

Cross-Cultural Communication: How do we live skillfully in an intercultural society?

Massasoit Community College
Spring 2016

Dr. Melissa Winchell
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ENGL 152
508-588-9100, ext. 1837

Office FA 323

Office Hours:

Mondays & Wednesdays: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

What can you expect from this course?

- You can expect to learn to think in more complicated and nuanced ways about culture, diversity, race, gender, religion, sexuality, community, and identity.
- You can expect to read books, to work weekly in a group with your peers responding to your reading, and to write in self-reflective ways about your experiences and learning.
- You can expect me to give you feedback on your work, to read everything you write, and to be available to you throughout the semester for support.
- You can expect me to care about you and your work, to have high expectations of all of us, and to treat you with kindness and respect.

What do you need for this course?

- Access to our online Canvas website at <http://www.massasoit.instructure.com>
- A working knowledge of Canvas—please use the “Using Canvas” link on our course page to familiarize yourself with Canvas and/or to plan to attend an orientation about Canvas
- Our course texts, which include:
 - Gene Luen Yang’s *American Born Chinese*
 - John Howard Griffin’s *Black Like Me*
 - Sherman Alexie’s *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*
 - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *We Should All Be Feminists*
 - Ta-Nehisi Coates’ *Between the World and Me*
 - Benjamin Alire Sáenz’s *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*
 - Celeste Ng’s *Everything I Never Told You*

Catalog Course Description

This course examines the verbal and nonverbal means of communication among members of defined cultural groups. The focus is on developing understanding and awareness of the reasons for ineffective cross-cultural communication and on developing vehicles to promote effective cross-cultural communication. Literary selections from diverse cultures will serve to give voice to varied expressions.

Prerequisite: ENGL 101 English Composition I or waiver by placement testing results.

Catalog Course Outcomes**

**There are no catalog course outcomes; these outcomes are the professor's.

Students will...

- think critically (here defined as non-binary, analytically, and reflectively) about diversity in its various forms (culture, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, linguistic) in United States society;
- reflect on their identity as multi-faceted and fluid;
- trace, reflect on, synthesize, and question the development of their learning throughout the semester.

How will we interact in this course?

Our interaction in this course is asynchronous; it will happen at your convenience, and we may not be online all at the same time. We will not meet face-to-face unless you arrange for such a meeting with me or come to see me during my office hours (which you are welcome to do). I will contact you through Canvas and via email; you will receive weekly podcasts from me on Canvas, as well as audio feedback from me regarding your work. You may also contact me by phone. In general, your work is to log in to Canvas multiple times a week, complete one Module per week, and be sure you have finished all the parts of the Module for that week. You will not be able to progress to the next Module until you have completed the one before it. Let me know anytime you have a question, get stuck, or need help.

How will you be graded in the course?

This class is meant to be thought-provoking—you are expected to take risks with your thinking and self-reflection and to feel the freedom to change your mind, question one another and the professor, and engage honestly with the ideas of the course.

Your final grade in the course will be based on the following graded assignments in our course:

Discussion Posts	25%
Critical Circles	25%
Response Journals	25%
Final Paper/Project	25%

How important is participation online?

You will not be permitted to move on to the next module of the course until the previous one is completed. As such, you must do 100% of the work—not to receive a grade, but to stay in the class. Please communicate with me if you are encountering circumstances or technical difficulties that are making it difficult for you to keep up with the pace of the course.

If you fall a week behind, I will message you and expect you to discuss your progress with me. If you do not respond, or if you fall two weeks behind, I will suggest you drop the course.

What is plagiarism and why should you care about it?

Plagiarism means using another person's words or ideas without giving that person credit. It is a form of cheating and theft and can be avoided by using the research style we will learn this semester. Plagiarism results in a failing grade for the essay and may mean a failing course grade.

How can you improve your work outside of class?

I will make myself available to help you as frequently as I can. Please email me or request an online conference with me; I am also happy to meet with you in person during my office hours or by appointment.

In addition, Massasoit offers a FREE online tutoring program. This program allows you to electronically submit an essay you write for this class so that it can be read by a professional writing tutor. The tutor will give you feedback within 48 hours. Please access this resource from the Massasoit home page—under “Academics,” choose “Academic Support.” Then use the menu on the left and select “[e-Tutoring](#).”

You can also contact the Academic Resource Center located in the lower level of the Student Center (extension 1801). They offer academic support, free of charge, including writing tutoring in the ARC’s Writing Center. The Writing Center provides a place where Massasoit students of all disciplines and skill levels can get feedback on writing assignments. Trained writing tutors can help with any part of the writing process including, brainstorming, idea-development, drafting strong sentences and paragraphs, revising, and documenting sources. One-on-one writing tutorials are free for Massasoit students. Appointments do fill up, so please make an appointment by calling (508) 588-9100 x1801, by emailing arc@massasoit.mass.edu, or by visiting the Writing Center (SC Building, ARC). Please note that I may require you to visit the Writing Center this semester; it is an important resource for college students here.

The ARC’s World Language Center also offers free ESL tutoring for English Language Learners. I encourage you to use every resource you can to better your writing this semester.

What about your learning needs?

I care very much about students with learning differences; as you will discover, thinking about how we learn and develop differently is part of who I am personally and professionally. For that reason, please let me know how I can accommodate you in this class.

In addition, students in need of classroom or testing accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at the beginning of each semester. For the Brockton or Middleboro Campuses, please contact Andrea Henry at extension 1805, Julie McNeill-Kenerson at 1424, or Cathy Brogna at 1425. For the Canton Campus, please contact Andrea or Julie at extension 2132.

How can you help to create a classroom community?

Because we are a writing community, there are behaviors that will further our work. Please commit with me to embodying the following values of our community.

Together let's...

- Finish each of our modules on time.
- Be kind and respectful to everyone in the class.
- Participate in online discussions in respectful ways; listen well and respond appropriately.
- Use language online that is appropriate for a college course.
- Use college resources—the library, ARC, Writing Center, Counseling Center, and Student Life—as much as we can.

What if you have questions about your college career?

Proper advising is crucial to your success here at Massasoit. Students are strongly encouraged to seek out their advisor and the registration procedures as advertised in the MyMassasoit portal and on the college web page. Information can also be obtained at the Advisement and Counseling Center, 508-588-9100 ext. 1461 or via email: advisinghelp@massasoit.mass.edu. If I can be of any assistance, please see me. If there are any questions that I cannot answer, I will be sure to point you in the right direction.

Course Outline

Modules are locked and open 9 days before their due dates (before midnight on a Friday night). Modules are due 9 days later on Sundays before midnight (see the due dates below). You must complete one module before moving on to the next module. All modules include weekly reading from our course text, free writing, class discussions, writing workshops, and ongoing development of our essays.

<i>Week One</i>	Su 1/31	Module 1: What is culture?, Week 1
<i>Week Two</i>	Su 2/7	Module 1: What is culture?, Week 2
<i>Week Three</i>	Su 2/14	Module 2: Intercultural communication
<i>Week Four</i>	Su 2/21	Module 3: Race and ethnicity
<i>Week Five</i>	Su 2/28	Module 3: Race and ethnicity
<i>Week Six</i>	Su 3/6	Module 4: Gender and sexuality, Week 6
<i>Weeks Seven - Eight</i>	Su 3/20	Module 4: Gender and sexuality, Weeks 7-8
<i>Week Nine</i>	Su 3/27	Module 5: Language
<i>Week Ten</i>	Su 4/3	Module 6: Religion
<i>Week Eleven</i>	Su 4/10	Module 7: Home, place, and borders
<i>Week Twelve</i>	Su 4/17	Module 8: Identity
<i>Weeks Thirteen - Fifteen</i>	Su 5/1	Module 9: Final project, Weeks 13-14

** Students: The final pages of this syllabus, Form DE-2, are required by the College. They may not be helpful to you, as they repeat information you have already read.

Form DE-2**Distance Education Course
Interaction Plan**

This form is to be completed by the faculty of record. Students enrolled in this distance education course shall receive a copy of this completed form.

Course Title: ENGL 152 Cross-Cultural Communication Faculty: Dr. Melissa Winchell

Telephone Number: x1837 Office Hours: MW 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
(if any)

Mailing and/or Email

Address: mwinchell@massasoit.mass.edu

☒ Asynchronous Course

☐ Synchronous Course

Asynchronous: This form of distance education is characterized by an emphasis on “learning on demand” or “as needed communication” between students and faculty from multiple locations at times convenient to participants.

Synchronous: This form of distance education entails the use of live, two-way communication among and/or between students and faculty in a scheduled or “fixed” point(s) of time(s), much like classroom-based instruction.

This course may include, but not be restricted to, the following interactions:

	YES	NO
1. in person meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. telephone interactions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. electronic interactions (email, internet ...)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes, dates, times, places are to be specified.

Above boxes are not able to marked by computer; see below.

Students are required to engage in the following interaction(s) for successful completion of this course:

Students are required to complete 100% of the work, earning a “Complete” mark, to remain in the class. The work is organized by modules; students cannot progress to the next module without completing the one previous to it.

Students are expected to use Google Docs and to participate in collaborative ways with their peers in the course.

Students are expected to read course texts and complete written reflections.

Students may meet in person with the professor during her office hours or by appointment, or request an online conference via Canvas.

Students may contact the professor using Canvas Inbox anytime during the course; the professor usually responds within 24 hours.
