IDSY 220 (Part I)  
Spring 2006

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In this course, you will learn:

1. To see culture as a medium in which we live, and which shapes virtually every aspect of our thoughts, beliefs and behavior.
2. To identify some of the basic cultural tendencies of U.S. Americans, to articulate and experience (through simulations, films and self-tests, for example), some of the basic principles of intercultural communication, and to discover how differences in cultural style and background can lead to cultural misunderstandings.
3. To reflect on your own readiness to go abroad. In this endeavor, you will be aided by readings, writing assignments, in-class simulations, and discussions with your instructor and other students (those in this class, and those recently returned from study abroad).


N.B. This is a “skeletal” syllabus. There will be a few additional short readings (6-10 pp.) that are not listed on the syllabus. These will be on reserve in the library OR photocopied for you. In some cases, only one or two of you will read them, and then report to the class on what you have read. There will also be a few films.

There will also be a few out-of-class “exercises” (often in the nature of “people watching”), to conduct outside of class and report on in class or in your journal.

Before coming to class for the first time, read *The Art of Crossing Cultures*. In subsequent weeks, make sure the reading is completed by Monday, and the weekly journal by Wednesday (I hope you’ll be jotting things in the journal all week long, however!)

**Week I**  Storti

**Week II**  *Intercultural Competence* (IC), Chapter 4

**Week III**  *IC*, Chapter 5

**Week IV**  photocopies: *Cultural Misunderstandings*, Raymonde Carroll  
Introduction, “The House” (for Monday); “Parents and Children” (for Wednesday)

**Week V**  *IC*, Chapter 7, and pp. 217-224, student presentation on “Conversation”
ATTEND POSTER SESSION, THURSDAY, APRIL 27, DEWING COMMONS, 11:30-12:30

Week VI  IC, Chapter 9, student presentation on “Friendship”

Week VII  IC, Chapter 10, student presentation on “The Couple”

Week VIII  “Longing for America” (short story --- photocopies)

Week IX  Wrap-up (reading TBA)

N.B. Schedule will be adjusted to include Poster Session (at which attendance is mandatory), Memorial Day, and the Day of Gracious Living

NO FINAL EXAM --- if the weather cooperates, there’ll be a pool, pizza, and ice cream sundaes party at my house during Exam Week

At the end of this quarter, you will be given a grade (the Registrar’s Office needs it to be so), but neither the grade nor the unit is official until the second half of the course is completed.

This third of your grade will be determined in the following way:

40% Attendance and Participation (I may occasionally give you a tiny “quizlet” [e.g., two questions, each of which can be answered in a sentence or two], just to make sure you’re doing/understanding the reading). Attendance at the Poster Session is mandatory, and you may also be asked to meet once with students recently returned from Study Abroad. This grade would also include any small reading you were asked to do and report on to the class. Since the workload outside of class is relatively light, your attendance and active participation are crucial.

35% Journaling (ca. 3-4 pp. each week, to be turned in each Wednesday). I will often assign a topic to be addressed in your journal (you may always add other things that are on your mind, react to the readings, describe things you’re observing about U.S. American culture, etc.) I may also write questions in your journal one week to which I’m asking you to respond for the next week.

10% Presentations on “Cultural Misunderstandings”

10% Writing 4 paragraphs for the website (see kzoo.edu/cip/kpic for examples)

5% Writing a “dry run” ICRP prospectus
This will be a variation on something you’re required to do for the CIP anyway.

Finding a contact group ---- “due date” = Seventh Week  [This doesn’t “count” unless you don’t do it --- but, of course, everyone will!]
IDSY 220 (Part II)
Spring 2006

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Texts:
Davidson, Cathy N. *36 Views of Mount Fuji*. New York: Plume (Penguin), 1994
Occasional photocopies on intercultural concepts.

WEEK I
Welcome Home; Intro to course; Telling Stories; Logistical Concerns (Poster Session; appointments with me; finalizing class time; brainstorming for interaction with departing classes (incl your time schedules); discussion of presentations in the community

WEEK II
Read “Yard Sale,” by Paul Theroux (also intro, pp. 271-280), “The Captive,” by Jorge Luis Borges, + photocopies about Re-Entry; Make Outline of ICRP / Tiputini presentation (and begin writing text for your poster – word process this to save time in future); write 1-3 pp. (handwritten fine) about how you have been experiencing the re-entry process, about how the writers capture the phenomenon of crossing cultures.

WEEK III
Read “The Little Governess,” by Katherine Mansfield (pp. 54-64) (also, intro, pp. 41-42); “The Growing Stone,” by Albert Camus (pp. 75-100); write 1-3 pp. of points for discussion, comments on the Spectator Phase, Increasing Participation Phase, your own adjustment process, the way the writers capture the phenomenon of crossing cultures, etc.

WEEK IV
Read “Pastor Dowe at Tacaté,” by Paul Bowles (pp. 137-157) [+ ??? photocopies]; prepare questions, comments about the Culture Shock phase, etc.; turn in draft of poster text and design.

WEEK V
Read Intro, pp. 207-208, “The Door in the Wall,” by Oliver LaForge (pp. 229-255); and “East and West,” by Rudyard Kipling, pp. 256-261; write 1-3 pp. of points for discussion, comments, etc., about the Adaptation Phase, about how the writers capture the phenomenon of crossing cultures, how the experiences they describe parallel your own, etc.

WEEK VI
No class? Poster Session Thursday, April 27, Common Time (11:30-12:30)
WEEK VII
For next week, read pp. 1-149 of 36 Views of Mount Fuji; write 1-3 pp. of points for discussion, comments, etc., about how Davidson captures the phenomenon of crossing cultures, how her experiences parallel your own, etc.

WEEK VIII
For next week, read pp. 151-288 of 36 Views; write 1-3 pp. of points for discussion, comments, etc., about how Davidson captures the phenomenon of crossing cultures, how her experiences parallel your own, etc.

WEEK IX
Film, Discussion

WEEK X
End of course activities, evaluations, farewell party

Your grade for this class will be determined as follows:

Attendance and participation (may include leading discussions) (30%)
Poster 10%
4 presentations – Poster Session, Videotaped discussion, 2 others (20%)
Journaling (25%)
Outlines of talks (General, ICRP, other) (15%)