

Spring 2025

SOC 169C.2

Cross-Cultural Communications

Class: Monday - Wednesday, 5 - 6:30 pm in SSB 170

Instructor: Marina Romani (she/they)

Email: marinaromani@berkeley.edu

Office: SSB TBD

Office hours: TBD

Sign up for office hours: marinaromani.youcanbook.me

(in person in SSB 498 or on zoom at <https://berkeley.zoom.us/my/marinaromani>)

Reader: Danyang Li, danyangli@berkeley.edu

Course Description

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.

This class is designed to be an applied culture class – one in which we are seeking to apply intersectional concepts of culture in everyday life and society. As such, the class is run as somewhere in between a seminar and a workshop with guided lectures and case studies to support the overall direction of the course. In addition, with the support of the instructor, each student will select a cultural subgroup of their choice and will engage in participant observation (ethnographic fieldwork) in order to investigate the group's values and beliefs.

In class, we will interrogate different aspects of cross-cultural communication and cultural differences: race, socioeconomics, family, social relationships, politics, education, gender, ability and disability, and relationship to the land. While exploring these topics, we will strive to engage in personal self-reflection and hands-on experience, and to understand the connections to larger social structures.

Specifically, the goals of this course are:

1. To learn, describe, and analyze common and important social and cultural patterns;
2. To provide a space for students to reflect on their own personal experience with cultural difference;
3. To develop self-awareness of one's own constructed social and cultural and subjectivity;
4. To encourage students to engage hands on with different cultures and to meaningfully experience and grow in their cross-cultural communication skills.

Readings

All readings and course materials will be available on bCourses. Please check bCourses weekly for the most updated version of the readings schedule.

There's some flexibility in some sections of our schedule. If we collectively, as a class, decide to change some of the readings in order to pursue specific topics or discussions that may arise, I'll be happy to update the syllabus accordingly.

Students are expected to thoroughly and carefully read the course requirements and policies below.

Grading, Assignments, and Deadlines

This class can be taken for 3 or 4 units.

Grade Distribution

ASSIGNMENT		LENGTH	WEIGHT	DEADLINE
PARTICIPATION			15%	Every week in class
GROUP ACTIVITY			10%	
CULTURAL SELF-ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENTS			25% (total)	
	1. Interview About You	<i>2-3 pages double-spaced</i>	10%	February 27 (Week 6)
	2. Self-Analysis Paper	<i>4-5 pages double-spaced</i>	15%	March 20 (Week 9)
CULTURAL SUBGROUP ASSIGNMENTS			50% (total)	
	1. Proposal	<i>1 page, single-spaced</i>	5%	February 8 (Week 3)
	2. Deep Description	3 units: 4-5 pages, double spaced 4 units: 5-6 pages, double-spaced	15%	April 11 (Week 11)
	3. Fieldwork and Fieldnotes	3 units: 10 entries of 300 words each 4 units: 10 entries of 400 words each	5%	May 13 (Finals Week)
	4. Final Paper	3 units: 8-10 pages 4 units: 10-12 pages	25%	May 13 (Finals Week)

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Range
A	100% to 94%
A-	< 94% to 90%
B+	< 90% to 87%
B	< 87% to 84%
B-	< 84% to 80%
C+	< 80% to 77%
C	< 77% to 74%
C-	< 74% to 70%
D+	< 70% to 67%
D	< 67% to 64%
D-	< 64% to 61%
F	< 61% to 0%

Reading List and Semester Schedule

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

Readings should be completed before the class in which they are assigned.

All readings are available on our bCourses site.

Week 1 – Introduction to the course

January 22

- Introduction: syllabus, policies, course details.
- Complete the [Beginning of Semester Questionnaire](#) by January 31.

Week 2 – Approaches to Studying Culture: Generalizations and Dimensions

January 27

- Carefully read the syllabus.
- Mills, C. Wright. 1959. *The Sociological Imagination* (excerpt, pp. 3-11).
- Miner, Horace. 1956. "Body Ritual among the Nacirema," *American Anthropologist* 58(3).
- Read the two sample student essays provided on bCourses.
- In-class discussion on cultural subgroup proposal.

January 29

- Hofstede, Geert H. 2001. *Culture's Consequences* (excerpt).
- Harsha Walia. 2013. *Undoing Border Imperialism* (short excerpt).
- Yunkaporta, Tyson. 2019. *Sand Talk: How Indigenous Thinking Can Save the World* (short excerpt).

Week 3 – Orientation to Fieldwork: Ethnography and Subjectivity

February 3

- Carr, Deborah, et al. 2018. "Ethnography" in *The Art and Science of Social Research* (302-337).

February 5

- Emerson, Robert, Fretz, Rachel, and Shaw, Linda. 2011. "Fieldnotes in Ethnographic Research" in *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes* (Second Edition), 1-20.

Optional reading:

- Hurn, Brian J. and Tomalin, Barry. 2013. *Cross-Cultural Communication. Theory and Practice* (excerpt).

Week 4 – February 10 and 12. Orientation to Fieldwork: Personality and Biography

- Read [Sean Hilling's interview with filmmaker Deeyah Khan](#) (2019).
- Gray, Jan-Henry. 2019. "[I'm a Good Person Because My Childhood Was](#)" (poem).
- Prabarna Ganguly, 2018, "[Empathy and bias are more intertwined than we often think](#)." Massive Science.
- Tannen, Deborah. 1984. "The Pragmatics of Cross-Cultural Communication." *Applied Linguistics* 5(3): 189-195.

Optional:

- Chiu, Chi-Yue, Kim, Young-Hoon, and Wan, Wendy W.N. 2008. "Personality: Cross-Cultural Perspectives" (pp. 124-144). In *Personality theories and models*.

Week 5 – Race: Case Studies

February 17: Holiday, no class

February 19

- Charles A. Gallagher, ed. 2019. *Rethinking the Color Line: Readings in Race and Ethnicity*, 2019 (excerpts).
- NBC Bay Area. 2021. "[Amid wave of violence, Asian Americans, Black communities build coalitions](#)."

Optional:

- Man, Simeon. 2020. "Anti-Asian violence and US imperialism". *Race & Class*. 62(2): 24-33.
- Pai, Hsiao-Hung. 2020. ["The refugee 'crisis' showed Europe's worst side to the world."](#) *The Guardian*.
- Metz, Jonathan. 2020. Video: ["How People Are 'Dying of Whiteness' Amid COVID-19."](#)

Week 6 - February 24 and 26. Family and Childrearing

- Doepke, Matthias and Zilibotti, Fabrizio. 2019. "Parenting Styles around the Contemporary World" (pp. 85-124). In *Love, Money, and Parenting: How Economics Explains the Way We Raise Our Kids*.

Optional:

- Kobakhidze, Magda Nutsa, Ying Ma (马莹), and Alexandros Tsaloukidis. 2023. "Tiger Parenting Beyond Cultural Essentialism: Discourses of Class, Culture, and Competition in Hong Kong." *ECNU Review of Education*.
- Gerson, Kathleen. 2020. "The Shaping of a New Generation" in *The Unfinished Revolution: How a New Generation is Reshaping Family, Work, and Gender in America*.
- Cooper, M. and Pugh, A. 2020. "Families Across the Income Spectrum: A Decade in Review." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 82: 272-299.

Week 7 - March 3 and 5: Education

- Broderick, Alicia A. and Leonardo, Zeus. 2016. "What a Good Boy. The Deployment and Distribution of 'Goodness' as Ideological Property in Schools" in *DisCrit—Disability Studies and Critical Race Theory in Education*, edited by David J. Connor, Beth A. Ferri, and Subini A. Annamma.
- Anderson, Melinda D. 2014. "Why the Myth of Meritocracy Hurts Kids of Color." *The Atlantic*.

Optional:

- Khan, Shamus R. 2011. "Democratic Inequality" in *Privilege. The Making of an Adolescent Elite at St. Paul's School*.

Week 8 - March 10 and 12. Gender and Culture

- Stryker, Susan. 2018. *Transgender History*. Chapter 1 (“Context, Concepts, and Terms”) and Chapter 2 (“A Hundred-Plus Years of Transgender History”).
- National Center for Transgender Equality. “[Supporting the Transgender People in Your Life: A Guide to Being a Good Ally.](#)”
- David Marchese. 2023. Interview: “[Alok Vaid-Menon Is ‘Fighting for Trans Ordinarity’](#)” *The New York Times*.

Optional:

- Mazzuca C, Borghi AM, van Putten S, Lugli L, Nicoletti R, Majid A. 2024. “Gender is conceptualized in different ways across cultures.” *Language and Cognition* 16(2): 353-379.

Week 9 - March 17 and 19. Politics: Case Studies

- Iyengar, Shanto et al. 2019. “The Origins and Consequences of Affective Polarization in the United States”. *Annual Review of Political Science* 22(7): 1-18.
- Pew Research Center. 2024. [10 facts about Republicans in the U.S.](#)

Optional:

- DellaPosta, Daniel. 2020. “Pluralistic Collapse: The ‘Oil Spill’ Model of Mass Opinion Polarization.” *American Sociological Review* 85(3): 507-529.
- United Nations Development Programme. 2023. “[‘With me, or against me’: The intensification of political polarization in Latin America and the Caribbean.](#)”
- Pew Research Center. 2022. [Most across 19 countries see strong partisan conflicts in their society, especially in South Korea and the US](#)

March 24-27: Spring Break

Week 10 - March 31 and April 2. Socio-economic Class

- Leondar-Wright, Betsy. 2005. “Are There Class Cultures?”
- Dittman, Andrea. 2016. “[Understanding Social Class as Culture.](#)” *Behavioral Scientist*.
- Browse [The World Inequality Report 2022](#) website. Focus especially on these sections: [Executive Summary](#), [Introduction](#), and [Global Wealth Inequality](#).

Optional:

- Stiglitz, Joseph. 2012. *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future*. Preface and Chapter 1 (“The One Percent’s Problem”).

Week 11 - April 7 and 9. Ability/Disability

- Groce, NE. 1999. "Disability in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Rethinking Disability." *The Lancet*. 354(9180): 756-757.
- [Sins Invalid](#). 10 Principles of Disability Justice.
- Stimpunks. "[Glossary: Crip](#)."
- Watch: "[Crip Camp](#)" and the Disability Rights Movement. CBS.
- Ho, Sandy. 2022. "Canfei to Canji. The Freedom of Being Loud." In *Disability Visibility. First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century*, ed. by Alice Wong.

Optional:

- Wong, "Introduction" in *Disability Visibility. First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century*.
- You can watch the complete *Crip Camp* movie (2020) [here](#).

Week 12 - April 14 and 16. Relationship with the Land

- Cunsolo, Ashlee, and Neville R. Ellis. 2018. "Ecological Grief as a Mental Health Response to Climate Change-Related Loss." *Nature Climate Change* 8(4): 275-281.
- Hoffman, Andrew. 2019. "[Climate Change and Our Emerging Cultural Shift](#)". *Behavioral Scientist*.

Optional:

- Robin Wall Kimmerer. 2019. *Gathering Moss. A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*. Read chapters titled "The Standing Stone" and "Learning to See" (pp. 1-13).

Week 13 - April 21 and 23. Relationship with the Land, cont'd

- In-class short screening and discussion.

Week 14 – April 28 and 30. Final Paper Workshop

Final paper workshop.

Reflections and sharing.

RRR Week

I will hold extra office hours.

Finals Week

Final paper due on May 13.

Course Requirements and Policies

Participation

This class is run like a seminar, which means that, while I do give short lectures, I expect you to actively engage with the readings 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. Due to the nature of this course's subject matter and the focus on communication, 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.

Readings

All reading and viewing assignments need to be completed prior to the scheduled class. All materials are available on bCourses.

If you'd like to print your readings, you can print for no charge at [Open Computing Facility \(OCF\)](#) in the MLK Student Union. OCF is a volunteer-run computer lab where you can print your assignments and papers.

You can print for a fee at several UC Berkeley libraries:
<https://studenttech.berkeley.edu/campus-libraries>

Group Activity

In small groups, you will be expected to prepare a creative and interactive group activity on one of the week's topics. I will create the groups by the third or fourth week of class. The activity should last around 30 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 creative with these student-led times, from 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.

These student-led times will receive an individual grade and they will be graded based on 1) preparation, 2) discussion and interaction, and 3) meaningful activity.

Cultural Self-Analysis Assignments

This group of assignments includes two parts: 1) an interview done with a family member or close friend, and 2) a final analytical and reflective paper.

1. The first part is an **interview about you** where you will conduct an interview/conversation with a close family member or close friend about how they perceive or see you. Your interviewee should be someone close to you who has seen you grow up. This could be a parent, sibling, grandparent, chosen family member, close friend, or caregiver, etc. 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 write-up of the conversation and a short reflective summary of what you learned during the conversation.
2. The final part is writing a **self-analysis essay**. 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 (Final Project)

A cornerstone of this course is that you will be required to engage in a cultural subgroup throughout the semester. Starting from the very first week of class, you should begin to look for an appropriate 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 (even in a virtual setting).

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

The subgroup project is broken down into five assignments: 1) a **proposal** due early in the first month of the course, 2) **fieldwork and fieldnotes** to be recorded throughout the semester, 3) a **deep description** due towards the middle-end of the course, 4) a **final paper** due during finals week.

1. 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.
2. **Fieldwork and fieldnotes:** the cultural subgroup project involves interaction with your chosen culture/group. This interaction, or fieldwork, may take several forms, including participation online and research. We will discuss in detail during the first weeks of class. You will begin fieldwork by week 4 at the latest and continue through the last week of instruction. A total of 10 weeks of qualifying field notes is required for full credit. You will keep a journal of your experiences and observations. These fieldnotes are the foundation for your final paper and should be written immediately after your fieldwork each week. You will also submit all of your field notes at the end of the semester. Students taking the course for 3 units must write at least 300 words per week; students taking 4 units must write at least 400 words per week.
3. The **deep description** will function like writing an early draft of a portion of the final paper. In this assignment, you will describe key cultural characteristics, norms, or values that you have noticed in the cultural subgroup you have been engaged with. You will submit a 4-5-page formal paper that provides descriptions and specific

examples from your engagement. This will serve as the beginnings of your final paper.

4. 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.

Course Policies

Public Health Guidelines

We will follow UC Berkeley's public health measures related to the coronavirus pandemic and any other circumstances.. Let's take care of each other and our communities.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in this class, and I will take attendance for each class meeting.

You get two unexcused absences; after your second unexcused absence, your overall grade will drop 5% for every subsequent unexcused absence.

Missing more than 4 classes will result in failing this course.

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 can't attend because of a religious observance, emergency, sports schedule, or health issue, please talk to me as soon as possible. See also the Academic Accommodations section below.

Grading Philosophy

I will provide you with extensive guidelines for each assignment during the semester. The graders will grade your work with the utmost care and respect, and in the most unbiased way possible. 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 during the semester, exceptional final paper, 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).

Late Assignments and Extensions

All deadlines are indicated in this syllabus: please put them on your calendar and make sure to turn in your work on time. It's your responsibility to carefully check to make sure that your work is uploaded correctly on bCourses.

All work submitted after the deadline will receive a 5% deduction per 24 hours.

Extensions will only be given in extreme circumstances, with prior notification and appropriate documentation (such as a doctor's note) explaining the reason why the assignment cannot be turned in on time.

We are living in very difficult times, and many of us are struggling in lots of different ways. Let's check in with each other when necessary and take care of our community. I understand that life is messy and complicated, and unexpected circumstances may arise, but please reach out to me as soon as possible if this is the case. I really want to support you and I want you to succeed, but in order to do that you need to keep open communication with me. Feel free to reach out!

Regrade Policy

I believe grades are a bureaucratic convenience which provide little more than perverse incentives and needless stress. And evidence overwhelmingly shows they have little impact

on social mobility in terms of careers and earnings. Yet [here we are](#). I have designed thoughtful assignments to meet the University's grading requirements while helping you get the most out of the course material. They are not meant to be arbitrary or punitive. I intend for you to learn from them and not merely to get a good grade. That said, if you are unhappy with a grade and feel it needs to be reassessed, I will give you a fair review process.

If you would like to appeal a grade, please email me a brief statement (400 words or less) including:

1. A list of the deductions you received,
2. A summary of the Reader comments justifying these deductions,
3. Why you believe these deductions to be unjust.

In my review, I will make the final determination to either increase, decrease, or make no change to your initial grade.

You must submit your appeal within one week after the grade is posted; after this the grade becomes permanent and I will not consider any further appeals.

Please have sober judgment over your own work and really consider the instructor'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 your argument, you may still have gotten a lower grade.

Technology

Please don't hesitate to use a laptop or tablet to take notes in class. However, there are times in which I will ask you to close your laptops so that we can fully present for discussions or presentations.

Technology use excludes phones — please keep your phones away during class.

Checking social media or texting does not constitute “participation,” and I will count you absent if I find you misusing your computer during class.

Communication and Office Hours

Feel free to come into office hours for anything! Come to introduce yourself, to talk about your academic interests, or if there are any circumstances that are making your semester harder.

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 20 minutes they signed up for) – but be prepared to wait patiently as well.

Please expect a 48 hour turnaround for emails – this means you should not put off questions until the last minute. While I am happy to respond to specific and minor questions over email, it is more helpful to discuss substantive issues in person during office hours. Make sure to check your berkeley.edu email address for all course-related correspondence throughout the semester.

Academic Accommodations

If you need support, I am happy to help you find the right campus resource who can help, without needing to disclose private personal information to me.

The purpose of academic accommodations is to ensure that all students have a fair chance at academic success. Disability, or hardships such as basic needs insecurity, uncertain documentation and immigration status, medical and mental health concerns, pregnancy and parenting, significant familial distress, and experiencing sexual violence or harassment, can affect a student's ability to satisfy particular course requirements. Students have the right to reasonable academic accommodations, without having to disclose personal information to instructors. For more information about accommodations, scheduling conflicts related to religious creed or extracurricular activities, please see the Academic Accommodations hub website: [Berkeley Support Portal](#).

Feel free to come and talk to me any time about any issues regarding accommodations about assignments, deadlines, attendance, and anything related to our course.

Student Learning Center

The [Student Learning Center](#) offers academic support in different fields, including social sciences and writing: “The Student Learning Center supports a global community of learners as they navigate the cultural expectations and academic rigor of UC Berkeley. Through service models that honor their diverse starting points and meet them where they are, we aim to empower all students to realize their full academic potential and aspirations.”

If you would like more support with your writing, there are resources on campus to help in writing your papers.

1. Check out the Student Learning Center and their programs: [Writing | Student Learning Center](#)
2. Look on the bCourses website for our class. I will post some resources in a folder labeled “Writing Resources.” These are some rather thorough guides written specifically by and for the Sociology department.

Mental Health, Wellness, and Care

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.

[CAPS](#) is an excellent resource on campus: “UHS Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) supports the emotional, psychological, educational, social and cultural development of all UC Berkeley students through a wide range of multiculturally based counseling, psychiatric, career, consultation, training and educational services.”

If you find you are struggling, please feel free to come talk to me. I’m not a mental health professional, but I can always listen to you and direct you to the resources available on campus, and support you as best as I can. Please do not wait until you are suffering to reach out, although you can certainly do so even at that point.

Another campus website which has links to many resources is [recalibrate](#). 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

If you have a disability, or think you may have a disability, you can work with the [Disabled Students' Program \(DSP\)](#) to request an official accommodation. DSP is the campus office responsible for authorizing disability-related academic accommodations, in cooperation with the students themselves and their instructors. You can find more information about DSP, including contact information and the application process at dsp.berkeley.edu. If you have already been approved for accommodations through DSP, please meet with me so we can develop an implementation plan together.

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.

If you are a **Concurrent Enrollment student**, please refer to [Disability Support Services | Student Services | UC Berkeley Extension](#).

Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Services

To learn more about how to support survivors, or how to file a report and receive support services, start here: <https://svsh.berkeley.edu/>.

Please note, as a UC Berkeley instructor employee, that I am not a confidential advocate; I am a Responsible Employee, which means that if you tell me about sexual violence or sexual harassment that you or another student experienced, I need to share that information with the [Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination](#). There are [confidential resources](#) I can connect you with.

Economic, Food, and Housing Support

If you are in need of economic, food, or housing support, you can find help at the [Basic Needs Center](#). You may be eligible for money to buy groceries via [CalFresh](#). If you are in need of food immediately, please contact our [UC Berkeley Food Pantry](#).

Undocumented Students Support

The [Undocumented Student Program](#) is a great resource here on campus: “UC Berkeley’s Undocumented Student Program (USP) — a component of the Centers for Educational Equity and Excellence — provides guidance and support to undocumented undergraduates at Cal. USP practices a holistic, multicultural and solution-focused approach that delivers individualized service for each student. The mental health support, academic counseling, legal support, financial aid resources and extensive campus referral network provided by USP helps students develop the unique gifts and talents they each bring to the university, while empowering a sense of belonging. The program’s mission is to support the advancement of undocumented students within higher education and promote pathways for engaged scholarship.”

Technology and Internet Support

Please check the [Student Technology Services](#) page for the latest information on university-provided support.

Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism

You are a member of an academic community at one of the world’s leading research universities. Any test, paper or report submitted by you and that bears your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course unless you obtain prior written approval to do so from your instructor. In all of your assignments, including your homework or drafts of papers, you may use words or ideas written by other individuals in publications, web sites, or other sources, but only with proper attribution.

If you are not clear about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking a test or examination, be sure to seek clarification from your instructor beforehand.

Finally, you should keep in mind that as a member of the campus community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in all of your academic endeavors and will be evaluated on your own merits. According to each specific case, the consequences of cheating and academic dishonesty may include failing an assignment, failing a course, or a formal discipline file.

The [Code of Student Conduct](#) defines plagiarism as follows:

“A. Cheating. Cheating includes fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using

materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

B. Plagiarism. Plagiarism includes use of intellectual material produced by another person without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism also includes self-plagiarism.

C. False Information and Representation and Fabrication or Alteration of Information. Furnishing false information, failing to identify oneself honestly, fabricating or altering information and presenting it as legitimate, or providing false or misleading information to an instructor or any other University official in an academic context.

D. Theft or Damage of Intellectual Property. Sabotaging or stealing another person's work, improper access to or electronically interfering with the property of another person or the University, or obtaining or distributing a copy of an exam or assignment without the permission of the instructor.

E. Alteration of University Documents. Forgery of an instructor's signature, submitting an altered transcript of grades to or from another institution or employer, putting one's name on another individual's work, or falsely altering a previously graded exam or assignment."

The [Center for Student Conduct](#) "contributes to the holistic development of students by administering the Code of Student Conduct through equitable practices that promote education, foster a sense of accountability, and encourage community responsibility and mutual respect."

Please familiarize yourself with what plagiarism is, with [the university policies on cheating and plagiarism](#), and their consequences. I encourage you to ask me questions — in class or in office hours — if you are not sure about what constitutes plagiarism.

Chat GPT and Generative AI Software

The use of these generative AI tools for brainstorming ideas, exploring possible responses to questions or problems, and creative engagement with the materials may be useful for you as you craft responses to class assignments. While there is no substitute for working directly with your instructor and with your classmates, the potential for generative AI tools to provide feedback, assistive technology, and language assistance is clearly developing.

For the use of AI tools, please refer to the following guidelines: **the use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Dall-e, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:**

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas
- Fine tuning your research questions
- Finding initial information on a specific topic or theory
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is NOT permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Writing a draft of a writing assignment (including fieldnotes)
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content).

Any assignment that is found to have used generative AI tools in unauthorized ways will be treated as plagiarism.

Please feel free to reach out to me well in advance of the due date of assignments for which you may be using generative AI tools and I will be happy to discuss what is acceptable.

Guidelines adapted from the [Center for Teaching and Learning](#), UT Austin, and the [Center for the Advancement of Teaching](#), Temple University.

Feedback

I value your feedback on our course and I aim to create a respectful, productive, and comfortable learning environment. If you'd like to share any feedback you might have about our course, feel free to come talk to me in office hours any time during the semester. Thank you!

Friendly Reminders

- **Complete and think thoughtfully about all readings prior to class.**
- **Submit your work on time.**

- **Ask questions when you do not understand.** Some of the texts we read are difficult. There will be things we each find confusing or perplexing every week. It is important that you take the initiative to work through that puzzlement. I'm happy to support you to better understand all the materials from our course!
- **Keep open communication.** If some problem is affecting your performance in the course, please get in touch with me. I am eager to help everyone do as well as possible in, and get to the most out of the course.

Remember: we are all responsible for creating a learning environment that is welcoming, inclusive, equitable, and respectful. The expectation in this class is that we all live up to this responsibility, even during vigorous debate or disagreement.