

**Navigating a New Country:
Communication and Rhetoric in a Globalized World
CAT 125RS
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 every Monday

Lecture Location: Online

Office Hours: Thursdays 6-7pm (Dublin time) or by special appointment

Office Hours Scheduling: You must book a time [HERE](#)

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

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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. Weekly 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 | 25% |
| 2) Community Engagement | 15% |
| 3) Final Presentation | 25% |

Participation (35%)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 4) WhatsApp Engagement | 15% |
| 5) Reflections | 20% |
| 6) Office Hours | 0% (required) |

TOTAL 100%

Assignments

**Unless otherwise noted, all CAT 125RS assignments will be due on Sundays.*

- 1) **Personal Narrative**: A 500-700 word essay that reflects on and describes your personal experience since coming to Ireland. You could focus on a specific topic or event, or provide a more general overview. The focus should be on insights, knowledge, or perspectives you have gained as a result of your experience in this new country. You will submit a draft and peer review worth 5% of the assignment grade in Week 3. Further instructions/resources will be posted on the course website. Due Sunday of Week 5.
- 2) **Community Engagement**: For this assignment you can pick from two options provided or create your own (with approval). The purpose of the assignment is to engage with your local community or individuals from the community, and reflect on what you learned/noticed. Due Sunday of Week 7.
- 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. Due Sunday of Week 8.

Participation

- 4) **WhatsApp Posts**: In the [CAT 125RS - Ireland Observations](#) group, 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!).
- 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.

**In some weeks, these reflections may be replaced with reading quizzes*

- 6) **Office Hours:** As part of the course, you will also be required to come to my office hours at least once throughout the quarter. Failure to do so will be grounds for failing the course.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1: Introduction: Communication and Globalization

Introduction to Ireland (You can skim these)

- CIA World Factbook, [Ireland](#)
- State Department, [US Relations with Ireland](#)

Communication, Genre, and Rhetoric

- Richard Nordquist, "[What Is Communication?](#)"

Globalization

- Nat Geo, [Globalization](#)

DUE (by Sunday at 11:59pm):

- WhatsApp Post #1
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Week 2: Identity and Communication

- Kyle Betit, "[What does it mean to be Irish?](#)"
- [Joseph Azam, "Last, First, Middle"](#)
- (Video) Hannah Gadsby, [Nanette](#) (please ask your classmates to share if you don't have access to your own netflix account)

DUE (by Sunday at 11:59pm):

- WhatsApp Post #2
 - Reflection #1
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Week 3: Your Voice, Your Story

- Gloria Anzaldúa "[Speaking in Tongues](#)" (updated link)
- Herminia Ibarra and Kent Lineback, "[What's Your Story?](#)"
- (Video) Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, "[The Danger of a Single Story](#)"

DUE (by Sunday at 11:59pm):

- ~~WhatsApp Post #3~~ (Canceled for this week – focus on your other two assignments)
 - Personal Narrative Draft
 - Reflection #2
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Week 4: 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](#)" pgs. 21-27 (on CANVAS)

DUE (by Sunday at 11:59pm):

- WhatsApp Post #4
 - Reflection #3
 - Peer Review Feedback
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Week 5: Communicating Interculturally

- NPR, "[How Code-Switching Explains the World](#)"
- [Among Cultures](#), pgs. 26-48
- (Video) Peter Alfandary, [The myth of globalization](#)

DUE (by Sunday at 11:59pm):

- WhatsApp Post #5
 - Reflection #4 (online reading quiz)
 - 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 (by Sunday at 11:59pm):

- WhatsApp 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](#)

Presentation Assignment

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

DUE (by Sunday at 11:59pm):

- WhatsApp Post #7– Optional (you only need to post once for weeks 7-8)
 - Reflection #6 – Quiz
 - Community Engagement
 - Final Presentation Scripts/Outline
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Week 8: What Does It All Mean: Reflecting on Your Time Abroad

- Elizabeth Shannon, "[Reflections on the meaning of study abroad](#)"

Recommended (if you have enjoyed the readings of James Baldwin, check this one out):

- Hilal Isler, "[Finding Home When You're Not Looking for It](#)"

Recommended (speaks to questions of belonging and identity)"

- Irene Skovgaard-Smith, "[The Complex World of the Global Citizen](#)"

DUE (by Sunday at 11:59pm):

- WhatsApp Post #8 – Optional (you only need to post once for weeks 7-8)

- Reflection #7
- Final Presentations

Due (by Monday at 11:59pm)

- Peer Review Feedback

COURSE POLICIES:

Recorded Lectures: Each week's lecture videos will be released on the Monday of that week (12:00am). To do well in the course and assignments, it is imperative that you watch these videos.

Late Policy: Late assignments will lose $\frac{1}{3}$ a letter grade for every day late (accepted up to 3 days late). Exceptions to this policy can be requested due to extenuating circumstances and only with the approval of the instructor.

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: You are required to come to my office hours at least 1 time during the quarter. Beyond that, 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 at UCSD a positive one. If you cannot make my scheduled times, let me know, and we can make an individual appointment.

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.

Importantly, using ChatGPT in this class will be considered a form of cheating. If you are caught using or suspected of using ChatGPT for any of the assignments, you will be reported. Trust me, it is NOT worth it!

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 Nik Bulajic: nibulajic@ucsd.edu.

Other Important Policies: Anyone having problems in this course is strongly encouraged to contact me as early as possible. I will be happy to meet you and help you in any way possible. **Our goal is for you all to succeed!**