CARROLL UNIVERSITY

CULTURAL SEMINAR (CCS100H A)

CULTURAL IDENTITY AND THE MAKING OF INDIA

TUE, THU 12:00-2:50PM — BERGSTROM 101

PROFESSOR: Dr Massimo Rondolino

OFFICE LOCATION: A. Paul Jones Scholars Hall, Room 201

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OFFICE HOURS: MON, WED 4:00-6:00PM

ORIENTATION MENTOR: Kimberly Magsig

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CONTACT INFORMATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Cultural Seminar is an academic course for all freshmen on the study of culture. All sections will ask students to explore their own culture and a culture different than their own and demonstrate understanding of a global issue from multiple perspectives. While all courses are on culture, each section uses a different topic through which students will study culture. Students will work on reading and oral communication skills, on information fluency skills, and they will also be assisted by Orientation Mentors to help with their transition to college. The course will have several common elements: a common reading, common learning outcomes, a common oral exam and signature assignment, and orientation and convocation experiences. The Cultural Seminar serves as a foundation course for four other cross-cultural courses in the General Education Program.

This course will look at how human communities construct their identity and in particular how they define their present and offer a proposition for their future by reconstructing their past and history. To this end, we will look at the construction of the social and political identity of post-colonial India. In particular, we will see how the many different communities (religious, political, ethnic, ... ) of colonial India pursued distinct strategies and agendas for the construction of an independent India that reflected their perceived identity by means of an in-class simulation of the Simla conference of 1945. This will ultimately lead us to identify particular strategies and methods of investigation for the study and understanding of human communities as a culturally and historically contingent phenomenon.
GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

Upon successful completion of the Cultural Seminar, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of similarities and differences between the student’s own culture and a different culture.
   
   **ASSESSMENT:** ORAL EXAM AND SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT

2. Demonstrate understanding of multiple perspectives of a global issue through the common reading and the course topic.
   
   **ASSESSMENT:** ASSIGNMENTS ON COMMON READING, CLASS PARTICIPATION

3. Be able to express orally and in writing, with supporting materials, an understanding of student’s own culture and a different culture.
   
   **ASSESSMENT:** ORAL EXAM, SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT, CLASS PARTICIPATION

4. Demonstrate information fluency by gathering, analyzing, and synthesizing information using emerging technologies and traditional media (which supports Learning Outcome #7). Students will address the following:
   a. Demonstrate the ability to gather and integrate information from a variety of sources.
   b. Demonstrate the abilities to assess the credibility and to weigh the value of information from different sources.
   c. Communicate knowledge using emerging technologies.
   
   **ASSESSMENT:** ASSIGNMENTS ON COMMON READING

5. Demonstrate familiarity with Carroll University policies, procedures and support services which help to facilitate academic success through participation in the following required course components (which supports Learning Outcomes #1 and #7):
   a. Orientation Component: ITS/Library Introduction Session (right before classes start).
   b. Library Sessions (during semester):
      i. Two library sessions conducted by Librarians and Career Counselors
      ii. One on-line library session.
   c. Check-in Meeting will be scheduled during regular faculty office ours.
   d. Short in-class presentation by Director of Student Success.
   e. **Optional:** Other campus presentations and activities will be offered for students and details shared with Cultural Seminar faculty. Faculty may require and/or include additional transitional elements as they deem appropriate, e.g. Advising & Registration, Walter Young Center, International Education, Health Center, Student Organizations Fair, etc.
   
   **ASSESSMENT:** CLASS PARTICIPATION
EVALUATION

Letter grades will be assigned according to these percentages:

A  93-100%  C  70-77.9%
AB  88-92.9%  D  60-69.9%
B   83-87.9%  F  0-59.9%
BC  78-82.9%

Relative weighting of assignments entering into the final course grade:

**Oral Exam 1 (Learning Outcome 1, 3):** 15% of Final Grade
In this 10 minute one-on-one oral exam you will be assessed on your understanding of the academic study of culture and your ability to analyze cultural issues. All questions asked during the exam will address concepts and terms drawn from John Monaghan & Peter Just [2000] *Social & Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.

**Oral Exam 2 (Learning Outcome 1, 3):** 25% of Final Grade
In this 15 minute individual oral exam you will be asked to demonstrate your understanding of the core readings and of their theoretical and cultural backgrounds, building on the topics discussed and material studied in the entire course.

**Signature Assignment (Learning Outcome 1, 3):** 15% of Final Grade
In this 750-1000 words essay, you will have to analyze how your thinking about culture has changed from the beginning of the CCS100 course through your engagement with the common reading, the specific course material and all class activities and discussion. Further details will be distributed during the course.

**India RTTP (Learning Outcome 1, 2, 3, 4):** 25% of Final Grade
In this series of assignments you will have to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the material studied and discussed on the theme of India’s process of independence, further showing your ability to apply the tools acquired in the first part of the course to the study of other cultures and of cultural material.

**Class Participation (Learning Outcome 2, 3, 5):** 20% of Final Grade
Every student must prepare for, and make a contribution to, most class discussion (though not necessarily to all) and that means preparing all the required readings for each class. Contributions can take the form of questions or comments you have about the assigned reading, or be a reaction to the issues presented. The quality of your class contribution will be reflected in your grade—i.e., it is not enough to just talk in class; contributions must be thoughtful, related to the topic and the readings, and show reflection and analysis. Weekly quizzes on the reading assignments will also contribute to your participation grade and they will assess your ability to engage regularly with and understand the course’s readings.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**


EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

I expect students to act in a professional and respectful manner in class at all times. The catalog calls upon students, in the Carroll University Compact, to strive to live according to certain values as a member of the Carroll community. This class has these expectations as well. In line with this compact are these specific expectations:

a) We will be discussing ideas that are controversial and may be challenging to what students value and think. It is important to focus on the discussion of the ideas and not the personal attacks on other people.

b) I expect students to have an opportunity to share their ideas but not to monopolize the conversation.

c) All electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, etc.) should be turned off and put away during class time. If students are engaging in any way with any electronic device during class (that includes looking at it or checking messages), this will affect your participation grade. Class time is a time to talk with fellow classmates and the instructor and build and work on a learning community.

d) When communicating through email, use the language, spelling, grammar and punctuation that you would use in any formal correspondence in a professional setting.

POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY — Attendance is highly recommended and necessary to receive an excellent participation grade (20% of your overall grade). However, do note that attendance does not constitute participation.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY — The Carroll College Academic Integrity Policy is located in your student handbook (http://www.carrollu.edu/campus/safety/pdfs/studenthandbook.pdf). I encourage you to familiarize yourself with it. Any instance of cheating will be reported to the University authorities, and the assignment will automatically receive a grade of 0. Please familiarize yourself with the explanation of plagiarism given on p. 31 of the Student Handbook, and if in doubt, do not hesitate to ask. Any instance of plagiarism will result in a grade of 0 for the work, and may result in failure for the whole course.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT — The Learning Commons, located in the bottom floor of the Library, offers tutoring, writing assistance, and study skills assistance as well as group study rooms and places to study. For more information, go to: HTTP://WWW.CARROLLU.EDU/LEARNINGCOMMONS.

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES — Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, or any student considering obtaining documentation should make an appointment with Ms. Martha Bledsoe, Director of Services for Students with Disabilities, no later than the first week of class. She can be reached by calling 262-524-7335 or contacting her via email at MBLEDSOE@CARROLLU.EDU.

SUBMISSIONS — All written assignments must be submitted in PDF format via Turnitin by no later than the starting time of the class on the date by which it is due — https://www.turnitin.com; see log-in instructions on Canvas. If sent any later it will be considered a failed submission and result in a grade of 0 for the work.

ATTENDANCE — Please, be aware that after the equivalent of one week of absence, a student grade will be adversely affected. The equivalent of two weeks of absence may result in failure of the course, or being asked to withdraw!!

MODIFICATIONS TO THE SYLLABUS — The instructor and the University reserve the right to modify, amend, or change the syllabus (schedule, course requirements, grading policy, etc.) as the curriculum and/or program require(s).
CCS100 DD — SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 — INTRO
PREP — Syllabus
SEP 7: Class discussion

WEEK 2 — CULTURE
SEP 12: “Cultural Anthropology”: Lecture and Class discussion
SEP 14: LIBRARY AND CAREER SESSION (Library Classroom 105)

WEEK 3 — CULTURE
SEP 19: “Culture”: Lecture and Class discussion
SEP 20: CCE FAIR, CAMPUS CENTER: 11:30AM-3:30PM
SEP 21: GUEST SPEAKER: WYC
   “Society”: Lecture and Class discussion
   GUEST SPEAKER: STUDENT SUCCESS

WEEK 4 — CULTURE
SEP 26: “The Social Glue” : Lecture and Class discussion
SEP 26: EVENT: UNAFF TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL (Dorothy Goff Frisch Recital Hall, 4-9:30pm)
   This is a Convocation point event
SEP 28: “Religious Beliefs” : Lecture and Class discussion

WEEK 5 — REVIEW
OCT 3: “The Self”: Lecture and Class discussion
OCT 5: Review

WEEK 6 — ORAL EXAM 1 (15% OF FINAL GRADE)
WEEK 7 — ROLE PLAY
Prep — Defining a Nation India on the Eve of Independence, 1945
Oct 17: Fall Break (No Class)
Oct 15: RTTP introduction

WEEK 8 — ROLE PLAY
Prep — Defining a Nation India on the Eve of Independence, 1945
Oct 24: Fall Break (No Class)
Oct 26: A (very) brief history of India

WEEK 9 — ROLE PLAY
Prep — Defining a Nation India on the Eve of Independence, 1945
Oct 31: Faction meetings
Nov 2: Quiz (!!)
   British welcome

WEEK 10 — ROLE PLAY
Prep — Defining a Nation India on the Eve of Independence, 1945
Nov 7: Full session
Nov 9: Full session

WEEK 11 — ROLE PLAY
Prep — Defining a Nation India on the Eve of Independence, 1945
Nov 14: Full session
Nov 16: Independent faction work
   EVENT: CULTURAL NIGHT (Ball Room, Campus Center, 7-9pm)

WEEK 12 — ROLE PLAY
Nov 21: Independent faction work
Nov 23: Thanks Giving (No Class)

WEEK 13 — ROLE PLAY
Nov 28: Full session (Final)
Nov 30: Conclusion

WEEK 14 — REVIEW & ORAL EXAM 2 (25% OF FINAL GRADE)
Prep — All of the course’s readings and material
Dec 5: “Signature Assignment: How to prepare and what to write”
   Class Review

WEEK 15 — ORAL EXAM 2 (25% OF FINAL GRADE)
Prep — All of the course’s readings and material

Dec 15: Final 11:00am
   Signature Assignment Due
   IMPORTANT: be sure to upload a copy of the assignment on the X-Drive too