



Syllabus

Course Title: Intercultural Communication in the UK: Navigating Cultural Landscapes

Program and Date: England/Scotland; May 30 – June 13, 2027

Academic Department: COMMUNICATION, Western Kentucky University

Instructor Name: Crystal D. Daugherty, Ph.D.

Instructor Email and Phone: crystal.daugherty@wku.edu

Get to Know Your Professor

Hi I'm Dr. Crystal Daugherty and I grew up on a farm in western Kentucky. My first international experience was a road trip to Canada to see Niagara Falls. That early experience prompted me to sign up for a weeklong study abroad class during my time at the University of Kentucky. It was during that trip to the Bahamas that I solidified my love of travel and passion for study abroad. Since those early trips I have traveled and researched in Liberia, West Africa; hiked over 500 miles across Spain, completing the Camino de Santiago, and served as a faculty member on two study abroad trips to Belize, and also to Zanzibar, and to England & Scotland in 2025. When I am not teaching/researching at WKU, I enjoy traveling with my daughter to new countries, visiting National Parks, and enjoying a good audio book.

Course Description

Are you looking to broaden your global perspective and engage meaningfully with different cultures? Then come on this transformative journey through England and Scotland, exploring the rich tapestry of cultural diversity and communication practices in two distinct societies. Gain skills in intercultural communication through interactive discussions with local communities to understand cultural nuances and global perspectives. Site visits to such famous institutions as London's British Museum, Westminster Abbey, and Globe Theatre and Edinburgh's National Museum and ancient Castle will deepen your understanding of the cultural contexts that shape communication practices. By adapting and applying theoretical knowledge with real-world experiences in this class, students will dramatically enhance their intercultural communication skills.

Course Level

Undergraduate

Prerequisite(s)

None



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Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of all coursework with a passing grade and full participation in course activities, students shall be able to:

SLO 1: Compare and contrast different communication styles encountered in England and Scotland. They will illustrate their ability to adapt their communication strategies to effectively interact with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds, incorporating insights gained from lectures and real-world interactions.

SLO 2: Describe and explain the impact of cultural differences on communication styles through firsthand experiences and interactions with diverse communities. This includes reflecting on site visits and field trips to understand how cultural contexts shape communication practices.

SLO 3: Assess and illustrate their intercultural communication skills by engaging in self-directed exploration and participating in local events. They will compare and contrast communication strategies observed in various cultural settings, demonstrating their ability to adapt and apply theoretical knowledge in real-world intercultural interactions.

Required Readings and Materials

Reading packet will be provided by Dr. Daugherty
Small journal

Assignments and Grades

Before

- Cultural readings- these will prepare students for the experience while also introducing them to the subject of intercultural communication.
- Expectation paper (1/2 page)- student will be asked about their expectations and prior international travel experience. This will be compared and referenced at the end of the course in their final reflection paper. This will be turned in prior to departure. 10 points

During

- 4 Site reflections/journals (1/2 page)- students will keep a journal for their time in England and Scotland. There will be prompts connecting subject material to each site visit and their open exploration time. Students will turn these in every 3 days. (SLO 1, 2, 3) 40 points
- Group presentation (10 minutes)- students will be grouped together and be responsible for preparing a presentation that highlights their experience while connecting it to cultural differences and various intercultural communication concepts. (SLO 1, 2) 50 points

After

- Final Reflection Paper (4 pages)- student will be asked to complete an overall reflection about their experiences in England and Scotland. Each student will be expected to compare and contrast their pre-departure expectations to their experience while addressing cultural differences, conflicts, and culture shock. (SLO 1, 2, 3) 50 points



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Attendance & Participation 50 points

Total: 200

Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to compute your grade.

180- 200 A
160- 179 B
140- 159 C
120- 139 D
0- 119 F

Onsite Learning Experiences and Activities

Onsite learning experiences in this class will likely include the following site visits. This is a tentative list which will be replaced with a detailed daily itinerary of class meetings and field trips prior to the departure date.

Top Activities in/near London:

The British Museum
Camden Market
Westminster Abbey
Globe Theater
Dover
Wimbledon

Alternative Activities in/near London:

- Tate Museum
- Notting Hill/Little Venice
- Tower of London
- Kensington Palace

Top Activities in/near Edinburgh:

Edinburgh Castle
Traditional Scottish Tea
National Museum of Scotland
Arthur's Seat
Rosslyn Chapel
Whisky Tour

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled activities and class meetings as well as field trip excursions. This includes any virtual meetings before and after the onsite experience. Repeated absences, including for ill health, will require documentation to be excused.



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Academic Integrity Policy

Your experiences while abroad will be personal and unique. Therefore, I expect the assignments that are submitted will also be unique and a product of your own experiences and writing. AI is not permitted when completing assignments. Students who copy the work of others and use AI to complete assignments will receive a 0.

Physical Expectations

Program requires walking 3-5 miles per day on uneven pavement in all kinds of weather and long periods of standing. Students must be able to carry their own bags/belongings.

Disability Accommodation

CCSA is committed to providing access to education abroad to the extent possible in a study abroad setting. The earlier CCSA and the faculty know the needs, the more likely we can accommodate them. At a minimum, students seeking accommodations are to contact both the CCSA office and the faculty one month in advance of the program's beginning. Students seeking such accommodation must provide CCSA with a copy of the letter on file with their own Office of Disability Services outlining what services they receive on their home campus.

Title IX Policy

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sexual discrimination violate CCSA policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain support from the Onsite Program Director or the CCSA Executive Director. To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact either of these two officers. Disclosure to faculty instructors or CCSA officers of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on the program or involving a visitor, student or employee is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and other CCSA employees are required to forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the CCSA Executive Director.

Statement about Final Syllabus

Please note that all CCSA syllabi are subject to change, but every effort will be made to ensure participants receive notice of such changes in a timely manner.