

**Navigating a New Country:
Communication and Rhetoric in a Globalized World
CAT 125GS
Sixth College, UCSD**

**Syllabus is subject to change at any point in the quarter*

Professor: Bill Robertson Geibel

Email: wgeibel@ucsd.edu

Lecture Hours: Recorded lectures posted weekly

Office Hours: Wednesdays from 6-7pm (Dublin time) or by appointment

Office Hours ZOOM Link: <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/6966412335>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to teach you about communication in a global context, with an emphasis on developing your own communication and reflective skills. To do this, we will explore a variety of topics, through various forms of media, that help to either explain or demonstrate important elements of successful communication and cultural awareness. We will investigate how communication is not just about what you say, but is influenced by numerous factors, including audience, context, non-verbal cues, and environment. As such, we will explore how concepts such as identity, power, and agency influence the way we see the world, and in turn, the way we present ourselves to the world. Centralizing your experiences living and interning in Dublin, Ireland, special attention will be paid to the ways in which we navigate our lives and communicate in intercultural or 'foreign' environments. Assignments will require you to observe and explore your local communities. Ultimately, this course will prepare you to be successful in your future careers and lives by developing skills and strategies to engage effectively across various cultural, geographic, and rhetorical contexts.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

You will leave with the skills and knowledge to:

1. Identify and interrogate your identity, values and positionality, and style of communication
2. Confidently and effectively communicate, in both written and verbal mediums, around topics of passion/interest/study
3. Curate and critically analyze academic and popular sources
4. Effectively navigate and communicate in various cultural and linguistic environments

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments (65%)

1) Personal Narrative	20%
2) Community Engagement	20%
3) Final Presentation	25%

Participation (35%)

4) Slack Engagement	15%
5) Reflections	20%

TOTAL	100%
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Assignments

- 1) Personal Narrative:** A 500-700 word written statement that may take the form of a personal statement, statement of purpose, artistic manifesto, graduate school application essay, or grant essay. You will submit a draft and peer review worth 5% of the assignment grade prior to final submission. Further instructions/resources will be posted on the course website.
- 2) Community Engagement:** For this assignment you can pick from the options provided or create your own (with approval). The purpose of the assignment is to engage with your local community and reflect on what you learned/noticed in a written summary.
- 3) Final Presentation:** The final component of the course is a recorded 4-6 minute presentation. Further instructions/resources will be posted on the course website. The topic of your presentation can be anything that relates to your professional or personal interests that builds off of or is connected to your time in Ireland. In week 7, you will get feedback via peer review from a fellow classmate.

Participation

- 4) Slack Posts:** In the [#irelandobservations](#) channel, each week you will share a written post, photo, or video, with the group about something interesting you've noticed or learned in that week related to communication and/or culture (you can post here as much as you'd like!). Due Sundays by 11:59pm (but please don't wait til the last minute!). **Late submissions will not be accepted for these assignments.**
- 5) Reflections:** Each week you will post weekly reflection papers that ask you to integrate analysis of the readings with your own experiences to demonstrate your understanding of that week's topic. Due Sundays by 11:59pm (but, again, don't wait!).

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1: Introduction: Ireland and Communication

Introduction to Ireland

- CIA World Factbook, [Ireland](#)
- State Department, [US Relations with Ireland](#)
- [50 Things You Need To Know Before Traveling To Ireland](#)

Communication, Genre, and Rhetoric

- (Video) [The Medium is the Message](#)
- Richard Nordquist, "[What Is Communication?](#)"

Suggested Readings:

- Kevin Kenny, "[The Irish Diaspora](#)"
- History UK, "[History of Northern Ireland Conflict](#)"

DUE:

- Slack Post #1
 - NO Reflection this week (take the time to explore your new home)
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Week 2: Identity and Communication

- Robert Nielson, "[What does it mean to be Irish?](#)"
- John Warren & Deanna Fassett, [Chapter 4: Identity and Perception](#), pg. 60-80
- (Video) Hannah Gadsby, [Nanette](#) (watch on Netflix - if you don't have an account please let me know)

DUE:

- Slack Post #2
 - Reflection #1
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Week 3: Identity and Travel

- James Baldwin, "[The Discovery of What it Means to be an American](#)"
- (Listen) NPR, "['Americanah' Author Explains 'Learning' To Be Black In The U.S.](#)"
- Suzy Hansen, "[Introduction](#)"

DUE:

- Slack Post #3
 - Personal Narrative Draft
 - Reflection #2
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Week 4: Your Voice, Your Story

- Gloria Anzaldúa "[Speaking in Tongues](#)"
- Herminia Ibarra and Kent Lineback, "[What's Your Story?](#)"
- Liz Ryan, "[How to Tell a Dragon Slaying Story](#)"
- (Video) Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, "[The Danger of a Single Story](#)"

DUE:

- Slack Post #4
 - Reflection #3
 - Peer Review of Drafts
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Week 5: Culture, Community, and Communicating Across Difference

- NPR, "[How Code-Switching Explains the World](#)"
- (Video) Peter Alfandary, [The myth of globalization](#)
- Emily Braucher, [5 Tips for Communicating Across Culture and Difference](#)
- Mark Ashwill, [Global Citizenship is about more than Intercultural Skills](#)

DUE:

- Slack Post #5
 - Reflection #4
 - Personal Narrative Final Draft
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Week 6: Discovering and Sharing Knowledge

- Gilbert, "[Curiosity and Devotion to Inquisitiveness](#)"
- (Video) Rick Steeves, [Ireland](#)

DUE:

- Slack Post #6
 - Reflection #5
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Week 7: Authority, Power, and Public Speaking

Authority and Power

- Marcel Schwantes, "[According to science this is the best way to gain power and influence others](#)"
- (Video) Brene Brown, [The Power of Vulnerability](#)
- (Video) Greta Thunberg, [Speech](#) (This is shown in the lecture video "Developing Authority")

Presentation Assignment

- Emily Grossman, "[How to present complex ideas clearly](#)"

DUE:

- Slack Post #7
 - Reflection #6
 - Community Engagement Summary
 - Presentation Drafts
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Week 8: What Does It All Mean: Reflecting on Your Time Abroad

Required:

- Ilan Stavans and Joshua Ellison, [Inward Voyage](#), pgs. 23-33

Choose at least two of the following:

- Irene Skovgaard-Smith, "[The Complex World of the Global Citizen](#)"
- Elizabeth Shannon, "[Reflections on the meaning of study abroad](#)"
- Hilal Isler, "[Finding Home When You're Not Looking for It](#)"

DUE:

- Slack Post #8

- Reflection #7
- Final Presentations

COURSE POLICIES

Recorded Lectures: All lectures for this course will be recorded and posted at 8am Monday morning. You are responsible for watching these lectures at your own time during the week. Failure to do so will negatively impact your grade.

The Respect Rule: I ask you all to show the utmost respect to everyone in the classroom. We all have different backgrounds, values, beliefs, identities, and experiences that may sometimes cause disagreement; but when you are in this class, you are required to demonstrate understanding, respect, and empathy towards your fellow classmates, guest speakers, and instructors.

Office Hours Policy: I highly encourage you to take advantage of my office hours. My (virtual) door is always open and I am happy to talk to students about a range of topics, not just course-specific issues. I want to help make your experience during this global seminar is a positive one. If you cannot make my scheduled times, let me know, and we can make an individual appointment.

Late Work Policy: I will accept late work for one week (7 days). For each day it is late, we will deduct 3% points. After a week, submissions will be accepted only on a case-by-case basis and, if accepted, will not receive higher than a 50%. If you are concerned you will miss a deadline, please contact me at least 48 hours before the assignment is due to work out a new deadline. (I will not give extensions retroactively).

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism or cheating is a serious offense and will be dealt with following university guidelines. It is your responsibility to become familiar with its policies, definitions, and penalties. These rules apply to exams and papers. If you have any questions about proper conduct, please see me. Do not guess or be uncertain about what constitutes cheating. Resources and information on academic integrity can be found at <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/>

Plagiarism and/or cheating will not be tolerated, and at **the very least**, you will receive zero points on the assignment and be reported to the University. Ultimately, you may receive a failing grade in the class and be subject to university discipline.

Discrimination and Harassment: UCSD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a U.S. veteran. This class adheres to those guidelines. Alternative viewpoints are welcome in this classroom. *However, statements that are deemed racist, sexist, classist, ableist, homophobic, or otherwise discriminatory toward others in the class will not be tolerated and students will be asked to leave.* Students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and possess a diverse array of values and beliefs and the classroom must be a safe space to discuss opinions and ideas. As

such, I will not tolerate harassment of any kind in my classroom.

ADA Statement: Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability should (if needed) provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are then required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact your professor privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. No retroactive accommodations can be provided. The CAT OSD liaison is Jeanne Monahan: jmonahan@ucsd.edu

Other Important Policies: Anyone having problems or challenges related to the course is strongly encouraged to contact me as early as possible. I want to help you in whatever ways I can. **My goal is for you all to succeed!**