

2016

Cultural Competence

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<https://hdl.handle.net/2027.42/122869>

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Cultural Competence: Getting Started

Increase intercultural awareness and competencies for traveling abroad and living among culturally diverse populations.

- Getting Started
- Diversity
- World Cultures
- Regional Cultures
- Study/Work Abroad

How to Use This Guide

This guide will hopefully help you become more aware of different cultures and get started on building competencies. Keep in mind that increasing knowledge, building skills and shaping attitudes to communicate effectively and appropriately with others is an ongoing engagement with many different aspects to consider.

Included resource links will help you:

- Understand more about culture and cultural differences
- Become more aware of local diversity
- Find quick facts about a country, an ethnic group, or a religion
- Learn about the history, cultures and customs of a region or a country
- Prepare for going abroad

Terminology

This subject of cultural awareness and competencies includes a variety of terms, such as *intercultural* (interaction between at least two different cultures), *intracultural* (within the same culture), *cross-cultural* (comparing cultures), and multicultural (more than one culture).

Cultures are not necessarily divided by political boundaries, so *intercultural communication* is also distinct from *international communication*.

For more information, view Igor Ristić's [Intracultural, Intercultural, Cross-Cultural, and International Communication: What's the Difference?](#) article and UNESCO's [Cultural Competences PDF](#).

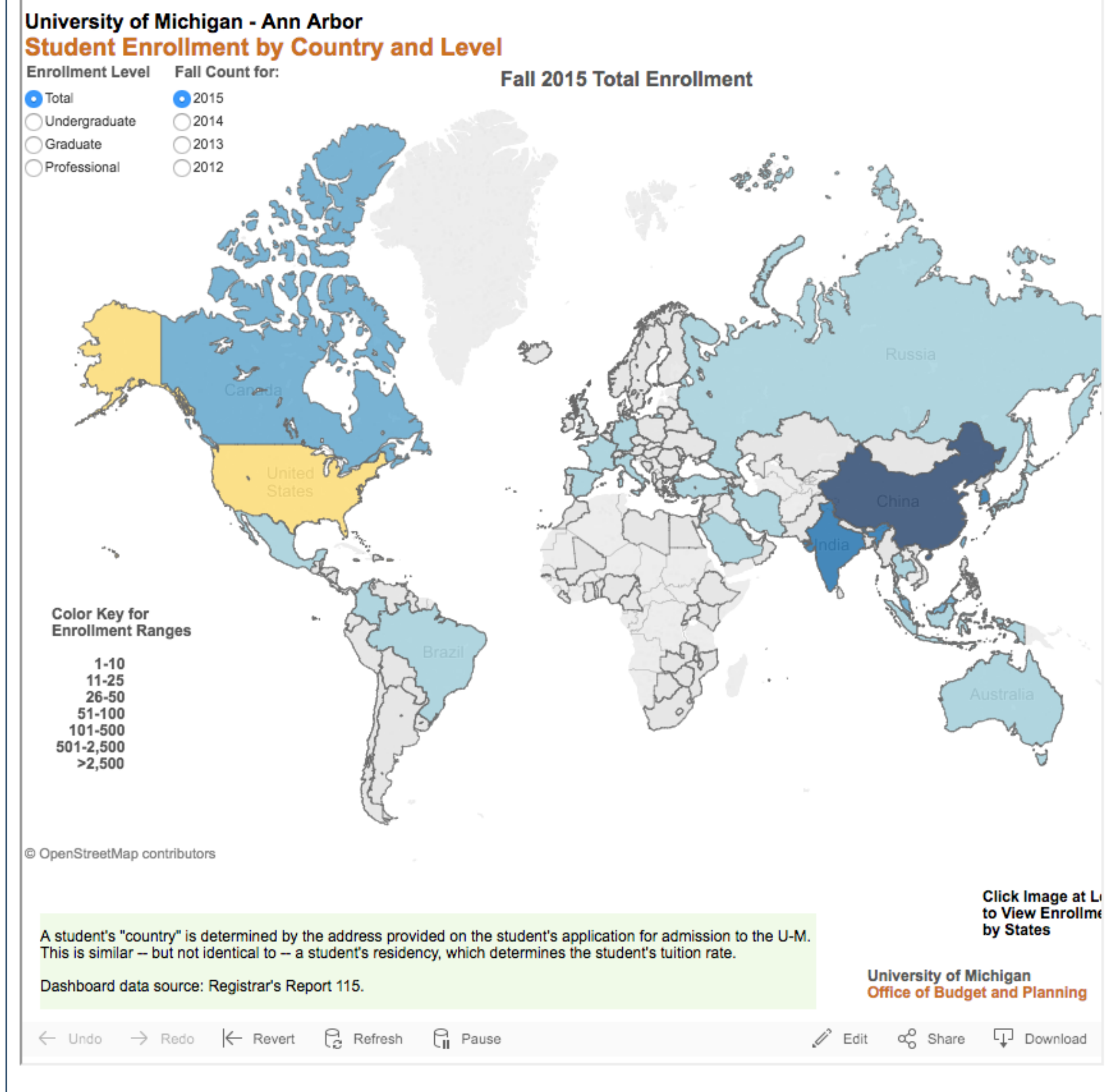
Keep an Open Mind

Please note that the resources recommended within this guide may not reflect the University of Michigan or the library's position. Although they will represent a particular perspective, with varying levels of sensitivity, they should help you understand and respect some aspects of another culture without overriding your own values. Nonetheless, these resources will make generalizations, so it is important to keep in mind that every person thinks and behaves differently. Keeping an open mind and adapting accordingly to specific circumstances may be helpful.

Interested in learning more about open-mindedness? Take a look at [How to Be Critically Open-Minded: a Psychological and Historical Analysis \(ebook\)](#).

Why is intercultural awareness important?

The University of Michigan has a large international and interstate population, as demonstrated by the enrollment map below. You may encounter people with different customs and values that may affect communication and mutual understanding. Your cultural knowledge, sensitivity and competencies will help you interact more respectfully with others in a culturally diverse community within the U.S., or abroad. Knowing about the local culture of your destination may also help ease anxiety and shock, making your travels more enjoyable.



Need help finding additional information? [Ask a Librarian](#)

Fun Reads

Obamistan! Land Without Racism (ebook) by Damali Ayo
Imagine a land where the racism we know today doesn't exist! This satirical book will show you through funny ironies how the U.S. can become more inclusive.

They Eat That? (ebook) by Jonathan Deutsch; Natalya Murakhver
Exotic and weird foods around the world.

Across the Pond (book) by Terry Eagleton
Travelogue: Humorous anecdotes of America and its citizens from a British traveler and literary critic.

How to Be Critically Open-Minded: a Psychological and Historical Analysis (ebook) by John Lambie
This book argues and defends why critical open-mindedness is beneficial to human cultural progress using witty examples.

U-M Resources

Global Michigan
Portal for international opportunities and resources.

International Center
Webpages and resources for study, work and travel abroad, as well as life in the U.S./Ann Arbor for international students.

- To improve intercultural competencies, communication and leadership skills, consider applying for the [Intercultural Leadership Seminar](#).

Center for Global and Intercultural Study
LSA-affiliated study abroad programs, courses, scholarships and tips.

- Find courses at U-M on the [Intercultural Learning page](#).

M-Compass
Portal to apply for study or intern abroad programs.

U-M Portal in Foreign Languages

- 中文
- हिंदी
- Español
- Português

Library Contact

Alexa Pearce
alexap@umich.edu

Contact:
209 Hatcher Library North

How to Increase Intercultural Awareness

U-Pacific Cultural Training
Online training resource with units and sections for learning about the concept of culture and how skills, attitudes and behaviors affects adaptation to a new and unfamiliar environment.

Global Scholar Online Learning
This interactive online course outlines what to do and expect before, during and after going abroad with many videos. Upon completion of the course, you can receive a 'Global Scholar Certificate.' Registration required.

World Citizens Guide (brochures)
Visually appealing, short PDFs with simple suggestions for Americans traveling or working abroad.

U-M Resilient Traveling
U-M's project website dedicated to helping students traveling abroad to learn how to cope with culture shock, stress, loneliness and more. Click on 'Self-Assessment' to take an online mental health screening.

Recommend Resources or Terminology Not Represented

Submit Here ▼

I recommend:

Your answer

SUBMIT

[Submit feedback on Google Form.](#)

Ready to explore? Click on a tag below.

Or, view resources by category here.

This research project was completed by [Sheila Chan](#) as part of the Michigan Library Scholars summer internship at the University of Michigan Library.

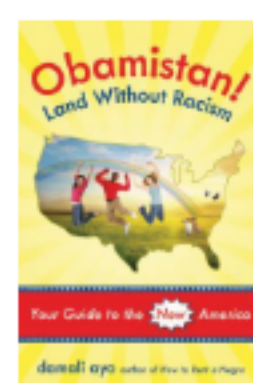
Cultural Competence: Diversity

Increase intercultural awareness and competencies for traveling abroad and living among culturally diverse populations.

 Search

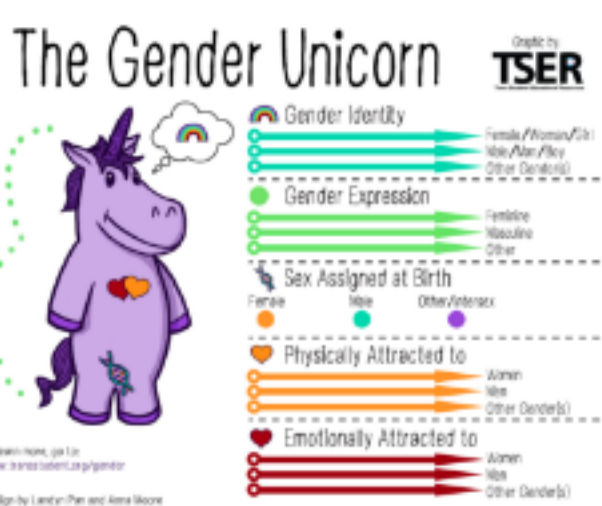
- Getting Started
- Diversity**
- World Cultures
- Regional Cultures
- Study/Work Abroad

Fun Resources



Obamistan! Land Without Racism (ebook)
Imagine a land where the racism we know today doesn't exist! This satirical book will show you through funny ironies how the U.S. can become more inclusive.

The Gender Unicorn (website)



How are gender, sex and attraction different? View this infographic to learn how these three concepts can be spectrums instead of binaries. Also view other helpful information on [Trans Student Educational Resources](#) website.

Which English? Quiz (website)



There are many kinds of "English." Take this quiz and let an algorithm guess which of the world's English you speak.

U-M Resources

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

U-M's efforts to acknowledge the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion on campus. Includes some information on U-M's history, future plans, campus resources, opportunities, etc.

The Program on Intergroup Relations

Courses, information and events related to social group identity, social justice and intergroup relations.

The Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs

Support, resources and events related to racial and ethnic inclusion and equality.

The Spectrum Center

Educational opportunities, resources and support related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. The Spectrum Center also houses the [Jim Toy Library](#) collection.

Expect Respect

This initiative addresses why you should care about discrimination on campus, how to report incidents and other frequently asked questions.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Registration and accommodations services, as well as other support resources for students with disabilities on campus.

Center for Research on Learning and Teaching

For the teaching community. The [Diversity & Inclusion](#) and [Global Learning](#) pages include resources such as assessments, blogs and guides related to diversity and intercultural competencies.

Academic Texts



Taking on Diversity (book) by Rupert Nacoste
An anecdotal guide to understanding diversity and how to confront prejudice instead of treating it as a joke. Written by a professor and counselor.



Diversity Explosion (ebook) by William H. Frey
An explanation from a demographer of past, current and future trends that

illustrate the growth of minority population and how this may be beneficial to the nation. Acknowledges other consequences and concerns.

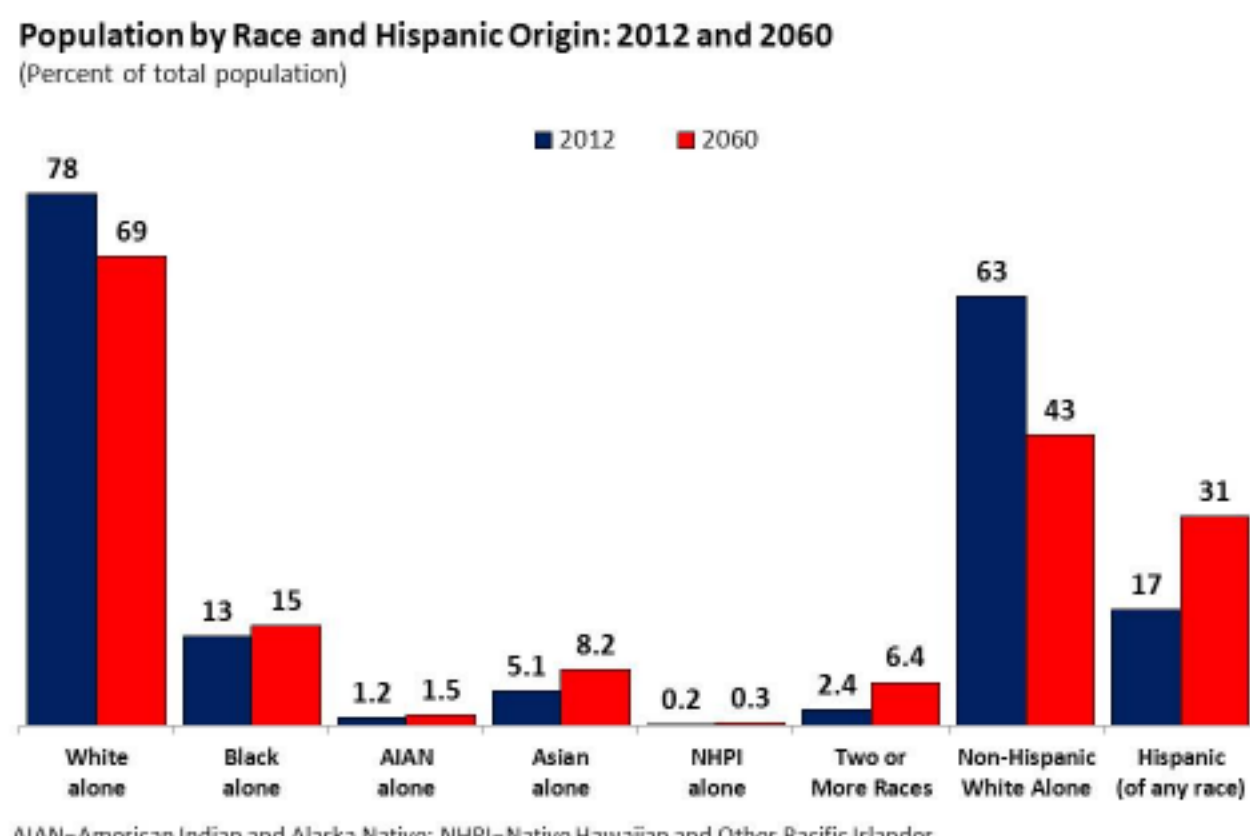
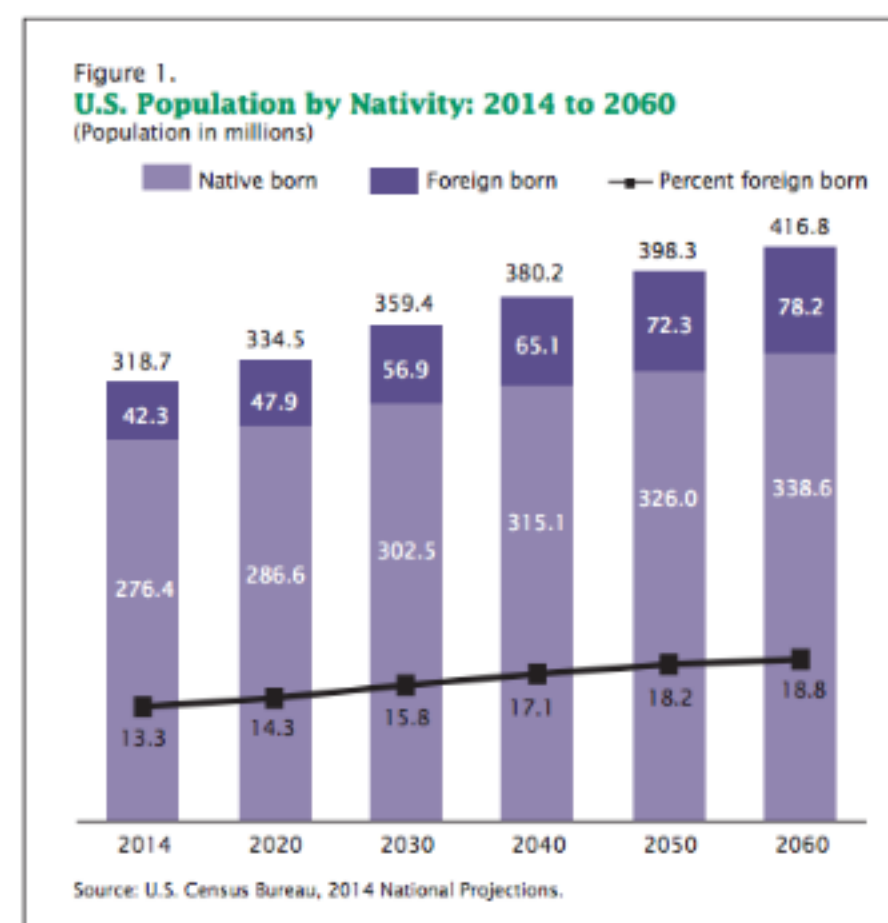


American Ethnic History (ebook) by Jason J. McDonald
From a non-American's perspective: A framework for looking at diverse ethnic groups in the U.S. through discussion of definitions, origins of diversity, mainstream perceptions and policies, egalitarian ideals and intra-ethnic dynamics.



Class and Campus Life (ebook) by Elizabeth M. Lee
Ethnography of some students from low socioeconomic backgrounds affected by cultural connotations that impact their campus life.

According to the [United States Census Bureau](#) in 2012 and 2014, the U.S. is expected to become a "more diverse nation." One example: Population percentages of immigrants and current minority groups are expected to rise.



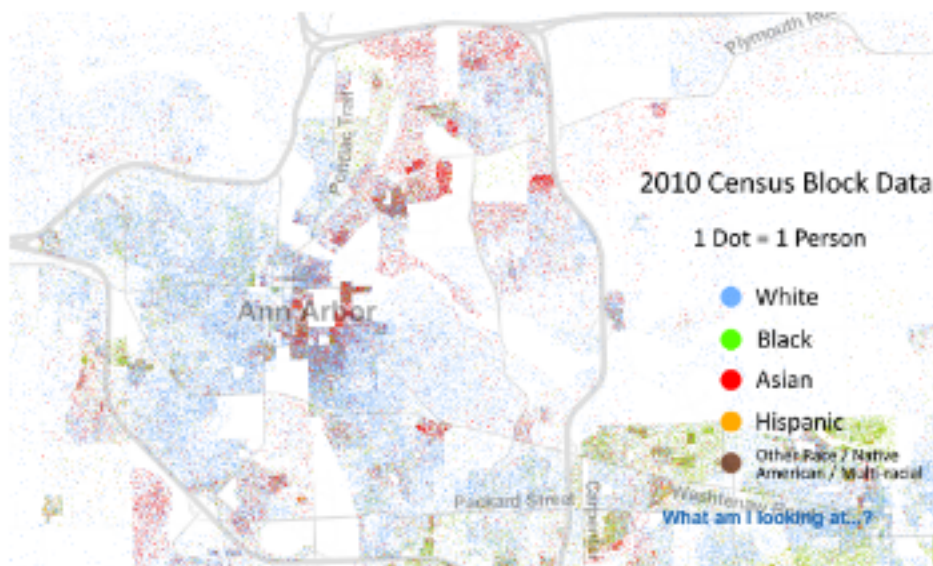
Race & Ethnicity

What is the difference between race and ethnicity?

View replies from PBS and California Newsreel's experts. Learn more about race and diversity on PBS's [RACE - The Power of an Illusion](#).

Click on the maps below to visit the original source for a larger view.

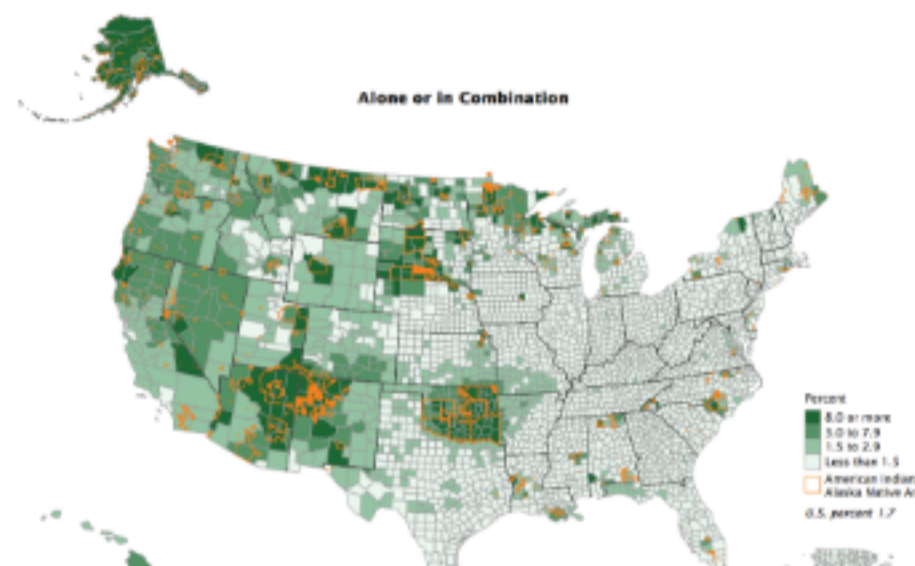
University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service's "Racial Dot Map"



Interactive Map of the U.S.

Image Copyright, 2013, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia (Dustin A. Cable, creator)

American Indian and Alaska Native as a Percentage of County Population: 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010.

American Diversity Demographics

There are many other factors that contribute to our personal identity, sense of culture, and perception. The infographics below show just a few ways in which the U.S. and the people around us can be considered "diverse."

Disability

Religion

Language

Income

Heritage

Age

Sexual Orientation

Gender

Click on the image to visit the source for the larger original.

Infographics and/or statistics from the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), [The Williams Institute at UCLA](#) and the [Religious Congregations & Membership Study](#).

Intercultural Communication

Why is developing intercultural communication skills important?

The Costly (and Humorous) Impact of Cultural Blunders (PDF)

[Culturosim.com's](#) humorous examples of intercultural miscommunication to illustrate why cultural awareness and competencies are important.

Cross-Cultural Communication (video)

This short, online video depicts a situation in which a manager and her two employees have difficulties communicating due to different cultural backgrounds and stereotyping. It emphasizes the importance of viewing every person and country as unique.

Understanding Accents

"I have a hard time understanding accents." (article)

This advice column suggests a few strategies to appropriately deal with not understanding another person's accent.

Decoding Other People's Accents (PDF)

[American Translators Association's](#) article on some sound substitutions from foreign language speakers, followed by 3 questions to ask yourself in order to help "decode" accents.

Why complaining about your GSI's accent is a waste of time (and racist) (article)

The [Michigan Daily's](#) student-written article about some students' experiences on campus. This article also sheds light on the graduate student instructors' efforts to improve, and how students' attitudes and stereotypes can affect their understanding.

Your professor does speak English: Competence and cooperation in classroom communication (article)

Many students complain and skip classes because they do not understand their professor. This article is a good reminder of how communication is a two-way street and stereotypes affect comprehension.

Get Involved

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Strategic Planning Efforts

Join a planning committee, participate in the conversation on [Be Heard](#), or email ideas and input to diversityplan@umich.edu.



Cultural Competence: World Cultures

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Basic Facts

World Factbook (website)

The CIA's basic statistical and factual reviews of countries' geography, society, government, economy, energy, communication, transportation, military and transnational issues.

Europa World Plus (database)

Regularly updated profiles, statistics and economic and political essays of regions and countries.

GlobalEdge (website)

Business-oriented insight to states, countries, trade blocs, markets and industries. Country short facts and statistics cover social sciences. Includes external links to cultural resources.

NativePlanet Indigenous Mapping (website)

Demographic overview of indigenous communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Includes resource links for each group.

News Sources

- **Newspaper Map**
Find newspaper websites by location on a map.
- **Library PressDisplay**
Browse electronic, recent issues of world newspapers by country.

U-M Library Research Guides

- International, Regional, and National Data Sets
- News Sources
- Multicultural Studies
- Popular Culture
- Library Guide for International Students
- Interracial Resources
- Indigenous Resources
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Studies
- Women's Studies
- History (General)
- Musicology 139 - World Music
- Food Studies
- Religious Studies
- History of Art

I want to browse by...

- Country
- People
- Subject
- Series



Global Road Warrior (database)

This database provides basic country facts and lengthier articles on business, security, health, utilities, communication and entertainment. Addresses some stereotypes and demonstrates popular phrases in foreign languages. [eBook versions available in Mirlyn.](#)



CultureGrams (database)

Simple and easy to read overviews of over 200 countries, focusing on different populations' customs, lifestyles and societies from an American perspective. Includes a Kids, USA, Canada and World Edition.



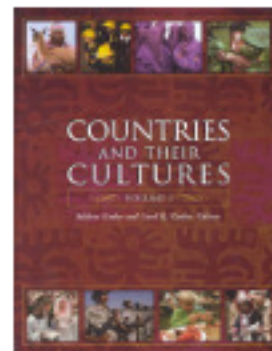
Global Affairs Canada Country Insights (website)

The Canadian government's country profiles and guides to national cultures from Canadian and local perspectives. Includes resource links for additional information on culture, history, geography, etc.



Commisceo Country Guides (website)

Country guides discuss language, culture, customs and etiquette. This website also features additional blog posts regarding cultural awareness.



Countries and Their Cultures (2001 ebook)

National entries include information on history, ethnic relations, urbanism, government, society, economy, religion, health, arts, food, etc.

Images, Videos & Graphs

CalPhotos: People & Culture (website)

Photo bank of people and places.

Ethnographic Video Online (database)

Videos of family, cultural identity, gender roles, arts, religion, etc.

Hofstede Country Cultural Dimensions Ratings (website)

Graphical representation of countries' ratings of power distance, individualism, masculinity, uncertainty avoidance, long term orientation & indulgence.



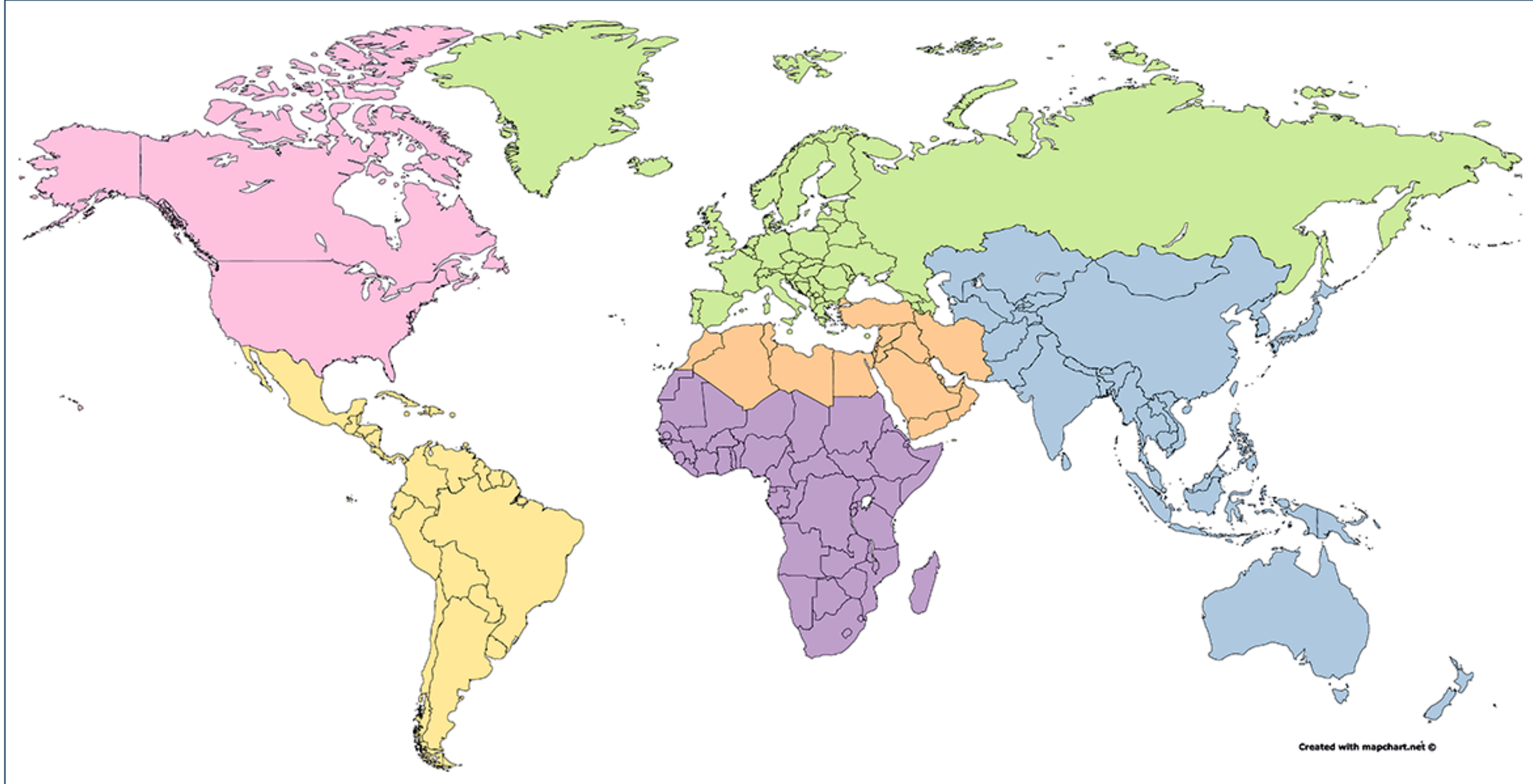
Cultural Competence: Regional Cultures

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- Regional Cultures** ▾
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Click on a region on the map or select a link below



- [USA & Canada](#)
- [Latin America & the Caribbean](#)
- [Europe](#)
- [Middle East & Northern Africa](#)
- [Sub-Saharan Africa](#)
- [Asia & Oceania](#)

Created with mapchart.net ©



Cultural Competence: USA & Canada

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- Regional Cultures** ▾
- Study/Work Abroad

Adjusting to the U.S.

U-M SNRE Cultural Adjustment (website)

Guide and videos for culture shock, greetings and academic adjustment with a focus on the U.S.

U-M International Center: Adjusting to the U.S. (website)

Questions for international students to think about when adjusting to the U.S. and Ann Arbor.

International Student Guide to the U.S. (website)

Guide for international students adjusting to college and American life.

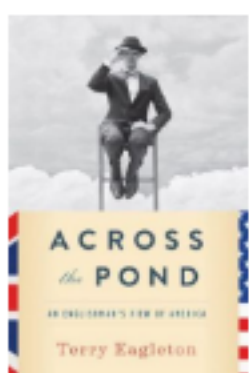
News Sources

- Newspaper Map**
Find newspaper websites by location on a map.
- Library PressDisplay**
Browse electronic, recent issues of world newspapers by country.

Foreign Perspectives (books)



美国纪行：一个中国学者眼中的美国生活 by 黄安年
Simplified Chinese travelogue: Descriptions of American sights and lifestyle from a Chinese traveler and professor.



Across the Pond by Terry Eagleton
Travelogue: Humorous anecdotes of America and its citizens from a British traveler and literary critic.

U-M Library Research Guides

- American Culture
- Amcult 461/Anthrcul 461/Ling 461: Language, Culture and Society in Native North America
- Arab-American Studies
- Francophone Canada
- United States History

National Cultures

Culture Shock! ebook series (USA & Canada)

Travel guide titles by country. Covers land and history, society, customs, local views, lifestyle, food, touristic activities, language, work and fast facts. Commentary can be blunt and colloquial.

Culture Smart! book series (USA & Canada)

Travel guide titles by country. Covers country overview, various ethnic groups, values and attitudes, customs and traditions, etiquette, local lifestyle, entertainment, transportation, business and communication.

Global Affairs Canada - Country Information Canada (website)

Canadian government's country insight and cultural information for Canada from local perspective. Covers communication, dress, social institutions, entertainment, stereotypes, etc.

Kids.gov Cultures & Ethnic Groups (website)

U.S. government's recommended links to resources related to African, Asian, Hispanic and Native Americans, and Women.

Interexchange Learn About the U.S. (website)

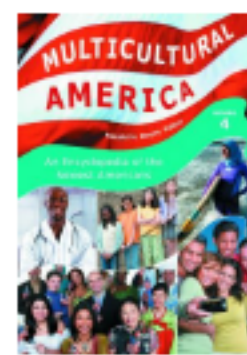
Recommendations for American books, TV/movies, music, sports, food, touristic attractions, as well as cultural activities in individual states.

Encyclopedia of Ethnic Groups



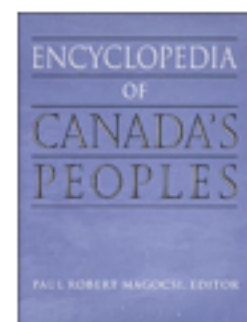
Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America (2000 ebook)

Entries by American ethnic group. Covers history, food, language, customs, greetings, social and gender dynamics, arts, media, etc.



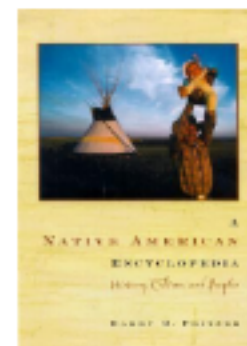
Multicultural America (2011 ebook)

Entries by immigrant groups in the U.S. Covers background, migration and assimilation, demographic profile, impact on the U.S., later generations, notable people, etc. Includes timeline, map and statistics.



Encyclopedia of Canada's Peoples (1999 book)

Entries by Canadian ethnic group. Covers origins, migration, community, family, culture, religion, politics, etc.



A Native American Encyclopedia (2015 book)

Entries organized by region and ethnic group. Includes overview, history, religion, government, customs, economy, dress, war and contemporary issues.

Images, Videos & Graphs

American Indian History Online (database)

Summaries, videos, slideshows, biographies, primary sources, maps and graphs on American Indian groups.

Can't find what you're looking for? Try these resources:

- CultureGrams
- Global Road Warrior
- GoInGlobal
- Encyclopedia of World Cultures
- MyWorldAbroad



Cultural Competence: Latin America & the Caribbean

Search

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News Sources

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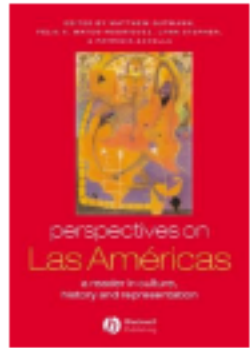
Academic Texts



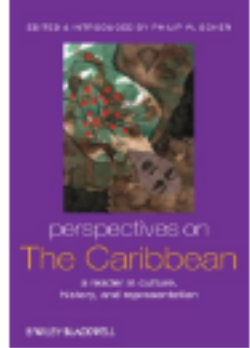
Latin America Reader series
Titles by country. Anthologies of essays from different authors on history, politics and society.

Perspectives on... series

Anthology of essays on history, politics, society and culture that provide a multiperspective view.



Perspectives on Las Américas (ebook)
Includes discourse on identity, popular culture and transnational political culture.



Perspectives on the Caribbean (book)
Includes discourse on identity, beliefs and globalization.

U-M Library Research Guides

- AAS 473: Brazil History and Culture
- Anthropology 320- Mexico: Culture and Society
- Brazilian Studies
- Caribbean Art and Visual Culture
- DAAS 495: Transforming History: Haiti, Cuba and the Caribbean Region
- From Colonial Saint-Domingue to Independent Haiti
- LACS 321 Inca, Aztec and the Spanish Conquest
- LACS 321: Indigenous Identity and Community in the Neoliberal Andes
- Latin American & Caribbean Studies

National & Regional Cultures

- All Resources
- Print Only

Regional

Pop Culture Latin America: Media, Arts, and Lifestyle (2005 book)

Overview of contemporary Latin American popular culture. Covers music, social movements, sports, performances, tourism, literature, icons, language, media, cinema, religion and arts.

Endangered Peoples of Latin America: Struggles to Survive and Thrive (2001 ebook)

Chapters sorted by region and communities. Provides information on traditional economy, social and political organization, religion, and threats to survival.

National

Culture Shock! ebook series (Latin America & the Caribbean)

Travel guide titles by country. Covers land and history, society, customs, local views, lifestyle, food, touristic activities, language, work and fast facts. Commentary can be blunt and colloquial.

Cultures and Customs of Latin America and the Caribbean series

Titles by country. Introduces country and its history, then covers religion, customs, media, cinema, literature, and arts in more depth.

Culture Smart! book series (Latin America & the Caribbean)

Travel guide titles by country. Covers country overview, various ethnic groups, values and attitudes, customs and traditions, etiquette, local lifestyle, entertainment, transportation, business and communication.

References by Subject

- History & Culture
- Arts & Literature
- Beliefs
- Print Only

History & Culture

Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture (2008 ebook)

Entries by concept. Covers Portuguese-speaking regions and includes people, places, works, policies, languages, etc.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Mesoamerican Cultures (2001 ebook)

Entries by concept. Includes people, arts, religion, major civilizations' geography, cultural ecology, language and history.

Encyclopedia of Contemporary Latin American and Caribbean Cultures (2000 book)

Entries by concept. Includes arts, literature, media, political and social institutions, biographies, etc.

Historical Dictionaries of Latin America & the Caribbean book series

Encyclopedia titles by country. Brief entries on concepts, major historical and recent events, places and people.

Images, Videos & Graphs

Videos

Latin America in Video (database)

Spanish video database for a variety of fields browsable by country.

Americas (1993 video)

English & Spanish video on issues that prevail in Latin America.

Graphs

Glencoe World Geography textbook - Ch.9: The Cultural Geography of Latin America (PDF)

Simple overview of Latin American people, history and culture. Includes graphs and maps for ethnic groups, languages, migration and urbanization, historical empires and religions.

Can't find what you're looking for? Try these resources:

[Latin American Network Information Center \(website\)](#)

[CultureGrams](#)

[Global Road Warrior](#)

[GoinGlobal](#)

[Encyclopedia of World Cultures](#)

[MyWorldAbroad](#)



Cultural Competence: Europe

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News Sources

- Library PressDisplay**
Browse electronic, recent issues of world newspapers by country.
- Newspaper Map**
Find newspaper websites by location on a map.

Academic Texts



Landscape and Culture in Northern Eurasia (ebook)

Covers select indigenous groups from Fennoscandia to the Russian Far East. Narrates

their viewpoint, followed by an overview of their way of life and beliefs.



Queer Cities, Queer Cultures (book)

Essays that provide historical background and recent data on select queer communities in Europe.

U-M Library Research Guides

- Armenian Studies
- Central European Studies
- Czech and Slovak Studies
- East European Studies
- European Union
- French Language and Literature
- French History
- German Culture, History, Politics
- Germanic Languages & Literatures
- German Language Learning Guide
- Iberian Studies
- Italian Language, Literature and Culture
- Mediterranean Studies
- Polish Studies
- Russian Studies
- Scandinavian Studies
- Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
- Southeast European Studies
- Spanish Language and Literature

Regional & National Cultures

- All Resources
- Print Only

Regional

One Europe, Many Nations: A Historical Dictionary of European National Groups (2000 ebook)

Entries by ethnic group. Includes flag, map, descriptions of the people, their homeland, history, language, religion, etc.

Ethnic Groups of Europe: An Encyclopedia (2011 book)

Entries by ethnic group. Overview discusses history, demography, language, etc.

Eastern Europe : An Introduction to the People, Lands, and Culture (2005 book)

Volumes organized by region, entries by country. Covers geography and demography, minorities, language, political systems, cultural development, etc.

Encyclopedia of Eastern Europe: From the Congress of Vienna to the Fall of Communism (2000 book)

Entries by concept. However, there are country-specific entries on geography, art, culture, language, literature, etc.

Southeast Europe: People and Culture (website)

Select a country to view introductory text and additional articles related to art, dance & theater, film, gastronomy, literature, music and sports.

National

Culture Shock! ebook series (Europe)

Travel guide titles by country. Covers land and history, society, customs, local views, lifestyle, food, touristic activities, language, work and fast facts. Commentary can be blunt and colloquial.

Cultures and Customs of Europe book series

Titles by country. Introduces country and its history, then covers religion, customs, media, cinema, literature, and arts in more depth.

Culture Smart! book series (Europe)

Travel guide titles by country. Covers country overview, various ethnic groups, values and attitudes, customs and traditions, etiquette, local lifestyle, entertainment, transportation, business and communication.

Pop Culture Germany! (2006 book)

Overview of contemporary German popular culture. Covers music, social movements, sports, performances, tourism, literature, icons, language, media, cinema, religion and arts.

Images & Videos

Europeana Collections (website)

Database of artworks, artifacts, books, videos and sounds from museums, libraries and universities across Europe.

Sputnik Images (website)

Photo bank of historical images and coverage of current Russian and international events. Website viewable in English and Russian.

Can't find what you're looking for? Try these resources:

- CultureGrams
- Global Road Warrior
- GoinGlobal
- Encyclopedia of World Cultures
- MyWorldAbroad



Cultural Competence: Middle East & Northern Africa

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Academic Texts



Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East (book)

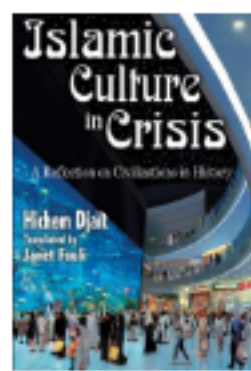
Essays by subject and region, covering aspects of local daily life, gender relations, community, religion and entertainment.



Popular Culture in the Middle East and North Africa (book)

Essays by subject, related to music, gender politics, new forms of media, representations in

the Middle East and the U.S., influences on and from the Egyptian Revolution of 2011.



Islamic Culture in Crisis (book)

Articles written over twenty years on cultural crisis and interaction, Arab world culture & politics, Maghrebi history, culture & religion.

U-M Library Research Guides

- Islamic Manuscript Studies
- Islamic Manuscripts Collection
- Jewish Heritage Collection
- Jewish Visual Culture
- Judaica
- Near Eastern Studies Library Resources
- Turkish Studies

Regional & National Cultures

- All Resources
- Print Only

Regional

Encyclopaedic Ethnography of Middle-East and Central Asia (2005 book)

Entries by ethnic group. Includes overview of geography and population, language, history, society, family, ethnic conflict, economy, religion, culture, etc.

Pop Culture Arab World! Media, Arts, and Lifestyle (2005 book)

Overview of contemporary Middle Eastern popular culture. Covers music, social movements, sports, performances, tourism, literature, icons, language, media, cinema, religion and arts.

Endangered Peoples of Africa and the Middle East: Struggles to Survive and Thrive (2002 ebook)

Chapters sorted by region and communities. Provides information on traditional economy, social and political organization, religion, and threats to survival.

Global Connections: Middle East Culture (website)

Basic introduction to culture, language, religion of the Middle East in general, with timeline (up to 2002) and links to additional information.

National

Culture Shock! ebook series (Middle East & Northern Africa)

Travel guide titles by country. Covers land and history, society, customs, local views, lifestyle, food, touristic activities, language, work and fast facts. Commentary can be blunt and colloquial.

Cultures and Customs book series (Northern Africa) & Cultures and Customs of the Palestinians (2004 book)

Titles by country. Introduces country and its history, then covers religion, customs, media, cinema, literature, and arts in more depth.

Culture Smart! book series (Middle East & Northern Africa)

Travel guide titles by country. Covers country overview, various ethnic groups, values and attitudes, customs and traditions, etiquette, local lifestyle, entertainment, transportation, business and communication.

Images & Videos

Creative Dissent: Arts of the Arab World Uprisings (website)

The Arab American Museum's online exhibit of photos, graffiti images, videos and songs about the uprisings in the Arab World from 2010 to 2013. Curated by U-M associate professor & PhD student.

Yousef Jameel Centre for Islamic and Asian Art (website)

The University of Oxford Ashmolean Museum's online collection of art from the Islamic Middle East, China, Japan, Southeast Asia, India and the Himalayas.

Can't find what you're looking for? Try these resources:

The Sub-Saharan Africa page may have more information related to Northern Africa.

- CultureGrams
- Global Road Warrior
- GoInGlobal
- Encyclopedia of World Cultures
- MyWorldAbroad



Cultural Competence: Sub-saharan Africa

 Search

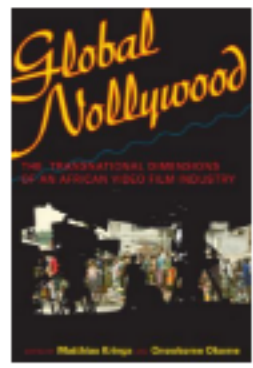
Increase intercultural awareness and competencies for traveling abroad and living among culturally diverse populations.

- Getting Started
- Diversity
- World Cultures
- Regional Cultures** ▾
- Study/Work Abroad

News Sources

- Newspaper Map**
Find newspaper websites by location on a map.
- Library PressDisplay**
Browse electronic, recent issues of world newspapers by country.

Academic Texts



Global Nollywood: The Transnational Dimensions of an African Video Film Industry (ebook)

Essays about the transformation, spread, audience and appropriation of Nollywood, Nigeria's video film industry.



Perspectives on Africa (book)

Anthology of essays on history, politics, society and culture that provide a multiperspective view. Includes discourse on kinship, hunter-gatherers, beliefs, arts, gender relations, historical and modern transformations.

U-M Library Research Guides

- African and Diaspora Art and Visual Culture
- African Studies
- Lusophone Africa

Regional & National Cultures

- All Resources
- Print Only

Regional

Encyclopedia of African Peoples (2000 book)

Entries by ethnic group. Visual guide to history, language, ways of life, social structure, culture & religion.

Encyclopedia of African Nations and Civilizations (2002 book)

Entries by region, country and major civilizations. Visual guide to history and peoples of countries.

Almanac of African Peoples & Nations (1999 book)

Brief introductory entries on African language families, languages by country, and peoples and nations by country.

Africa South of the Sahara: A Geographical Interpretation (2013 book)

Broad introduction to African cultural diversity, gender dynamics, geomorphology, climate, history, population, economies, resources, current development and issues, etc.

Into Africa: A Guide to Sub-Saharan Culture and Diversity (2009 ebook)

General introduction to African communities, communication, customs, business etiquette, travel tips and regional differences.

National

Culture Shock! ebook series (Africa)

Travel guide titles by country. Covers land and history, society, customs, local views, lifestyle, food, touristic activities, language, work and fast facts. Commentary can be blunt and colloquial.

Cultures and Customs of Africa book series

Titles by country. Introduces country and its history, then covers religion, customs, media, cinema, literature, and arts in more depth.

Culture Smart! book series (Africa)

Travel guide titles by country. Covers country overview, various ethnic groups, values and attitudes, customs and traditions, etiquette, local lifestyle, entertainment, transportation, business and communication.

Society and Culture Complete Report ebook series

Entries by country. Information on gift-giving, greetings, holidays, life cycles, religion, sports, stereotypes, folklore, women, etc. Identical report and additional information on [Global Road Warrior](#).

Historical Dictionaries of Africa series

Encyclopedia titles by country. Brief entries on concepts, major historical and recent events, places and people.

Websites

Art & Life in Africa

Visual galleries and topic essays on art in and related to everyday life, education, ancient times, medicine, cultural exchange, etc. Country pages display key facts and figures, historical summary and local artworks.

Our Africa

Country specific facts and figures, videos, images and descriptions of poverty, healthcare, food, daily life, people, culture, geography, nature, music, family, economy, education, jobs, history, politics, tourism, etc.

African Writing Online

Short texts from African writers and articles about African literary works and authors.

AfricaGuide

General African arts and culture, food, tribe, music, festivals information, basic country overviews, photo library and articles related to touristic travels in Africa.

Africa: The Art of a Continent

The Guggenheim Museum's introductory online exhibit to artifacts, films and photographs from Africa. Use the clickable map to view by region.

Can't find what you're looking for? Try these resources:

- CultureGrams
- Global Road Warrior
- GoInGlobal
- Encyclopedia of World Cultures
- MyWorldAbroad



Cultural Competence: Asia & Oceania

 Search

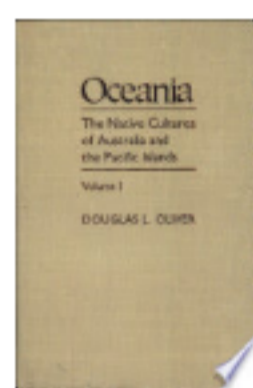
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- Regional Cultures** ▾
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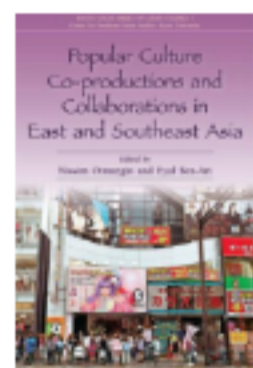
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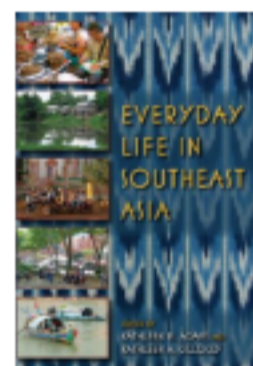
Academic Texts



Oceania (book)
Volume 1 provides a collective overview of the region, activities, life cycle, maps; Volume 2 is region-specific and discusses social relations, languages, politics, beliefs, etc.



Popular Culture Co-production and Collaborations in East and Southeast Asia (ebook)
Essays on popular culture and cinema in East and Southeast Asia.



Everyday Life in Southeast Asia (ebook)
Anthology of essays on the identities, livelihoods, traditions, religions and popular cultures of various people in Southeast Asia.

U-M Library Research Guides

- Australia, New Zealand & the Pacific Islands
- Central Asian and Caucasian Studies
- Chinese Studies
- Chinese-language Resources in STEM Fields
- East Asian Studies
- GIS, Map and Statistics: China
- GIS, Map and Statistics: Japan
- GIS, Map and Statistics: Korea
- Japanese Studies
- Korean Online Resources
- Korean Studies
- Philippine Studies
- South Asia Guide
- Southeast Asia Guide

Regional & National Cultures

- All Resources
- Print Only

Regional

Encyclopedia of the Peoples of Asia and Oceania (2009 book)

Entries by ethnic group. Includes an overview of location, time period, ancestry and language, followed by a timeline and details about history, cultural identity, etc.

Ethnic Groups of North, East, and Central Asia (2014 book) & South Asia and the Pacific (2012 ebook)

Encyclopedic entries by ethnic group. Overview describes population and history.

Encyclopedia of Modern Asia (2003 ebook)

Entries by concept. Includes people, festivals, themes, and subject entries on architecture, cuisine, cinema, literature, etc.

Charting the Pacific (website)

Discover stories of lives in the Pacific and explore maps, country profiles, and regional statistics and issues.

National

Culture Shock! ebook series (Asia & Oceania)

Travel guide titles by country. Covers land and history, society, customs, local views, lifestyle, food, touristic activities, language, work and fast facts. Commentary can be blunt and colloquial.

Cultures and Customs book series (Asia)

Titles by country. Introduces country and its history, then covers religion, customs, media, cinema, literature, and arts in more depth.

Culture Smart! book series (Asia & Oceania)

Travel guide titles by country. Covers country overview, various ethnic groups, values and attitudes, customs and traditions, etiquette, local lifestyle, entertainment, transportation, business and communication.

Etiquette Guides ebook series (China, Korea & the Philippines)

Titles by country. Includes information on character and values of the people, social etiquette, business etiquette and useful expressions.

The Encyclopedia of New Zealand (website)

New Zealand government's online encyclopedia with entries on different ethnic groups, regions, creative and daily life, government, social concepts, nature, etc.

Images, Videos & Documents

ECAI Pacific Language Mapping (website)

Language atlas of the Pacific area, Southeast Asia, and Madagascar.

Yousef Jameel Centre for Islamic and Asian Art (website)

The University of Oxford Ashmolean Museum's online collection of art from the Islamic Middle East, China, Japan, Southeast Asia, India and the Himalayas.

Trove (website)

The National Library of Australia's digital collection of Australian books, images, newspapers, maps, music, websites, etc.

Coconet TV (website)

Interactive timeline, games, photos, blogs, videos about and from people in the Pacific.

Tribal Asia (2004 book)

A photobook of tribes in ancient Arabia, India, mountains, Central Asia and Malay archipelago.

Can't find what you're looking for? Try these resources:

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- GoinGlobal
- Encyclopedia of World Cultures
- MyWorldAbroad



Cultural Competence: Study/Work Abroad

Increase intercultural awareness and competencies for traveling abroad and living among culturally diverse populations.

- Getting Started
- Diversity
- World Cultures
- Regional Cultures ▾
- Study/Work Abroad**

Things to keep in mind when preparing to go abroad...

U-Pacific Cultural Training

Online training resource with units and sections for learning about the concept of culture and how skills, attitudes and behaviors affects adaptation to a new and unfamiliar environment.

Global Scholar Online Learning

This interactive online course outlines what to do and expect before, during and after going abroad with many videos. Upon completion of the course, you can receive a 'Global Scholar Certificate.' Registration required.

World Citizens Guide (brochures)

Visually appealing, short PDFs with simple suggestions for Americans traveling or working abroad.

U-M Resilient Traveling

U-M's project website dedicated to helping students traveling abroad to learn how to cope with culture shock, stress, loneliness and more. Click on 'Self-Assessment' to take an online mental health screening.

News Sources

- **Newspaper Map**
Find newspaper websites by location on a map.
- **Library PressDisplay**
Browse electronic, recent issues of world newspapers by country.

U-M Resources

- **Global Michigan**
U-M's portal for international opportunities and resources.
- **International Center**
View more U-M webpages and resources for study, work & travel purposes
- **Center for Global and Intercultural Studies**
LSA-affiliated study abroad programs and tips. Click into "Intercultural Learning" under "Students" to view courses at U-M.
- **M-Compass**
Portal to apply for study or intern abroad programs.

U-M Library Research Guides

- Study Abroad Top 10 Countries
- Prep Course for Japan Trip - Library Guide
- Career Resources
- Funding for Students
- Funding Sources for School of Public Health Graduate Students
- Grants and Fundraising
- Social Work: Global Practice
- Stamps International Experience

Going Abroad Articles



MyWorldAbroad

Articles address various concerns related to international job and program applications, and emphasize that there are valuable skills to be learned before, during and after going abroad. Additional features include self-evaluations and resource links.



GoOverseas

Short overview of select countries and cities. Various articles about studying, teaching, interning and volunteering abroad. Includes program search.



GoAbroad.com

Read articles and reviews, and search for study, volunteer, intern and teach abroad programs.



TransitionsAbroad

Articles on work, study, travel and living abroad. This website has a large leisure travel section and its own online magazine.

Business-Specific Webpages



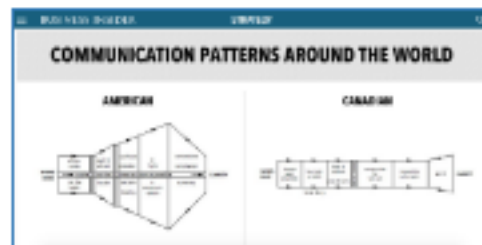
GoinGlobal

Country guides & USA/Canada City Career Guides provide business-focused cultural advice. Includes employer profiles, visa regulations, job application guidelines and trends, and Jobs/Internships listing.



World Business Culture

Business culture and etiquette guide to countries.



Business Insider Country Communication Chart

Diagrams of how different nationals negotiate business.



Passport to Trade European Business Culture

Select a country to read more about its business culture (communication, etiquette, etc.). Also includes information about the country, its history, cultural taboos, education, transport, being a foreigner in the country, and additional resource links.

How to speak and act?

Etiquette 101: Listen Up! (article)

How to say hello, good-bye, please, thank you and help in various languages, and country-specific greeting tips.

JourneyWoman What Should I Wear & Where (website)

"What to wear" tips for women traveling to select countries.

CultureCrossing Etiquette Guide (website)

Community-built and basic work and study etiquette guides by country.

Eating Abroad: The Cultural Resonance of Food (article)

An article that shares food tips for travelers.

