

GLOBAL CLASSROOM PROJECT – 2025

CROSS-CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

PROF. DIJANA MAUNAGA TRAJKOVIC

ELAP: ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES

Montgomery College	XIM University
Prof. Dijana Maunaga Trajkovic	Dr. Isha Sharma
ELAI 990 ELAP Capstone Course	Business Communication
17 students: Cameroon, Brazil, Ethiopia (3), Guinea (2), Haiti, Italy (2) Ivory Coast (2), Nepal, Nigeria, Portugal, Senegal, Togo	16 students from different regions of India

ELAI 990:

- Capstone - 6 credit course
- Integrated skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking)
- Four modules
 - Read academic articles
 - Watch TED Talks, lectures, documentary movies
 - Write essays, summaries, and response papers
 - Create two oral presentations with PPT

Module 1 Language and Culture:

- “Body Speaks: Body language around the world” by Kris Rugsaken
- “Blurring the Line between Language and Culture” by Fatiha Guessabi
- *2022 TEDx Talk, “Implications of Culture on Language,”* by Amirpooya Dardashti

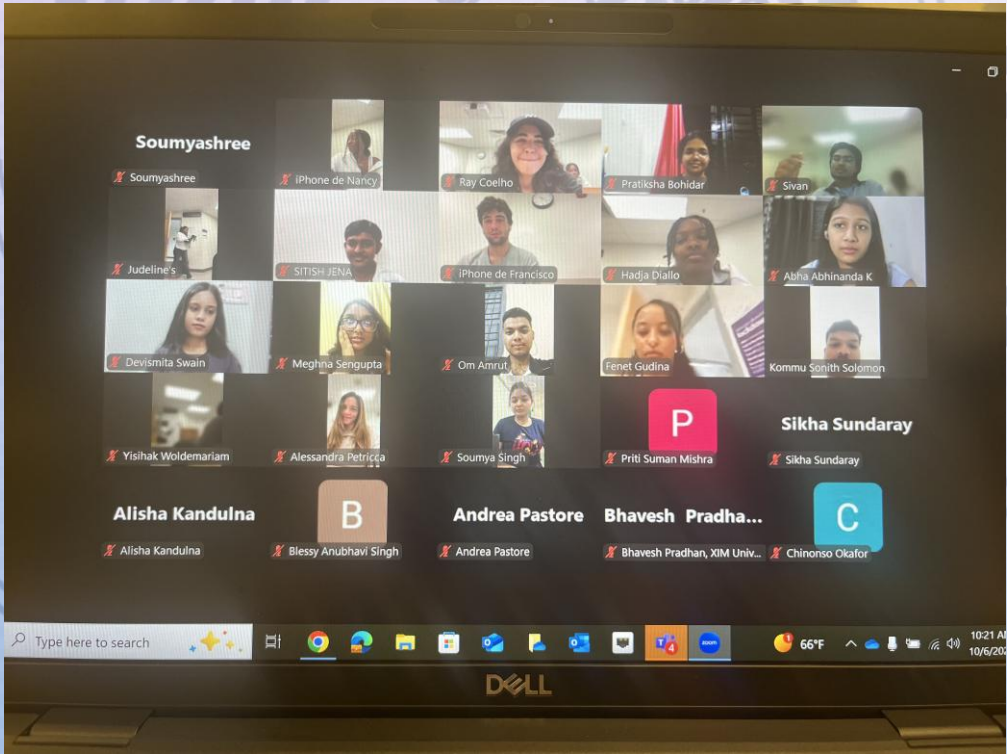
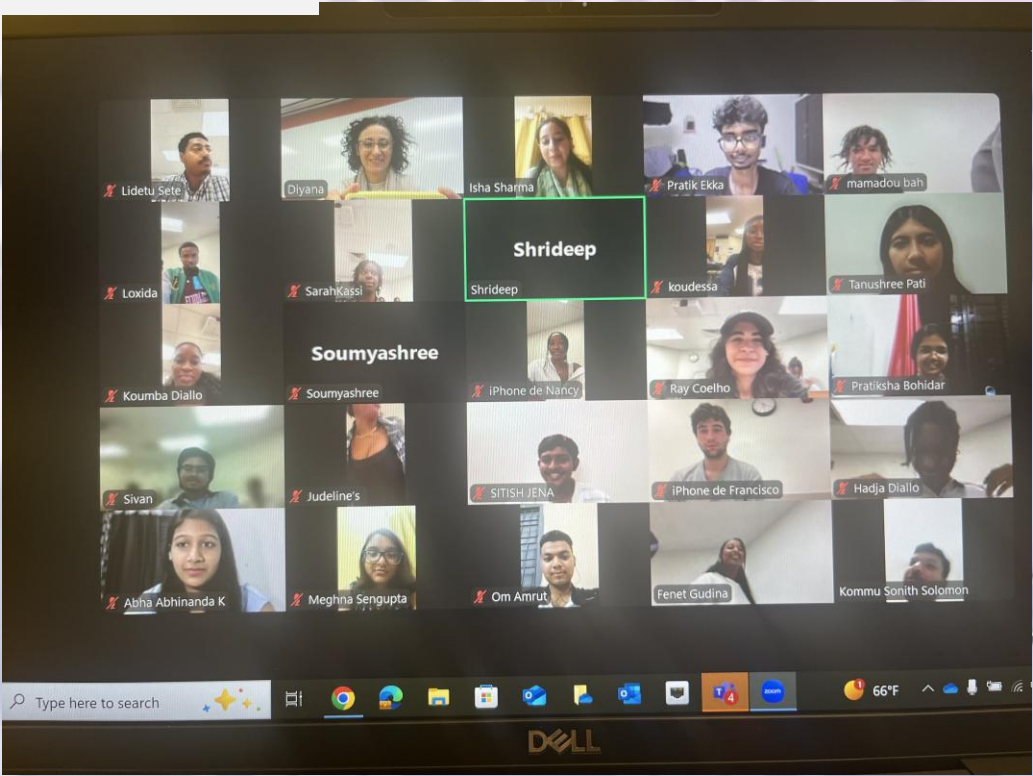
Assignment – Oral Presentation based on interviews

- Meet assigned partner, exchange contact info, and select discussion topics.
- Create questions for the partner and submit them in Blackboard for feedback.
- Conduct interview (phone, Zoom, or written)
- Create and submit an outline for presentation.
- Submit PPT before the in-class presentation.
- See tutors and professor for support.
- Deliver 5- to 7-minute-long presentation on similarities and differences between two cultures.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Introduction	Clear, detailed background on partner, the countries, and chosen topics. Strong context. 4 points	Clear intro with some background and topic info. 3 points	Basic intro; lacks some key info. 2 points	Missing or unclear intro. 0-1 points
Main ideas & Supporting Details	Presentation has clear, well-developed main ideas with strong supporting examples or evidence. 8-10 points	Main ideas are mostly clear with some supporting details. 5-7 points	Main ideas are present but weakly supported or unclear. 2-4 points	Main ideas are missing or very poorly supported. 0-1 points
Cultural Comparison	Excellent comparison between partner's and presenter's culture; shows insight and respect. 4 points	Good comparison with some detail; may lack depth. 3 points	Basic comparison with few insights. 2 points	No clear cultural comparison made. 0-1 points
Reflections and Conclusion	Deep reflection showing learning and personal insights & Strong, thoughtful conclusion that wraps up key points. 4 points	Good reflection and conclusion; may lack clarity or strength.. 3 points	Basic or surface-level reflection and conclusion . 2 points	Little or no reflection provided and weak or mission conclusion. 0-1 points
Visuals PPT	Visually engaging, well-designed, supports presentation content. 4 points	Generally well-made; some slides may lack polish. 3 points	PPT is plain, text-heavy, or slightly disorganized. 2 points	Poorly designed or missing visuals. 0-1 points
Delivery (Clarity & Confidence)	Clear, confident, well-paced delivery; speaker appears comfortable. 4 points	Mostly clear; some issues with pace or confidence. 3 points	Noticeable issues with clarity or confidence. 2 points	Mumbled, too fast/slow, or hard to follow. 0-1 points
Delivery Style (Engagement, Eye Contact, Expression)	Engaging tone, good eye contact, natural expression/body language. 4 points	Generally engaging; minor issues with eye contact or expression. 3 points	Somewhat flat or mechanical delivery. 2 points	Lacks expression or audience engagement. 0-1 points
Grammar Use	Consistent use of correct grammar structures. Errors are rare and do not distract. 4 points	Some minor grammar errors that do not affect meaning. 3 points	Several grammar errors; occasionally affect clarity. 2 points	Frequent grammar errors that confuse meaning. 0-1 points
Pronunciation	Clear, natural pronunciation; easy to understand throughout. 4 points	Mostly clear with few minor mispronunciations. 3 points	Some mispronunciations that slightly affect understanding. 2 points	Frequent issues that make comprehension difficult. 0-1 points
Vocabulary Use	Rich, varied vocabulary used accurately and effectively. 4 points	Good range of vocabulary; some repetition or minor misuse. 3 points	Basic vocabulary with some inappropriate word choices. 2 points	Limited vocabulary; frequent misuse of words. 0-1 points
Time Management	Presentation is 5–7 minutes long. 4 points	Slightly over/under the time limit. 3 points	Clearly too short or long, but presentation is complete. 2 points	Time issue seriously affects flow or clarity. 0-1 points

1st meeting: Monday, October 6



Culture-related topics based on students' interests

- ☐ **Hobbies & Free Time**
- ☐ **Religion & Faith**
- ☐ **Social Life & Relationships**
- ☐ **Celebrations & Festivals**
- ☐ **Food & Clothing**
- ☐ **Mindset & Mental Health**
- ☐ **Communication (Formal/Informal) & Hospitality**
- ☐ **Education & Career Goals**
- ☐ **Academic Life & Extracurricular Activities**
- ☐ **Norms & Taboos**
- ☐ **Global Perspectives & Safety**
- ☐ **Media & Entertainment**
- ☐ **Traveling & Tourism**

2nd meeting and presentation day: Wednesday, October 22



GUINEA

Located in West Africa, French as main language, practice Islam and Christianity

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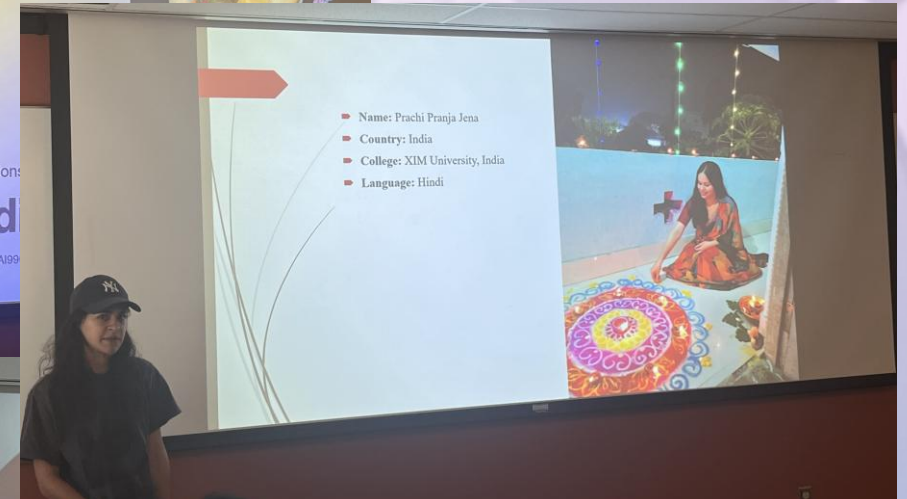


Cross-Cultural Conversations


Italy & India

Presented by Alessandra Petricca | ELAI99

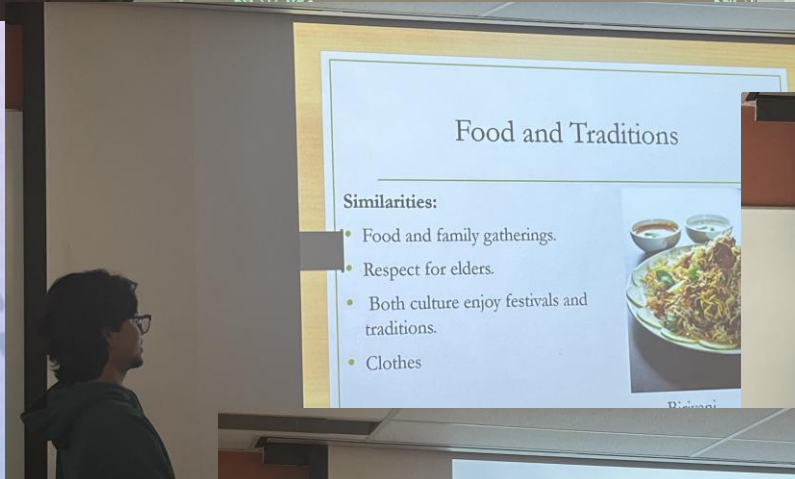
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- Name: Prachi Pranja Jena
- Country: India
- College: XIM University, India
- Language: Hindi




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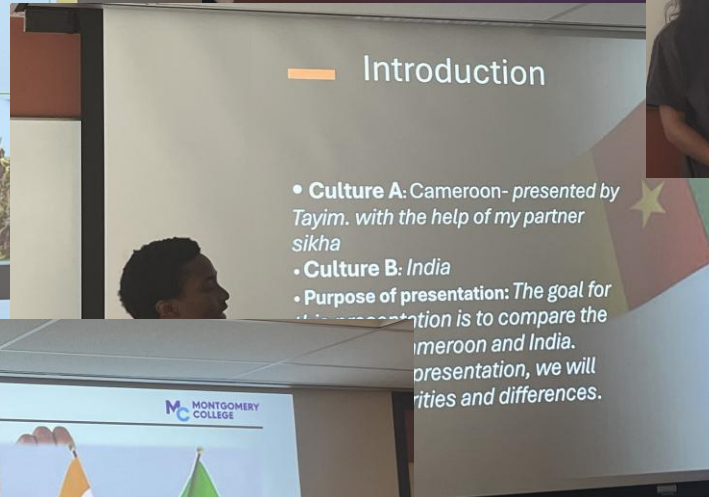
Food and Traditions

Similarities:

- Food and family gatherings.
- Respect for elders.
- Both culture enjoy festivals and traditions.
- Clothes



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Introduction

- Culture A:** Cameroon- presented by Tayim. with the help of my partner sikha
- Culture B:** India
- Purpose of presentation:** The goal of this presentation is to compare the Cameroon and India. In this presentation, we will discuss similarities and differences.

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Customs and traditions

- India**
 - dressing modestly and removing shoes before entering temples
 - pointing your feet towards elders and deities is considered disrespectful
- Togo**
 - greeting people is considered respectful
 - avoiding eye contact when speaking to elders is a sign of respect.
- Similarities**
 - public display of affection is considered disrespectful
 - respect for elders is important
 - modesty and respect are valued.



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NIGERIA AND INDIA

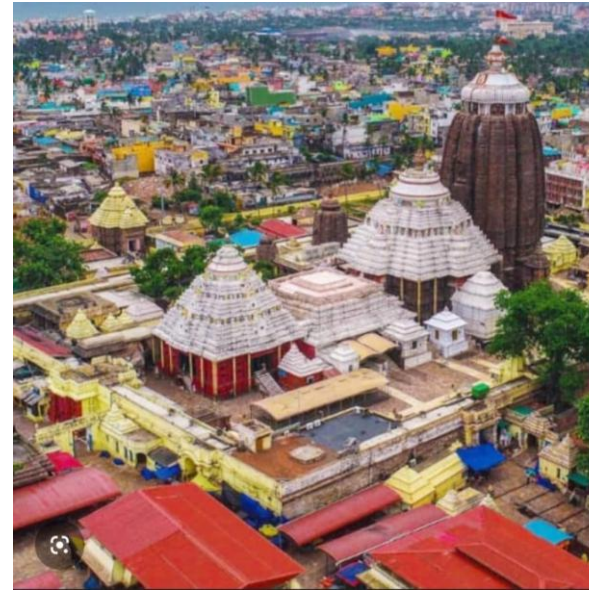
CROSS-CULTURAL CONVERSATION



-Chinonso Okafor
-Samuel Pratik

ELAI990 CRN 21495

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MC Course Outcomes aligned with GC project:

- Use a variety of listening skills to comprehend lectures and other video/audio sources.
- Speak easily and articulately, self-correcting pronunciation and speech patterns for successful communication in an academic setting.

AACU Global Competency: Attitudes – Curiosity

Milestone 3:

- Asks deeper questions about other cultures and seeks out answers to these questions.

Student Reflections:

- Both my partner and I loved how religions, though different, unite families and communities in both of our countries.
- I love that this project makes me think about things we usually ignore — like how our habits and culture affect our happiness.
- Personally, what stood out to me the most is how both cultures use education and language as a tool for unity and identity. It made me realize that cultural differences are not barriers but bridges that help us learn from one another.
- Working with other cultures reminded me that though we speak different languages and live in different ways, we all share the same desire for peace, respect, and progress.
- Getting to learn about Indian culture was very interesting. I hope I convinced my partner to come to Italy and watch some soccer with a slice of pizza.

Next Steps:

- Get some Indian food with students at the end of the semester.
- Repeat the project in 2026.



THANK YOU