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## A Sensorial Journey Towards Intercultural Competences

PROF. LUCA TOCCACELI

<b>Area of study:</b>	Media and Communications
<b>Area Code:</b>	CM/SO302
<b>Method of Instruction:</b>	In-person

### Description

Globalization shrinks the world, bringing a wider range of cultures into closer contact than ever before. Inevitably, cultural boundaries are shifting, therefore the pace of social transformations is increasing. As a result, cultural diversity and intercultural contact have become facts of modern life, so intercultural competences become a requisite response. The resulting socio-cultural fabric of our societies, combined with global interconnectedness, necessitate specific attitudes, behaviors, knowledge, skills and abilities to cope with the new cultural, media and emotional landscape. The course goal is to provide students direct experiences of diverse cultures to identify challenges that arise from differences in intercultural interactions and to increase their ability to recognize and bridge the gaps when communicating across cultures.

### Learning objectives

Intercultural competences are closely integrated with learning to know, do, and be. Learning to know about cultural others provides the first step in gaining intercultural competences. Learning to do serves as the active step of interacting with cultural others. Learning to be relies upon the reflective step of thinking about one's social self as having a place in the global world. The final list of skills and competences understood as the minimal requirements to attain intercultural competences includes:

- Respect
- Self-awareness/identity
- Seeing from other perspectives/world views
- Listening
- Adaptation
- Relationship building
- Cultural humility

### Course contents

- What is culture, cultural universals, distinctive elements, references and values
- Cultural identity and identification
- Ethnocentrism, bias, culture shock, stereotypes, cultural relativism
- Language and communication
- Music and culture
- Non-verbal codes and cultural space
- Dimensions of femininity and of masculinity
- Food and culture
- The impact of culture in perception
- Contact between cultures. Cultures within cultures
- Media, culture and communication
- Cultural differences in communication. Social media and globalization
- Popular culture and intercultural relationships
- Ethical intercultural communication. Non-western forms of conflict resolution
- Managing cross-cultural conflict using communication strategies



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## Prerequisites

Fluent English. Wide openness to dialogue and confrontation

## Method of teaching

Lectures and discussions; in-class activities based on direct observations and experiences that involve our senses. Constant interaction among student. Project works and related presentations; field trips.

## Course requirements

Students are expected to

- properly complete the assignments
- develop and present project works
- interact with instructor and classmates
- be proactive contributors during class discussions

## Credits

6 ECTS (?)

## Grading

Home assignments, in-class activities	20% of final grade
Class participation	20% of final grade
Midterm exam	25% of final grade
Final research paper	35% of final grade

## Course readings and materials

All the readings and the materials will be available in pdf version.

## Instructor bio

Prof. Luca Toccaceli earned a degree in philosophy from the Università degli Studi di Milano in 1984. He is currently teaching on *Mass Media Communication* at Università Cattolica Milano, IES Abroad Milan, Istituto Europeo di Design Milano, and on *Cultural Anthropology* at IED Milan. He has also taught for fifteen years (2003-2017) on *Planning and Managing of Music Events* at Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca.

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