

**Intercultural Research Project in Agriculture
Summer II 2025**

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Course Description

The Intercultural Research Project is a hands-on, collaborative course designed to help students develop their English communication, intercultural competence, and research skills through a practical, real-world investigation. Students will select a topic related to their academic program, personal interests, or cultural background, conduct interviews with at least ten American participants, and analyze the collected data. The project ends with a poster presentation, where students share their findings with peers and faculty. Through this process, students will learn how to formulate research questions, conduct effective interviews in English, organize and interpret data, and present results clearly and engagingly.

Goals and Objectives

- 1. Develop and refine research skills**
 - Identify an appropriate, focused, and culturally relevant research topic.
 - Formulate clear and engaging interview questions in English.
- 2. Enhance intercultural communication abilities**
 - Conduct interviews with members of the American community, practicing effective conversation strategies and good manners when interviewing people.
 - Demonstrate confidence in speaking English with diverse audiences.
- 3. Collect, analyze, and interpret qualitative data**
 - Record and organize interview responses.
 - Identify patterns, surprising insights, and meaningful conclusions.
- 4. Design and present research findings**
 - Create a visually appealing and informative poster summarizing research results.
 - Deliver a clear, organized oral presentation that explains the research process, findings, and implications.
- 5. Strengthen collaborative and reflective learning**
 - Share experiences and challenges with classmates to improve interview and presentation techniques.
 - Reflect on the cultural similarities and differences discovered through the research process.

Attendance Policy

Except for unforeseen technical difficulties, attendance will be required for every class or activity. More than 4 absences will result in “No Pass (NP) for the course. (The 5th unexcused absence will result in “No Pass” for the course.)

Three tardies (being late) will be counted as one absence.

Grades:

All students will receive letter grades from A+ to D- (from 100% to 60%) as passing grades or NP (under 60%) as a failing grade.

A+	= 97 – 100
A	= 93 – 96
A-	= 90 – 92
B+	= 87 – 89
B	= 83 – 86
B-	= 80 – 82
C+	= 77 – 79
C	= 73 – 76
C-	= 70 – 72
D+	= 67 – 69
D	= 63 – 66
D-	= 60 – 62

Certificate:

Students who have passed all classes will receive a certificate of successful completion from UC Davis.

Policy for make-up exams & homework:**Make-Up Quizzes/exam:**

- **Eligibility:** Students who miss an exam due to a documented and valid reason (e.g., illness, family emergency, religious observance) may request a make-up exam. Documentation must be provided within 48 hours of the missed exam.
- **Notification:** Students must notify the instructor as soon as possible, preferably before the scheduled exam time, if they anticipate missing an exam. Failure to notify the instructor in a timely manner may result in forfeiting the opportunity for a make-up exam.

Make-Up Homework:

- **Late Submissions:** Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class on the specified due date. Assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a late penalty of 10% per day, up to a maximum of 50% of the total points. After five days, late homework will not be accepted, and a grade of zero will be recorded.
- **Extensions:** Students may request an extension for homework assignments due to extenuating circumstances. To request due date extensions, please email the course instructor before the due date and give a clear reason for the request **well ahead of the due date**. An extension request must be supported by documentation, such as a note from a medical professional.
- **Make-Up Work:** If a student misses a homework assignment due to a valid and documented reason, they may submit the assignment without penalty within an agreed-upon time frame. The content of the make-up homework will be consistent with the original assignment.

- **No Make-Up Without Valid Reason:** Homework assignments missed without a valid reason or proper documentation will not be eligible for make-up, and a grade of zero will be recorded.

General Note:

- **Communication:** It is the student's responsibility to communicate promptly with the instructor regarding any issues that might prevent them from meeting exam or homework deadlines. Open communication is encouraged to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

Grading Criteria: *(subject to change with the needs of this class)*

- ✕ Active Engagement in class activities and projects: 30%
- ✕ Quizzes/Homework: 20%
- ✕ Final Poster Presentation: 40%
- ✕ Final Reflection on Project 10%

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of turning in someone else's work as one's own, turning in a paper/work from the Internet, or not giving credit for information obtained from source material, including electronic translations. Plagiarism in any form is unacceptable. If a student plagiarizes, they will receive no credit (0 points) for that assignment. To avoid plagiarism, students must clearly acknowledge the source of any borrowed language or ideas that they use in their papers.

Class Rules

- **Compassion and Respect:** Treat others with compassion, empathy, and respect, creating a safe and supportive learning environment. This includes being proactive about communicating our preferences, such as gender pronouns or sensitive topics, and avoiding assumptions based on appearances.
- **Valuing Diverse Viewpoints:** Respect and give voice to your own viewpoints, even if they seem conflicting or contradictory, recognizing that every contribution is unique and important.
- **Supporting Others' Views:** Support and respect your peers and instructor in expressing their viewpoints, even if they differ from our own.
- **Balanced Participation:** We should strive to avoid dominance in discussions, being mindful of how much we contribute compared to others. Those who tend to be quiet will speak up more, while those who dominate discussions will listen more. We will also address dominance when it occurs.
- **Using "I" Statements:** Introduce your views with "I think" or "I feel," especially when discussing conflicting perspectives, to foster respectful and personal communication.
- **Respecting Silence:** We support the choice to be silent in difficult discussions and recognize the right to withdraw from any interaction if feeling unsafe.
- **No Questions are Stupid:** We acknowledge that all questions are valid and contribute to the learning process, benefiting both the individual and the class.

- **Providing Honest Feedback:** We should commit to giving honest feedback to classmates and instructors without fear of being belittled or attacked.
- **Embracing Imperfection:** We recognize that perfectionism can be harmful and give ourselves permission to be wrong, avoiding harsh judgment of ourselves or others when mistakes occur.
- **Taking Responsibility:** Take full responsibility for your learning, coming to class prepared to engage with and discuss the assigned materials.