

**YORK COLLEGE**  
**CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

**CLDV 100 -77906**

**FALL 2019**

**Prof. J. Williams**

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**Office hours: By appointment**

**SYLLABUS- YECA**

**Introduction to Multicultural Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**REQUIRED TEXT:** *Communication Between Cultures. 9<sup>th</sup> Edition.* Samovar, Porter, McDaniel, Roy.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of what culture is; how it influences the choices we make, how to deal positively with conflicts that inevitably arise in working/living situations with people of diverse cultures. It is a course structured to raise multicultural awareness and fortify students' social skills in dealing with cultural differences. We will examine examples of differences in communication styles not only between cultures but also within. As a result, issues of race, national, class, gender, religion, immigration, and sexual orientation will be of significant concern. Through the study of cultural concepts, this course develops skills in critical thinking, writing and scholarly documentation.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

This course will help you gain a deeper understanding of cultural diversity as well as your own ethnic identity. We will also learn how the cultures we know best are both the same and different from other cultures and also how cultures from all over the world add to and complete one another. Some questions we will consider are:

- What is culture?
- How does a newborn baby acquire culture?
- How does our culture affect what we do and feel, including how we see the world?
- How does a person's culture affect what that person comes to see as important?
- How does it affect our attitude toward people we see as different from ourselves?

Through assignments, tests and class discussions, students will demonstrate increased competencies in:

- Understanding what culture is, how it is acquired and how it shapes our values, attitudes and behaviors.
- Appreciating the contributions of our own and other cultural groups to our global civilization.
- Working cooperatively with persons of diverse backgrounds.
- Recognizing ethnocentric behavior and prejudices of all kinds.

- Thinking critically and assessing social problems from within a cultural context.
- Developing the analytical skills and knowledge that will enable us to understand, communicate, and deal constructively with problems that issue from cultural diversity in the community, the workplace and the world.

### **GRADING**

<b><u>Assignment</u></b>	<b><u>Guidelines</u></b>	<b><u>Weight</u></b>
Autoethnography	Students will be required to write a short autoethnography –an autobiographical field report. Students will self-assess their own strategies for negotiating different cultures	10%
Midterm Exam	This will be a combination of short answer, multiple choice based on lecturers, readings and discussions.	20%
Research Paper	A 5 –page research paper will analyze media text (book, film, TV shows, etc) to explore different aspects of intercultural communication (ex. Verbal, non-verbal) by comparing and contrasting at least two views/theories about the topic. Topic to be approved by the instructor.	20%
Group Paper	This will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and short essay based on lecturers, readings and discussions.	20%
Group Project	There will be a group project where group members will work on a select topic which will be accompanied by a power point.	20%
Participation-H.W.	Classroom participation is encouraged and emphasized. Students are required to come to class having completed the assigned readings that will enable them to participate in discussion.	10%

### **Course Schedule:**

<b>#</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Session Focus</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>	<b>Additional Assignments</b>
1	8/29	Introduction to Course & Opening Topic		
2	9/5	Opening Topics Cont'd	Samovar, Porter, McDonald & Roy, CHAPTER 1	
3	9/6	Culture & Communication	Samovar, et. al., Chapter 2	
4	9/13	Culture & Communication		

#	Date	Session Focus	Reading Assignment	Additional Assignments
5	9/16	Structure of Culture: Family Lessons	Samovar, et. al., Chapter 3	
6	9/20	Structure of Culture: Family Lessons		
7	9/23	Cultural History: Our Antecedents	Samovar, et. al., Chapter 4	
8	9/27	Cultural History: Our Antecedents		
9	10/4	Culture, Life and Death	Samovar, et. al., Chapter 5	
10	10/7	Culture, Life and Death		
11	10/11	Cultural Values: Guidelines for Behavior	Samovar, et. al., Chapter 6	
14	10/16	Cultural Values: Guidelines for Behavior		
15	10/18	Identity & Culture: Situating the Individual	Samovar, et. al., Chapter 7	
16	10/21	Identify & Culture: Situating the Individual		
17	10/25	Verbal Messages: Language	Samovar, et. al., Chapter 8	
18	10/28	Verbal Messages: Language		
19	11/1	Nonverbal Communication: The Message of Action, Space, Time & Silence	Samovar, et. al., Chapter 9	
20	11/4	Nonverbal Communication: The Message of Action, Space, Time & Silence		
21	11/7	Communication Contexts and Cultural Influences	Samovar, et. al., Chapter 10	
22	11/11	Communication Contexts And Cultural Influences		
23	11/14	Advanced Topics: Hegemony, Communication Mass Media, Politics (Local, World & Foreign), Changing Norms & Mores		Check Blackboard
24	11/18	Advanced Topics: Hegemony, Communication Mass Media, Politics (Local, World & Foreign), Changing Norms & Mores		Check Blackboard
25	11/21	Advanced Topics: Hegemony, Communication Mass Media, Politics (Local, World & Foreign), Changing Norms & Mores		Check Blackboard

#	Date	Session Focus
26	11/25	Group meeting assignments
27	11/28-12/1	THANKSGIVING RECESS
28	12/2	Advanced Topics: Hegemony, Communication Mass Media, Politics (Local, World & Foreign), Changing Norms & Mores
24	12/6	GROUP PROJECT PAPERS DUE
25	12/9	LAST DAY OF CLASSES

*PLEASE NOTE INFORMATION ON YOUR GROUP PRESENTATION WILL BE IN THE ASSIGNMENT SECTION OF BLACKBOARD.*

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

Academic integrity means being completely honest in your academic work, all of your work must be a culmination of your understanding. **Plagiarism** is a violation of academic integrity this is defined as taking someone else's work or idea and passing it off as though it was yours. When using someone else's work or idea you must give them recognition for it, students must therefore use proper citations in all of their work to avoid plagiarism. **Cheating** is another violation of academic integrity this occurs when students act dishonestly during any type of an assessment.

**These or any other violations against academic integrity that occur will result in a failing grade and may result in further disciplinary actions. More information about academic integrity can be found at <http://www.york.cuny.edu/produce-and-print/contents/bulletin/policies-policies>.**

**Policy on INC Grade**

A student who cannot take the final examination or submit all assessments due to an emergency will be given an INC grade providing they have a passing average based on some previous assessment. Please visit the following website for more information on the INC grade.

<http://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/policies/grading-policies>

**Students with Disabilities**

Student with disabilities should visit The Center for Students with Disabilities which is located in AC 1G02.

**Student Support Resources on Campus:**

York College offers many student support services such as academic tutoring, computer resource room, career counseling and much more. To learn more students can visit

<http://www.york.cuny.edu/student-development/support-services/services-activities#section-3>.