AGR 201 WELCOME Letter:

Greetings and welcome to the online section of AGR 20100 “Communicating Across Cultures”. I am Professor Pamala V. Morris, the Instructor of Record for the course. The TA for the course is Brandon Allen and he will introduce himself to you in a separate video.

This is a course that many of you have chosen to fulfill either the Multicultural Understanding Requirement or the Communications requirement in the College of Agriculture. This course is also offered as part of the University Core Curricula in two areas: **Behavioral and Social Sciences** and **Information Literacy.**

Brandon and I will work closely together this semester to ensure that you are successful and that you have a good understanding of the many critical social issues that we are challenged with living and working in diverse environments throughout our global community.

Online courses are different from the formal face-to-face (f2f) course in as much as these courses offer a series of lessons delivered through an online website/learning management system where you can conveniently access your course materials at any time and from any location. Hence, you are **accountable** for staying on track with the ***due dates*** listed in the syllabus for **assignments, quizzes, online midterm and final exams, and the semester-long “Cultural Immersion” project (CIP).**

**Student-centered learning is at the heart of AGR 20100.** In this online environment, however, the instructor and TA takes a back seat. Students are empowered to learn on their own and even to teach one another. Particularly in the discussion board mode, you will have the opportunity to explain, share, comment upon, and critique each other’s work in a manner rarely seen in the face to face classroom. When a question is posted on the discussion board, every student in the class is expected to respond, respond intelligently, and respond to your classmates in a timely fashion.

As an instructional strategy, we will use collaborative methodologies such as group work and/or virtual teams since some team members may not be physically located on campus. Each of you will be assigned to a team during the first week of classes. Not all assignments in this course are team-based; however, the semester- long “Cultural Immersion” project will require that you work collaboratively with your team members. As a team you will be expected to establish clear project goals, define each member’s role/task, maintain open and consistent communication, participate in informed decision-making, balance participation and contributions of each member, and value the skill set that each team member brings to the project. There will be a separate video to provide a comprehensive description of the “Cultural Immersion” Project components. This video will be posted in Blackboard for your review throughout the semester.

**A video providing an overview of the course syllabus, as well as, how to get started and where to find course information are posted on Blackboard.**

If at any time during the semester you have questions or concerns please contact our TA, Brandon Allen first and if your concerns are not resolved contact my Administrative Assistant, Melissa Funk, [mjfunk@purdue.edu](mailto:mjfunk@purdue.edu) to make an appointment with me.

HAVE a GREAT Semester!!