative behaviors, identity, semiotics, multi-disciplinary theories of culture, and stereotypes/imagology.

#### **RATIONALE FOR ACTION REQUESTED**

Recipient of Provost's General Education Course Enhancement Grant 2009

No such course exists on the Storrs campus or the regional campuses. While COMM 4460 currently includes a few of the elements proposed here, it a) focuses primarily on political and social issues as presented via television and other mass media, paying special attention to the representations of the Middle East in Western countries and b) is small and restricted to upper-level undergraduates. CLCS 1103W "Languages and Cultures," also a small course, can serve as a basic introduction to the topic proposed here, and students may be interested in enrolling in a cluster by also taking "Intercultural Competency for Global Perspectives." Specifically, the course seeks to

- offer sophomores, juniors, and seniors necessary preparation for their training as global citizens and, as such, supports UConn's global citizen initiative
- focuses on several countries and areas inasmuch as authentic materials, readings, and guest speakers will cover numerous cultures, including perspectives from Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas
- enhance existing courses within the CA1 and CA4 categories by introducing students to the international field of intercultural communication and the interdisciplinary concepts of intercultural competency and global competency for life-long learning
- support and interlink with UConn programs and initiatives such as Study Abroad and Global House
- address this year's competition emphases on large courses (the course will begin at 50 students and has the potential to grow to about 150), online courses (within a blended learning framework), and facilitating global learning
- fill an important gap since a) intercultural competency and its variations (i.e., "Culture IQ" or CQ in the business world and global competency within study abroad) are becoming much

sought-after soft skills in numerous professional and international settings and are rarely specifically taught in U.S. college settings and b) the Study Abroad program so far can only offer a one-time presentation on intercultural sensitivity training for students embarking on a study abroad program

### **Course Information:**

What is communication? What is culture? What is identity? This course will work on some possible answers to these thorny, interdisciplinary questions, based on insights from research in intercultural communication, sociolinguistics, pragmalinguistics, history, literature, and cultural studies. Concrete examples of speech and communicative structures and communicative behavior will support an intercultural and comparative approach to cultural commonalities and differences as apparent in proxemics, chronemics, taboos, importance of historical events in everyday life, and so-called hot words or hot spots. The objectives of this course are to explore cultures via characteristics of intra-cultural communication (varieties of language marked by history and region, by gender, and by migration); to acknowledge regional and ethnic variations of cultural value systems as expressed in everyday interactions as well as cultural products (texts, films, images); to learn to reflect on one's own cultural "branding" or vantage point as determined by ethnicity, region, and language(s); and to acquire a basic understanding of the concepts intercultural competency and global competency within the context of life-long learning at home and abroad (study abroad, diversity training, teamwork in different career paths, international internships, assignments, and careers).

### **Meets Goals of Gen Ed:**

The course complies with several criteria specified in the General Education Guidelines, including "consciousness of the diversity of human culture and experience, and a working understanding of the processes by which they can continue to acquire and use knowledge" (general criteria), specifically acknowledging identitarian positions via language and culture; "investigations and historical/critical analyses of human experience" and "investigations into the modes of symbolic representation" (Arts and Humanities, CA1), for example, analyzing words and concepts in different languages that, metonymically, represent certain cultural values or viewpoints; and "emphasize that there are varieties of human experiences, perceptions, thoughts, values, and/or modes of creativity" by analyzing interrelations between communicative and everyday cultural practices; and "emphasize that interpretive systems and/or social structures are cultural creations" (Diversity and Multiculturalism, CA4) inasmuch as the course focuses in the intersections of everyday communication, cultural branding, and identity formation. The course is proposed for areas CA1 and CA4.

### **CA1 Criteria:**

Intercultural Competency for Global Perspectives will focus most significantly on item 1 and 3 of CA1 criteria: 1.) Investigations and historical/critical analyses of human experience; 3.) Investigations into the modes of symbolic representation, specifically acknowledging identitarian positions via language and culture; and analyzing words and concepts in different languages that, metonymically, represent certain cultural values or viewpoints.

### **CA4 Criteria:**

Intercultural Competency for Global Perspectives focuses on two CA4 criteria in particular: 1. Emphasize that there are varieties of human experiences, perceptions, thoughts, values, and/or modes of creativity; and 2. Emphasize that interpretive systems and/or social structures are cultural creations. The entire course is built around the notion that language, communication, and culture are intertwined and that intercultural competency for life-long learning includes an acknowledgment and potential understanding of different value systems, expressions, human experiences, and creativity (for example, by analyzing interrelations between communicative and everyday cultural practices, and by focusing on the intersections of everyday communication, cultural branding, and identity formation).

### **International:**

The course will actively include UConn students abroad and Global House as cultural and international informants. The focus of the course is primarily international, i.e., intercultural competencies for global perspectives; U.S. interculturalities will be referenced only occasionally for pedagogical purposes.

### **Role of Grad Students:**

### **Supplementary Information**

The instructor is currently at work with the Institute for Teaching and Learning to build the syllabus. Since the proposed course is to be offered as a blended-learning environment, several of the elements listed in the assessments section on the preliminary syllabus, for example, are still under construction, and a fully developed syllabus will not be immediately available. Please contact [anke.finger@uconn.edu](mailto:anke.finger@uconn.edu) for any additional information.

Prov Comp 09 course. School C&CC approval is pending.

### **SYLLABUS:**

Online URL: ( [https://web2.uconn.edu/senateform/request/course\\_uploads/akf02001-1252461170-CLCS2XXX.doc](https://web2.uconn.edu/senateform/request/course_uploads/akf02001-1252461170-CLCS2XXX.doc) )