Spring 2022

Soc 169C – Cross-Cultural Communications

Tuesday and Thursday 11am – 12:30pm North Gate 105

Instructor: Dr. Marina Romani

Email: marinaromani@berkeley.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30 - 3:30 pm or by appointment Sign-up at <u>https://marinaromani-169c.youcanbook.me</u>

Attend in person [Room TBD] OR online via Zoom at <u>https://berkeley.zoom.us/my/marinaromani</u>

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 approaches the field of cross-cultural communications both on the level of large-scale cultural differences as well as common everyday interactions. Whether one is traveling abroad or just communicating with someone of a different background, the skills of cross-cultural understanding are required for successful communication.

This class is designed to be an applied culture class—one in which we are not interested in academic or theoretical understandings of culture, but rather seeking to apply the concepts of culture in everyday life and society. As such, the class is run as somewhere in between a seminar and a workshop with some guided lectures and case studies to support the overall direction of the course.

In this class, we will interrogate different aspects of cross-cultural communication and cultural differences: race, socioeconomics, family, social relationships, politics, education, gender, 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 and grow in their cross-cultural communication skills.

Office Hours

Feel free to come into office hours for anything, course or life related! Please sign up at the link at the top of the syllabus if you know in advance that you'd like to come in. If you do not sign up, you are still welcome to drop in, but I do sometimes step out of the office/Zoom call when there is no appointment to run a quick errand.

If office hours are full or you cannot make the times, you may email me to set up another time. If you have a very short question, you can try to drop by and sneak in before/after a student for a quick question (as not every student will use the entire 15 minutes they signed up for)—but be prepared to wait patiently as well.

Office hours can be done in-person (ROOM TBD) or online via Zoom (<u>https://berkeley.zoom.us/my/marinaromani</u>).

For latest info about instruction and campus access: Instruction • UC Berkeley Coronavirus (COVID-19) updates and resources

NOTE: This class can be taken for 3 or 4 units.

Grade Breakdown for 4 Unit Class:

-	Participation		15%
-	Group Activity		10%
-	Cultural Self-Analysis Paper		30% Total
	1. Personal Timeline	5%	
	2. Interview About You	10%	
	3. Paper	15%	
-	Cultural Subgroup Paper		45% Total
	1. Proposal of Cultural Subgroup	5%	
	2. Field Report	10%	
	3. Deep Description	10%	
	4. Final Paper (10-12 pages)	20%	
Grade B	reakdown for 3 Unit Class:		
-	Participation		15%
-	Group Activity		15%
-	Cultural Self-Analysis Paper		30% Total
	1. Personal Timeline	5%	
	2. Interview About You	10%	
	3. Paper	15%	
-	Cultural Subgroup Paper		40% Total
	1. Proposal of Cultural Subgroup	5%	
	2. Deep Description	15%	
	3. Final Paper (8-10 pages)	20%	

Attendance

Attendance is absolutely mandatory in this class. You get two unexcused absences; after your second unexcused absence, your overall grade will be dropped 5% for every subsequent unexcused absence. No actual points are given for attendance (this is somewhat reflected in your participation grade) but attendance will be taken every class. To get credit for attending a class, you must not be more than 10 minutes late and must stay to the very end of the class; otherwise it will be considered an absence. If you have problems with attendance due to an emergency, sports schedule, or health issue, please talk to me early in the semester to see if we can work something out so that you do not fail due to attendance. You will also be graded on the quality of your participation. It's important to speak comfortably in our class, and to learn how to listen to everybody's voices carefully and respectfully.

NOTE: 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.

- 1. Visit the Student Learning Center (SLC) on UC Berkeley campus. Check out their website and their writing resources at http://slc.berkeley.edu/writing
- 2. Look on the bCourses website for our class. I have posted some resources in a folder labeled "Writing Resources." These are some rather thorough guides written specifically by and for the Sociology department.

Structure of our Class

The class will be held in person unless the UC Berkeley campus policies require to meet online (such as during the first two weeks of the Spring 2022 semester). We will meet all together for the first two and a half weeks of the semester. After that, half the class (designated by the professor) will meet on Tuesdays while the other half of the class will meet on Thursdays. This will allow for smaller classroom interactions and hopefully more sharing and relationship building. **You must be able to make BOTH times, however, to join the class** as you do not get to pick which day you will be meeting on. This is also so that if we do need to meet all together, there is no time conflict that will hurt your attendance. More information on this will be given the week before the class split.

Participation

This class is run somewhat like a discussion section, 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. In this way, the class RELIES on participation and social learning.

Please come to class prepared to discuss the week's reading and/or topic. Your participation during class is crucial to learning, understanding, and growing in your

cross-cultural communications. In this class especially, what you get from it is what you put into it, so participation is absolutely key.

"Participation" does not mean simply speaking out a lot. The content, quality, and depth of your participation are just as important as how many times a week you speak. **I do take notes and keep a record of participation**, including large group and small group discussions.

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. 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, so I encourage you to put yourself out there!

Group Activity

In small groups of 4 or 5, you will be expected to prepare a creative and interactive group activity on one of the week's topics. The activity should last around 20-25 minutes. The week before your group's activity, 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 student-led times, from playing games and creating fun activities to presenting interesting examples/case studies and leading debates and discussions. The goal of all these group activities should be **discussion and interaction** in the classroom.

The groups will be created during the third week of class. These student-led times will receive a group grade and they will be graded based on 1) preparation, 2) discussion and interaction, and 3) meaningful activity. Don't worry—they will be graded in a rather low-stakes way to alleviate any concerns or tensions you have with group projects in general.

Cultural Self-Analysis Paper

This assignment is broken down into 3 parts: a personal timeline, an interview done with a family member, and a final analytical and reflective paper.

The first part is a **personal timeline** where you will be asked to construct and submit a timeline of your own biography/history. The exercise is meant as a reflective one, to help prepare you to write the cultural self-analysis paper and also to interrogate some of the most formative and memorable events that you have experienced in your life so far.

The second part is an **interview about you** where you will conduct an interview/conversation with a close family member about how they perceive or see you. The family member should be someone close to you who has seen you grow up. This could be a mother, father, sibling, grandparent, or caregiver who helped raise you. The goal of this interview is to get a third person perspective on who you are. Questions will be provided for you to go through during the interview/conversation. You will submit a recording of the conversation and a short reflective summary of what you learned during the conversation.

The final part is writing the **cultural self-analysis paper**. This assignment is a 4-5-page double-spaced paper on how your personal culture(s) affects your current values, beliefs, and

ways of communication. This paper is designed to allow you an opportunity to examine how your own cultural and social identities and history affect your identity. Your paper will be evaluated based on insightfulness, depth of reflection, detailed descriptions/examples, and your analytical approach.

Cultural Subgroup 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 begin to look for an appropriate (most likely remote) cultural subgroup that would allow you to 1) engage relatively regularly with the same community or group of people, 2) provide you a space to interact with people who are different from you, and 3) give you some exposure to a real subculture community that exists (even in a virtual setting).

The paper is broken down into four assignments: a **proposal** due early in the first month of the course, a **field report (for 4-unit students only)** in the middle of the course, a **deep description** due toward the middle-end of the course, and a **final paper** due during finals week.

You will be required to participate in this subgroup on a weekly or biweekly basis (once or twice a week is the standard for the 4-unit class, whereas once every week or two is the standard for the 3-unit class). Alternative time structures can be worked out, but hours spent on this service project must be relatively equivalent to 2-4 hours per week/2 weeks.

The **proposal** will help identify early in the semester a good subculture and community space (online or in-person) that you can access during this time. Whatever you choose, make sure that this will not put you at any health risk and be only what you are comfortable with.

The **field report (for 4-unit students only)** will provide students with some guidance as to how to interact and engage with the cultural subgroup. You will be given instructions of some things to notice and ways to interact and engage with people in the community. You will then be expected to submit a short report on your experiences.

The **deep description** will actually function like writing an early draft of a portion of the final paper. This assignment has you describing key cultural characteristics, norms, or values that you have noticed in the cultural subgroup you have been engaged with. You will end up submitting a 4-5-page paper that provides descriptions and specific examples from your engagement. This will serve as the beginnings of your final paper.

The **final paper** will be a 10-12-page formal paper (8-10 pages for the 3-unit students) that includes three sections: a deep description of the cultural traits of the subgroup; what you learned from this experience; a 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 engaging with the cultural subgroup.

Grading Scale for the Class:	
A+ (98-100)	C (73-77)
A (93-97)	C- (70-72)
A- (90-92)	D+ (68-69)
B+ (88-89)	D (63-67)
B (83-87)	D- (60-62)
B- (80-82)	F (everything below 60)
C+ (78-79)	

Course Policies (detailed info available on bCourses)

LATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED. The only exception is for approved DSP accommodations and documented extreme emergencies (e.g. hospitalization, death in the family, COVID-19 related issues, etc.). All assignments will 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 a couple minutes late, are penalized up to a full grade (e.g. up to a 10% deduction). If you miss this grace period, you will be unable to get credit for 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 and 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. In a rather sizeable class, I feel it is important to have a strict "no late assignments" policy.

- PLEASE submit your assignments early! Do not wait for the last minute, especially given the late assignment policy for the class, 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.
- On bCourses, you can submit assignments early and re-submit them (to override the submission) at a later date. They will not be graded until the due date passes. So submit assignments early to avoid last minute technological errors so that you at least get some credit in case of emergency.
- **Back-up your work!** Stolen laptops, broken laptops, etc. are a real risk of the technological era. If you encounter such a problem, **no extension will be given**. It is therefore your responsibility to back up your work so that you can still turn in the assignment in case a technologically related tragedy occurs.
- 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 your assignment with the screenshot attached to your reader and me. In order

for your assignment to be accepted as on time, your reader and I must receive this email before the submission due date.

It is your responsibility to make sure you submitted the correct assignment and that the assignment was fully submitted, so please after submitting your assignment, check to be sure that the correct document was successfully uploaded onto bCourses. If you submit the wrong assignment or if it was unsuccessfully uploaded, we have no choice but to give you a 0 on the assignment.

Mental Health and Wellness

All students — regardless of background or identity — may experience a range of issues that can become barriers to learning. These issues include, but are not limited to, strained relationships, anxiety, depression, alcohol and other drug problems, difficulties with concentration, sleep, and eating, and/or lack of motivation. Such mental health concerns can diminish both academic performance and the capacity to participate in daily activities. In the event that you need mental health support, or are concerned about a friend, UC Berkeley offers many services, such as free short-term counseling at University Health Services.

An excellent campus website having links to many resources is <u>http://recalibrate.berkeley.edu/</u> Another campus website addressing mental health services in specific reference to this time of the coronavirus pandemic is: <u>https://uhs.berkeley.edu/coronavirus/student-mental-health</u>

I will add more resources for mental health and wellbeing on bCourses over the course of the semester.

Remember that seeking help is a good and courageous thing to do — both for yourself and for those who care about you.

Disabled Students' Program (DSP)

If you are part of the Disabled Students' Program (DSP) and require special accommodations, please try to make arrangements in advance—this will guarantee you access to your accommodations. If you do make arrangements last minute, we will try our best to still accommodate, but try to ask in advance, even if it's just in case.

To ask for an extension or accommodation using your DSP letter, you must first be sure that your DSP letter allows for the accommodation you are requesting. If you are asking for an extension, please **suggest a reasonable due date** (allowed by your letter) to turn in the assignment.

Please follow these instructions carefully. Over the years, DSP has expanded to include many more students, and teaching very large classes without GSIs can make it difficult to handle these cases—so please make our job easier by following these instructions!

Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Services

To learn more about these issues, how to support survivors, or how to file a report and receive support services, start here: <u>http://survivorsupport.berkeley.edu</u>. Please note that I am not a confidential advocate; I am a mandated reporter. You can speak to a Confidential Care Advocate. You can find more information here: <u>https://care.berkeley.edu/</u>

Economic, Food, and Housing Support

If you are in need of economic, food, or housing support, you can find help at the <u>Basic Needs</u> <u>Center</u>. You may be eligible for money to buy groceries via <u>Calfresh</u> or our <u>Food Assistance</u> <u>Program</u>. If you are in need of food immediately, please contact our <u>UC Berkeley Food Pantry</u>.

Technology and Internet Support

Please see this page for the latest information on university-provided support.

Grading Philosophy

I believe that the grade you get is the grade *you earn*. I also believe that your final grade in the course should reflect an accurate assessment of the entire body of work you submit for the class. If something unexpected or tragic occurs with one assignment (e.g. you do much worse on an assignment due to personal circumstances, you were unable to turn it in on time and received a 0, etc.), I will still evaluate the rest of your coursework to see what grade you deserve for the entire course—in other words, focus on the other assignments and show you deserve an A in the course in spite of one major slip-up. You will never receive a grade **lower** than what you earned by sheer point calculation, but you may receive a grade **higher** if your work proves it (e.g. improvement, exceptional final exam, etc.).

I review every grade submitted at the end of the course and will handle things like borderline grades, rounding, etc. based on the performance of your work as a whole. I even (sometimes) re-read your already graded work to see if you should be bumped up from a B+ to an A- if you are on the borderline. These are done for **every student**, regardless of whether you email me or not (to ensure a fair playing field for all my students), so there is no need to "advocate" for yourself—just focus on the work and prove you deserve (i.e. earn) the grade you are hoping for.

Re-grade Policy

If you want a re-grade, please follow the following steps. You have two weeks after receiving your grade to initiate the beginning of this process. I do not do re-grades after this two-week cut-off (to avoid people asking for re-grades at the end of the semester because their grades are borderline).

1. Meet with the reader (remotely) to discuss why you got the grade you got.

- 2. Write a cover letter to the reader and to me that explains how you understand their perspective and why you still have an issue with the grade (what you thought was mis-graded). I realize that you hopefully also discussed this in person, but we would like to have something written down for clarity and reference.
- 3. Your reader or I will re-grade your work (the entire thing) and whatever grade you get becomes the final grade (either higher or lower). Whether your reader re-grades it or I do depends on whether your reader believes there is something that could be adjusted or not.
- 4. If your reader re-grades the assignment and you are still unsatisfied, you may refer the issue to me. I should warn you that in general (on average from what I have seen), I might be a tougher grader than the reader. Whatever grade I end up giving is the final say on the matter.

Keep in mind, your reader grades **many** assignments. They probably have a sense for how your assignment compares to other people in the class. But grading many assignments could also allow for mistakes, so while that is possible, please have **sober judgment** over your own work and really consider the grader's perspective. Regardless of how much time or effort you put into the assignment, if it simply did not meet the requirements or if you did not adequately communicate what was in your head, you may still have gotten a lower grade (keep in mind, your reader has no idea how much time you spent on the assignment and isn't evaluating effort, but the expectation of the assignment based on a rubric or answer key).

Plagiarism

The <u>Center for Student Conduct</u> defines plagiarism as follows: "Plagiarism is defined as use of intellectual material produced by another person without acknowledging its source, for example:

Wholesale copying of passages from works of others into your homework, essay, term paper, or dissertation without acknowledgment. Use of the views, opinions, or insights of another without acknowledgment.

Paraphrasing of another person's characteristic or original phraseology, metaphor, or other literary device without acknowledgment."

The Berkeley Academic Guide defines the disciplinary consequences of plagiarism and cheating as follows:

"Achievement and proficiency in subject matter include your realization that neither is to be achieved by cheating. An instructor has the right to give you an F on a single assignment produced by cheating without determining whether you have a passing knowledge of the relevant factual material. That is an appropriate academic evaluation for a failure to understand or abide by the basic rules of academic study and inquiry. An instructor has the right to assign a final grade of F for the course if you plagiarized a paper for a portion of the course, even if you have successfully and, presumably, honestly passed the remaining portion of the course. It must be understood that any student who knowingly aids in plagiarism or other cheating, e.g., allowing another student to copy a paper or examination question, is as guilty as the cheating student."

For more information about the university policy on cheating and plagiarism and its consequences please see <u>http://writing.berkeley.edu/students/academic-honesty</u>

Reading List and Semester Schedule

May be subject to changes Please consult bCourses for the most updated version of the syllabus

Readings should be completed before class the date they are assigned. All readings are available on our bCourses site. Assignments that are "handed out" are done so completely on bCourses, but will be explained in class that day.

I want to be candid and upfront about the way readings work in this course. You will never be tested or asked to use readings in any graded assignment. Instead, the readings will do two primary things: (1) Provide meaningful context and necessary foundation to understand the concepts that we will be using throughout the course—this includes key concepts like culture and communication. (2) Provide useful context and details for case studies that will be used in-class discussions and participation. In this way, the readings are meaningful and you should do them. At the same time, they are usually relatively short, easy to read, and do not require deep reading or intensive note taking.

WEEK 1	
Jan 11	Introduction: Syllabus and Course Details - C. Wright Mills. <i>The Promise</i>
Jan 13	 Culture: Defining Culture and Reflecting On It Miner, Horace. June 1956. "Body Ritual among the Nacirema," <i>American Anthropologist</i>, 58 (3). Cultural Onion PDF
	Handout via bCourses: Proposal of Cultural Subgroup due TBD
WEEK 2	
Jan 18	 Culture: Generalizations and Dimensions Hofstede, Geert H. <i>Culture's Consequences:</i> <i>comparing values, behaviors, institutions, and</i> <i>organizations across nations</i>. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2001. Hofstede's Summary PDF

Jan 20	Basic skills for analyzing qualitative data - Jonny Saldaña. <i>The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers</i> , pp. 1-17.
WEEK 3	
Jan 25	 Communication: Basic Model and Dimensions Smith, Donald. 1992. "The Signals We Use," Creating Understanding: A Handbook for Christian Communication Across Cultural Landscapes, pp. 144-164.
	Handout via bCourses: Interviews About You due TBD
Jan 27	 Communication: Miscommunication and Conversations Tannen, Deborah. 1984. "The Pragmatics of Cross-Cultural Communication," <i>Applied Linguistics</i>. 5 (3): 189-195. Visible, Invisible Dialogues Examples Split Class into Tuesday and Thursday Classes ***Proposal of Cultural Subgroup DUE <u>TBD</u>***
WEEK 4	
Feb 1 / Feb 3	 Personalities: Knowing Yourself More Basic Values Test, Charts, and Grids MBTI Personality Test: <u>https://www.16personalities.com/</u> Take tests and read/save results (for in-class discussion) How to analyze your qualitative memos? Jonny Saldaña. <i>The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers, pp. 41-57.</i>
	Assign Groups for Group Activities
	Handout via bCourses: Personal Timeline due in-class Week 5 (next week)

WEEK 5	
Feb 15 / Feb 17	 History: Your Biography (so far) See bCourses Assignments for details on what to do If you want, explore using http://time.graphics ***Personal Timeline Due TODAY*** Handout via bCourses: Cultural Self-Analysis Paper due Week 8
WEEK 6	
Feb 22 / Feb 24	 Race: Black Lives Matter Case Study Review Timelines of Black Lives Matter Events (2014 and 2020) Anderson, Carol. "Ferguson isn't about black rage against cops. It's white rage against progress." <i>The Washington Post</i>. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/ferguson-wasnt-black-rage-against-copsit-was-white-rage-against-progress/2014/08/29/3055e3f4-2d75-11e4-bb9b-997ae 96fad33_story.html ***Interview About You Due TBD***
WEEK 7	
March 1 / March 3	 Family, Identity, and Childrearing Chao, Ruth K. "Beyond Parental Control and Authoritarian Parenting Style: Understanding Chinese Parenting through the Cultural Notion of Training," <i>Child Development</i>. 1994 (65): 1111-1119. (skip "Results" section for technical reasons) Another reading TBD
	Handout via bCourses: Cultural Subgroup Field Report

	(4-Unit Only) due Week 10
WEEK 8	
March 8 / March 10	 Education and Culture: Cultural Learning Styles New York Times "Inside a Chinese Test Prep Factory" Another reading TBD ***Cultural Self-Analysis Paper Due THIS WEEK***
WEEK 9	
March 15 / March 17	 Gender and Culture Mead, Margaret. 1963. "Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies," from Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies, pp. 279-88. (As a reference) National Center for Transgender Equality, "Supporting the Transgender People in Your Life: A Guide to Being a Good Ally."
	SPRING BREAK!
WEEK 10	
March 29 / March 31	 Politics and Elections Trumpsters Case Study: Go to this website and listen to 5 different people talk about why they support Trump: <u>https://www.usatoday.com/pages/interactives/trump-nation/#/?_k=b5299s</u> Another reading TBD
	Cultural Subgroup Field Report (4-Unit Only) Due THIS WEEK
	Handout via bCourses: Cultural Subgroup Deep Description due TBD

WEEK 11	
April 5 / April 7	Religion: Case Studies - Readings TBD
WEEK 12	
April 12 / April 14	Class and Culture of Poverty - Leondar-Wright, Betsy. "Are There Class Cultures?" Class Matters 2014-2018, Accessed August 16, 2018: <u>http://www.classmatters.org/2005_07/class-cultures.ph</u> <u>p</u> - Cohen, Patricia. 2010. "Culture of Poverty Makes a Comeback," <i>The New York Times</i> .
WEEK 13	
April 19 / April 21	 Social Networks and Relational Influence McPherson, Miller, Lynn Smith-Lovin, and James M Cook. (2001) "Birds of a Feather: Homophily in Social Networks," <i>Annual Reviews Sociology</i>. 27: 415-444. ***Cultural Subgroup Deep Description Due TBD***
WEEK 14	
April 26 / April 28	Final Reflections + Personal Sharing
	Handout via bCourses: Cultural Subgroup Final Paper due TBD