Soc 169 – Cross-Cultural Communications
University of California, Berkeley
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8-9:30am, 105 North Gate
Instructor: Edwin Lin, Fall 2016

Instructor: Edwin Lin      Email: edklin@gmail.com
Office Hours: 487 Barrows Hall, Tu/Th 2-5pm
Sign-up at http://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/icwie

Overview of Course Content:
With globalization, the Internet, and the general shrinking of time and space, cross-cultural interaction has become a necessity in people’s everyday lives. This course is designed to interrogate different aspects of cross-cultural communication and cultural differences: family life, social relationships, the workplace, government, education, gender, romance, and religion. Throughout exploring these topics, we will strive to engage in personal self-reflection, hands-on experience, and to understand the connections to larger social structures.

Specifically, the goals of this course are: 1) to describe, learn, and see common and important patterned social and cultural differences, 2) to provide a space for students to reflect on their own personal experience with cultural difference, and 3) to encourage students to engage with different cultures in a hands-on way and to meaningfully experience cross-cultural communication.

Grade Breakdown:
- Attendance 5%
- Participation 10%
- Group Presentations 10%
- Cultural Self-Analysis Paper 15%
- Cross-Cultural Interview Reflection 20%
- Cultural Self-Sharing Presentation 5%
- Service Project Final Paper 35%

LATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED! The following paper assignments will all be “handed out” and completed through the bCourses website. There is a one-hour grace period where you can still submit your assignment even though it will be considered late. Late assignments, even assignments just one minute late, are penalized a full grade (e.g. an A becomes a B). If you miss this grace period, you will be unable to submit your assignment and you will be given a 0 on it. Please be sure to turn things in on time and before the stated due date/time.

*NOTE: The reason I have a strict policy on late assignments is because I am concerned about unknowingly participating in a system that privileges certain racial, cultural, socioeconomic, family background influences that may account for one student asking for an extension while others keep silent about their circumstances.
• PLEASE submit your assignments early! Do not wait for the last minute. BCourses is known to sometimes have errors in submission (I suspect due to too many students submitting at the same time), so please save us all some stress and extra work and submit things at least an hour in advance of the due date and time.

• If you encounter an error in submission, please take a screenshot of the error that includes the date and time of the error (your computer’s date/time clock is good enough) and email me your assignment with the screenshot attached. In order for your assignment to be accepted, I must receive this email before the submission due date.

**Participation and Attendance:**

Attendance to class is mandatory; missing more than two classes will result in a penalty to your grade.

Please come to class prepared to discuss the week’s reading and/or assignment. Your participation during class is crucial to learning and understanding the course material. “Participation” does not mean simply speaking out a lot. The content, quality, and depth of your participation are more important than how many times a week you speak. At the same time, showing that you are constantly engaged in our class discussions is also important.

This class is run somewhat like a seminar/workshop, which means that while I do give lectures and assignments, I also expect you to engage with the material and to be ready to share about how your experiences relate to the class material. The more you are able to share about your experiences, the more other students and yourself will benefit from our discussions, and the better you will do in the class.

For those of you who may dislike participating in large groups or spontaneous participation, there are several options that I am happy to work out with you—please send me an email or talk to me after class. If you are at all concerned about participation, please see me early in the semester in office hours to talk about this. But due to the nature of this course’s subject matter, sharing about your experiences in class is truly an important and critical part of the course.

***If English is not your first language, or you have trouble writing in English, there are resources on campus to help in writing your papers. I am happy to point you to some of them, just send me an email. Also, if you are part of the Disabled Students’ Program (DSP) and require any special accommodations, please talk to me and/or send me an email within the next two weeks to work out any needed extensions. If extensions are not worked out at least 2 weeks in advance, I am not obliged to give extensions to DSP students.

**Group Presentation:**

In small groups, you will be expected to prepare a creative and interactive group presentation on one of the week’s topics. The presentation should last at least 30 minutes, and everyone must participate in some capacity during the presentation. The week before your presentation, I will meet with the group after class to briefly talk through the lecture and readings. I invite you to be very creative with these presentations, from playing games and creating fun activities to presenting interesting examples/case studies and leading debates and discussions.

The groups will be created during the third week of class. These presentations will receive a group grade and they will be graded based on 1) preparation and presentation, 2) creativity and interaction, and 3) content and meaningful insight.
**Cultural Self-Analysis Paper:**
This assignment is a 5-6-page double-spaced paper on how your culture(s) affects your communication. This paper is designed to allow you an opportunity to examine how your own cultural and social identities affect you and your communication behavior. Using course concepts and readings, you will be required to explain how your own cultural, social, and personal beliefs, values, and norms affect the ways you communicate with others. Your paper will be evaluated based on insightfulness and application of course concepts. Further details will be discussed in class.

**Cross-Cultural Interview:**
This assignment compliments the self-analysis essay, requiring you to select a person that is of a different cultural background than yourself and interview them to learn about these differences and how they affect communication styles. Upon completion of the interview, a 4-5-page reflection should be written mirroring some of the same topics addressed in your own self-analysis essay such as values, behaviors, and communication patterns with the addition of a section on how this person’s cultural norms compare with your own. Further details will be discussed in class.

**Cultural Self-Sharing Presentations:**
At the very last week of class, we will have a cultural celebration where each student will bring in something (activity, food, music, game, tradition, etc.) that they feel represents their cultural heritage or cultural identity. You will be required to introduce the cultural artifact, explain its meaning to you and your cultural identity, and connect it to course content and cross-cultural communication. This celebration is meant to be fun, but also a chance for people to experience, engage, and learn from our class’s diversity.

**Cultural Project Final Paper:**
A cornerstone of this course is that you will be required to engage in a cultural subgroup throughout the semester. Starting from the second week of class, you should work with me to find an appropriate service opportunity or cultural subgroup that would allow you to 1) engage relatively regularly with the same community or neighborhood, 2) provide you a space to interact with people who are significantly different from you, and 3) give you some exposure to a subculture in Berkeley.

You will be required to participate in this subgroup at least 5 separate times throughout the semester and for at least an hour each time. Alternative time structures can be worked out, but hours spent on this service project must exceed 5 hours and must be at least 2 separate occasions. Please see me if you have questions about what an appropriate service project would be.

The final paper will be an 8-10-page formal paper that discusses what you learned from this experience and how you see at least three of the course’s themes played out in the cultural subgroup. They should include self-reflection in terms of how you see their culture as different from yours in various ways and how cross-cultural communication can become important in the cultural field.
**Grading Scale for the Class:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98-100</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>92-98</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-90</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82-88</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-80</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>72-78</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-70</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62-68</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>everything below 60</td>
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## Reading List and Semester Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, August 25</strong></td>
<td>Introduction: Syllabus and Logistics</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, August 30</strong></td>
<td>Introduction: Culture and Communication</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, September 1</strong></td>
<td>Survey of Cultures and Geography</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, September 6</strong></td>
<td>Hofstede’s Cultural Dimensions</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, September 8</strong></td>
<td>Language and Culture</td>
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<td><strong>Handout: Cultural Self-Analysis Paper</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Explain: Cultural Project Final</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, September 13</strong></td>
<td>Nonverbal Communication and Culture</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, September 15</strong></td>
<td>History and Cultural Patterns</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Assign Groups for Group Presentations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, September 20</strong></td>
<td>Personal history</td>
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Thursday, September 22  Race: Black Lives Matter Case Study

Tuesday, September 27  Family and Identity

Thursday, September 29  Family: Child Rearing and Romance

Handout: Cross-Cultural Interview Reflection

***Cultural Self-Analysis Paper due Friday September 30, before 11:59pm***

Tuesday, October 4  Education and Culture: Schools as Cultural Institutions
Thursday, October 6  Education and Culture: Cultural Learning Styles  

Tuesday, October 11  Gender and Culture  

Thursday, October 13  Gender: Pop Culture Case Study

Tuesday, October 18  Class and Culture  

Thursday, October 20  Culture of Poverty  

Tuesday, October 25  Leisure and Recreation  
Thursday, October 27  Religion

***Cross-Cultural Interview Reflection due Friday, October 28 before 11:59pm***

Tuesday, November 1  Religion: Muslim Radicalization in Europe Case Study

Thursday, November 3  Cultural Capital

Tuesday, November 8  Social Capital and Social Networks
Thursday, November 10  
Economic Life: Advertising  

Tuesday, November 15  
Economic Life: Workplace Culture  

Thursday, November 17  
Culture and Development  

Tuesday, November 22  
Political Life: Elections and Politics  

Thursday, November 24  
Thanksgiving – No Classes

Tuesday, November 29  
South Africa Conference – No Classes

Thursday, December 1  
Cultural Self-Sharing Presentations!

***Cultural Project Final Paper due Friday, December 16, 2016 before 11:59pm***