

# COIL Week 2 Assignment 2

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Starting from this week, you will work with students from Xi'an University of Posts and Communications (Xi'an, China) on weekly assignments. Before you start contacting your team members in China, I HIGHLY recommend you read this two-page file ([Intercultural Competence.pdf](https://elearning.salemstate.edu/courses/1337512/files/93931916/download?download_frd=1) ↓ ([https://elearning.salemstate.edu/courses/1337512/files/93931916/download?download\\_frd=1](https://elearning.salemstate.edu/courses/1337512/files/93931916/download?download_frd=1)) ) on intercultural competence. "Intercultural competence is the ability to develop targeted knowledge, skills and attitudes that lead to visible behaviour and communication that are both effective and appropriate in intercultural interactions." Especially if you have limited experience with intercultural competence, this short reading will greatly help you in this project. This figure shows you some important elements of intercultural competence.

## Constituent elements of intercultural competence

(Adapted from Deardorff, 2006)

### Knowledge

- **Cultural self- awareness:** articulating how one's own culture has shaped one's identity and world view
- **Culture specific knowledge:** analysing and explaining basic information about other cultures (history, politics, economics, communication styles, values, beliefs and practices)
- **Sociolinguistic awareness:** acquiring basic local language skills, articulating differences in verbal/ non communication and adjusting one's speech to accommodate nationals from other cultures
- **Grasp of global issues and trends:** explaining the meaning and implications of globalization and relating issues to global forces

### Skills

- **Listening, observing, evaluating :** using patience and perseverance to identify and minimize ethnocentrism; seek out cultural clues and meaning
- **Analysing, interpreting and relating:** seeking out linkages, causality and relationships using comparative techniques of analysis
- **Critical thinking:** viewing and interpreting the world from other cultures' point of view and identifying one's own

### Attitudes

- **Respect:** seeking out other cultures' attributes; value cultural diversity; thinking comparatively and without prejudice about cultural differences
- **Openness:** suspending criticism of other cultures; investing in collecting 'evidence' of cultural differences; not disposed to be proven wrong;
- **Curiosity:** seeking out intercultural interactions, viewing difference as a learning opportunity, being aware of one's own ignorance
- **Discovery:** tolerating ambiguity and viewing it as a positive experience; willingness to move beyond one's comfort zone

Additionally, I would like to remind you a few very important things:

1. Please take your responsibilities in this project. Please be aware that this project reflects collaborative efforts and each team member must contribute.

2. Please try your best to make yourself available to work with your team members especially those in China taking into consideration there is a 12-hour time difference between U.S. and China. For example, Monday morning 9AM in the U.S. is Monday night time at 9PM in China.

3. Students from China either major in Business English or have strong background in writing/speaking English. But please note that English is not their first language so please show your respect and patience in the communication and collaboration. I believe in most cases you do not have any difficulties understanding each other. But if you do, please ask or clarify respectfully.

4. Emails are provided to initiate the collaboration. If you would like to set up synchronous meetings or use social media to communicate, please be aware that certain apps/platforms are banned in China, for example, Google, Facebook, and Twitter. Based on my limited experience, Zoom is good to use. Also, I recommend using an app called WeChat to send instant messages, pictures, videos, files, and make free video/voice calls. But it is completely your decision to choose how you want to communicate and what tools you would like to use.

5. While you work on this project, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or difficulties. Good luck everyone!

### **Week 2 Assignment:**

This is the second week of COIL project. In this week, you will get to know your team members from Xi'an University of Posts and Communications (Xi'an, China). You have the flexibility to choose your preferred way of communication, such as phone calls, emails, social media, video conferences, and shared documents. Please feel free to share some pictures or videos with each other. Below is a list of suggested talking points to help you facilitate this process. **For submission purpose, please summarize what you have leaned from your team members in a WORD document and upload the file.** Good luck everyone!

- Name, major, what year you are in at SSU.
- Which country/state and city you are from. Please share some detailed information of your country/state and city. Examples include geographical information, demographic information, history, latest development, and so on.
- Your family (pets included).
- Your job and work life (if any).
- Your hobby/hobbies.
- What is your daily routine?

- What's your favorite food, drink, book, movie, or sports, etc.?
- What do you want to do the most when the pandemic is over?
- What international travel or intercultural experience do you have (if any)?
- What do you plan to do this summer?

**Points** 100

**Submitting** a file upload

<b>Due</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Available from</b>	<b>Until</b>
Apr 5	Everyone	-	May 5 at 11:59pm