



Syllabus

Course Title: Bridging Cultures: Intercultural Communication in London

Program and Date: Summer 2026 CCSA London Summer Program

Academic Department: Communication. Eastern Kentucky University

Instructor Name: Dr. Jennifer L. Fairchild

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Get to Know Your Professor

Dr. Jennifer Fairchild is Professor of Communication at Eastern Kentucky University. Dr. Fairchild earned her Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Fairchild teaches a wide variety of courses, including intercultural communication, health communication, communication, leadership and change, and introduction to human communication. Dr. Fairchild is the 2017 recipient of the Excellence in Online Teaching Award, presented by the Office of e-Campus Learning at Eastern Kentucky University. She is also the recipient of the ECU Student Government Association's "Most Outstanding Distinguished Educational Leader Award," which was presented to her in May 2018. Most recently, Dr. Fairchild received the Excellence in the Art of Teaching Award and the Undergraduate Mentor Award. Both awards were presented to her at the 2021 Kentucky Communication Association's Annual Conference. Dr. Fairchild taught abroad for CCSA in three previous winter terms. Additionally, she studied abroad in London while she was in college, and she believes in the transformative power of education abroad. She looks forward to getting to know you and studying abroad with you!

Course Description

Join this class to develop the intercultural competence needed to be an effective communicator in any profession in a modern, global society. With the city as our classroom, we will study the communication process across cultures, with an emphasis on intercultural perception, values, and nonverbal expression in the personal and public spheres. London's diverse population provides unique opportunities for testing out theories of intercultural communication, while rich insights into how historical, religious, and artistic traditions shape culture are gained through visits to such major institutions as the British Museum, Westminster Abbey, the National Gallery, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. In addition, visits to BBC Headquarters and the Houses of Parliament will highlight the intersection between government, the media, and culture, and how messages are used by these institutions.

Course Level and Credit Hours

Upper division. 3 credit hours

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Prerequisite(s)

None

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Through extensive interactions with diverse people of many backgrounds in London, explain why it is difficult and challenging to communicate with other cultures.
2. Define culture and explain its elements and structure (e.g., history, religion) by visiting historic London landmarks and points of interest.
3. Through the study of various social institutions in and around London, articulate various cultural values and their function and roles in society.
4. Recognize the influence of our own cultural experiences upon the sending and interpreting of messages.
5. Earn a conceptual and applied understanding of pertinent intercultural communication theories.
6. By exploring in and around the city of London, develop a greater understanding, respect, and appreciation of cultures different from one's own.

Required Readings and Materials

1. Communication Between Cultures (10th Ed.). By Larry Samovar, Richard Porter, and Edwin McDaniel. Wadsworth. ISBN: **8214135842**
2. Log-in credentials for Canvas. Your grades and other materials will be posted to Blackboard.
3. A journal/notebook to record your experiences.
4. An active e-mail account you check regularly.

Assignments and Grades

Before departure:

Students will attend an online training to meet the instructor and other students and to understand Dr. Fairchild's expectations for the class.

Summative quizzes related to required course readings. These assessments will ensure students have mastered concepts and theories before departure. Students may repeat these quizzes until a score of 100% is obtained. The quizzes will be worth 100 points.

During Course:

Reflection Journal. Students will be required to keep a journal during their stay and will demonstrate application of course material through their experiences in and around London. Students must make connections between what they are learning in class and what they are

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experiencing out of class. The journal will be collected at the beginning of each week of class. The journal will be worth 150 points.

Participation: Students are expected to actively participate and engage in all classroom discussions, field trips, and excursions. As such, you should not text, read on your phone, or do homework during class. You must be actively participating (i.e., contributing to class discussion and activities) to succeed in this course. Thus, 50 points will be earned for participation.

Presentation: Students will be required to deliver one 10-minute presentation connecting an outside experience with course material. You may share from experiences that are formal (e.g., a visit to a museum) or informal (e.g., an afternoon in a coffee shop). The presentations will occur in-class during the last week of the program and are worth 50 points.

Final paper: Students will submit a final (8-page) paper synthesizing their knowledge and understanding of course material, while integrating their experiences abroad. They will specifically address their progress on learning outcomes for the course and should include an assessment of their own cultural competence. This paper should be submitted to Canvas by the end of the third week of class. The final paper is worth 150 points.

Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to compute your grade.

Grading Summary (90 – 100% grading scale): Summative Quizzes 100 points, Participation 50 points, Journal 150 points, Cultural Presentation 50 points, Final Paper 150 points, TOTAL 500 points

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.

We will visit the British Museum and tour Big Ben as we learn about the relationship between history and culture. You will explore the importance of cultural artifacts as representations and symbols of cultural values.

We will visit Westminster Abbey, the National Gallery, and the Victoria & Albert Museum as we explore the role of social institutions, such as religion and the arts, in shaping culture.

As we visit the BBC Headquarters and Parliament, you will learn about the intersection between government, the media, and culture. You will also examine how messages are used by these institutions. You will deliver your cultural presentations during class this week.



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Attendance Policy

Attendance: **Attendance and active participation in this course are mandatory.** You must notify your instructor of an excused absence prior to class. Students are expected to attend all scheduled tours, visits, and trips. Special consideration may be given in extenuating circumstances. If such circumstances arise, you should contact the instructor immediately. All absences will require documentation.

Tardiness: Tardiness is disrespectful to me and your peers. Make sure you are on time for class and all scheduled trips. **Tardiness will result in a letter grade deduction from your final grade each time you are more than five minutes late.**

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Policy: Plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, or other ethical violations will not be tolerated. **Copying, borrowing, plagiarizing (using another's materials without proper documentation), or in any way representing others' work as your own is a serious academic offense and may result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or course.** If you are not sure about plagiarism, please consult with me before you turn in the assignment.

By now, you may also be familiar with ChatGPT and other AI writing tools that some writers are using to enhance their writing AND to write their work for them. Generally speaking, you are not authorized to use AI writers, software, or artwork-generating programs (or similar) to produce work for this class. Work written by an AI writing tool is not your own original work, and as such, is not acceptable in this class. Submitting work written by AI will result in a 0 for the assignment.

Physical Expectations

The 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 and belongings.

Bring comfortable walking shoes! In the United Kingdom, most people walk and take public transportation to get around, and we will be doing the same. Our travel plans are currently by coach and walking. There may be stairs, uneven surfaces, and hills while on this course.

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 accommodation are to contact both the CCSA office and the faculty one month before 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.



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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.