

## **DEC300 Connect**

### **(3 credit hours)**

### **Course Syllabus**

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### **Course Description**

This course places emphasis on students applying critical analysis, problem-solving, research techniques, and multimodal communication methods in order to evaluate aspects of their cultural self-awareness and development. The course aims to help students strengthen their awareness and understanding about cultural uniqueness, as well as enable them the ability to work more effectively with people different from themselves. Rigorous academic curriculum and experiential learning structures using integrative teaching and learning practices are included in this course. The purpose of this course is to facilitate experiences for students that lead them to make connections between classroom studies and life outside the classroom in a way that transforms theory into practice related to cultural awareness. Successful students earn a certificate in Creating cultural Uniqueness from the Center for Intercultural Excellence.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Evaluate and assess personal and professional presence across multiple mediums and continue making progress towards personal and professional goals.
2. Articulate a clearer understanding of important aspects of cultural uniqueness and awareness.
3. Analyze and compare others' perspectives and how these perspectives are essential for not only a more productive workplace but also an environment where better decisions are made because of the breadth of thought and viewpoints.
4. Practice and value the art of active listening and appropriate follow-up for a shared understanding of communication outcomes.
5. Increase awareness of cultural awareness concepts and build the skills to better communicate.
6. Implement best practices to enhance multicultural awareness, knowledge, and skills.

## Required Textbook(s) and Resources

Your course has no required textbook. All resources are included in each week.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources.

For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

## Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays**.
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays**.

## Learning Activities

Activities include critical analysis, problem-solving exercises, and research projects that will help you evaluate your cultural self-awareness. You will engage in experiential learning through forum discussions, personal reflections, and creative assignments like creating cultural mosaics and a word cloud. Additionally, you'll develop skills in active listening, perspective-taking, and effective communication. The course also includes designing training documents and creating a comprehensive cultural presentation. These activities aim to bridge theoretical concepts with practical applications.

## Key Assessment (Taskstream Submission)

This TU course features a “Key Assessment” that provides you the opportunity to demonstrate your program’s core competencies. It also shows how the course fits within the broader curriculum. These assignments include creating a cultural mosaic poster that visually and narratively represents your cultural identity highlighting your learning and personal growth. These assessments integrate theoretical knowledge with practical applications, showcasing

your ability to evaluate personal and professional presence and implement best practices to enhance multicultural awareness and communication.

## Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
<b>Forums</b> Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.2 (30)	<b>Forums</b> Activity 2.1 (40)	<b>Forums</b> Activity 3.1 (40)	<b>Forums</b> Activity 4.1 (40)	<b>Forums</b> Activity 5.1 (40)	<b>Forums</b> Activity 6.1 (40)	<b>Forums</b> Activity 7.1 (20)	<b>250</b>
<b>Assignments</b> Activity 1.3 (100)	<b>Assignments</b> Activity 2.2 (100)	<b>Assignments</b> Activity 3.2 (100)	<b>Assignments</b> Activity 4.2 (100)	<b>Assignments</b> Activity 5.2 (100)	<b>Assignments</b> Activity 6.2 (150)	<b>Assignments</b> Activity 7.2 (100)	<b>750</b>
<b>130</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1000</b>

## Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | D: 60-69% | F: <60%

## Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

### Start Here

- ☐ MON: Activity 1.1: Meet Your Peers - Introductory Post

### Week 1 – Understanding Yourself

- ☐ WED: Activity 1.1: Meet Your Peers – Follow-Up Post
- ☐ WED: Activity 1.2: Image of Self Forum
- ☐ SAT: Activity 1.2: Image of Self Forum
- ☐ SUN: Activity 1.3: Word Cloud Identity Assignment

### Week 2 – Cultural Influences and Cultural Awareness

- ☐ WED: Activity 2.1: Cultural Awareness Mind Map
- ☐ SAT: Activity 2.1: Cultural Awareness Mind Map
- ☐ SUN: Activity 2.2: Cultural Awareness Presentation

### Week 3 - Active Listening and Perspective-Taking

- ☐ WED: Activity 3.1: Empathetic Listening Practice
- ☐ SAT: Activity 3.1: Empathetic Listening Practice
- ☐ SUN: Activity 3.2: Perspective Taking Exercise

## **Week 4 – Social Dynamics Part 1**

- ☐ WED: Activity 4.1: Understanding Social Dynamics
- ☐ SAT: Activity 4.1: Understanding Social Dynamics
- ☐ SUN: Activity 4.2: Personal Social Dynamics Journal

## **Week 5 – Social Dynamics Part 2**

- ☐ WED: Activity 5.1: Recognizing and Responding to Social Dynamics
- ☐ SAT: Activity 5.1: Recognizing and Responding to Social Dynamics
- ☐ SUN: Activity 5.2: Training on Social Dynamics

## **Week 6 - Cultural Mosaic Poster**

- ☐ WED: Activity 6.1: Cultural Mosaic Ideas
- ☐ SAT: Activity 6.1: Cultural Mosaic Ideas
- ☐ SUN: Activity 6.2: Cultural Mosaic Poster Creation

## **Week 7 - The Future of Cultural Uniqueness in Higher Education**

- ☐ WED: Activity 7.1: Future of Cultural Uniqueness Discussion
- ☐ SUN: Activity 7.2: Course Reflection

## **Tips for Success**

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

## **For More Information:**

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.