

**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES,
WESTERN UNIVERSITY**

**Bridging Classroom and Community: Languages and Cultures in Action
CLC/GER/ICC/ITA/SPA 2500G (Winter 2021)**

Mondays 9:30 – 11:20 am & Wednesdays 9:30 – 10:20 am
(classes will be held synchronously via Zoom)
Instructor: Amrapali Chatterjee (achatt5@uwo.ca)

Course Description:

This course develops intercultural competence, specifically cultural humility, through an examination of individual experiences of learning and maintaining language and cultural heritage in our community. We will connect interactive in-class activities about identity and memory, understandings and misunderstandings, and community and social justice with community-engaged learning projects of digital storytelling.

Learning Outcomes:

The overarching learning objectives for the course are to bridge the theory and practice of Intercultural Communication via academic content from Arabic, German, Hispanic, Italian, and Japanese cultures; practice and reflect on cultural humility; connect global and local communities through community-engaged learning; link students through active learning strategies; engage with technology to solve problems and achieve the goal of creating digital projects.

Course Evaluation:

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Weighting</u>
Reflections	30%
Participation	20%
Digital Storytelling Assignment	10%
Final Project	40%

All assignments are to be submitted by the end of the day (i.e., 11:59 PM) on the due date through OWL. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances. Specific instructions and grading rubrics will be available for each assessment at the appropriate moment in the course.

Reflections (30%)

Reflection is the structured and intentional consideration of experiences. Keep in mind the 4 Cs of Reflection – Connected, Continuous, Challenging, Contextualized- in order to effectively reflect on a topic.

Connected: Reflection helps you develop meaningful connections between course content and your community-engaged learning experience using digital tools.

Continuous: Since reflection is an ongoing process, you should continuously reflect on classroom discussions and activities, course content, and your own experiences.

Challenging: Reflection encourages you to challenge pre-existing paradigms, assumptions, and interpretations, not just to report or narrate your experiences but also to think in new ways, raise new questions, and problem-solve.

Contextualized: Reflection assignments will be tailored to course content as well as the work you will be doing for your digital assignments and final project.

You will be required to complete **3** different reflections for the course. Each reflection assignment will account for **10%** of your final grade.

Participation (20%)

Your overall engagement and participation in all aspects of the course will be evaluated. We will assess: application of course material to real-world contexts; dedication to reflective practice; contribution to class activities; regular participation in online discussions; timely peer reviews; and commitment to understanding tolerance and diversity.

Please note that **2.5%** of your final grade (included as part of your participation grade) will depend on how your group members evaluate your contribution in developing and executing the final project.

Digital Storytelling Assignment (10%)

For this assignment, you will be working in groups to produce a story about your experiences building bridges between the classroom and the Arabic/ Hispanic/ German/ Italian/ Japanese community. By the time you start working on this assignment, you are expected to have finished conducting initial research on your final project. The focus of your story should be on a specific aspect of the community's culture that you find interesting. You will be representing your story using Scoop.it, a digital content creation tool.

Final Project (40%)

For the final project, you and your group members will have to select a city (or town) in Canada where your chosen community has a significant presence. You will be

working together to research the community's history and evaluate the various ways in which the community typically maintains its linguistic and cultural heritage and then compare it with how such aspects of Arabic/ Hispanic/ German/ Italian/ Japanese culture are being maintained in an online environment during the pandemic. The final deliverable of this assignment will be a WIX site where you will showcase your research.

Course Calendar:

Available through OWL Sakai

Academic Policies:

For the academic policies for undergraduate courses in the Department of Languages and Cultures, please consult the following link:
<https://www.uwo.ca/languages/undergraduate/policies.html>

Materials:

All readings for the course can be found on OWL Sakai. You are expected to complete your assigned readings before each class so that you can participate in classroom activities and discussions.

The main focus of each cultural group will be:

Arabic: Tayeb Salih. *Season of Migration to the North*. Trans. Denys Johnson-Davis. London: Heinemann, 1969.

German: Christa Wolf. *City of Angels or, the Overcoat of Dr. Freud*. Trans. Damion Searls. New York: Suhrkamp, 2013.

Hispanic: José Antonio Burciaga. *The Last Supper of Chicano Heroes*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2008.

Italian: Nino Ricci. *Roots and Frontiers, Radici e frontiere*. Trans. Carmen Concilio. Torino: Tirrenia Stampatori, 2003.

Japanese: Joy Kogawa. *Obasan*. Toronto: Penguin, 1981.

**The course syllabus and calendar may be modified at any time during the course, if necessary.*