

Cross-Cultural Engagement (CCE) Core Requirement

CCE Learning Objectives:

1. To gain skills in cross-cultural communication
2. To understand how the world might look from the standpoint of another community of interpretation and experience
3. To learn how to discern and, where appropriate, adapt to the cultural expectations of the other
4. To witness other cultural embodiments of faith, and thus to reflect on the substance and definition of one's own faith by comparison

Obtaining CCE Credit

Cross Cultural Engagement (CCE) credit is a core requirement that can be met by any course in which students interact directly with members of a different culture over a significant period of time. This requirement can be satisfied with either a “0” or “1” credit option. The work involved for both options is the same. The credit designation of “0” is for students who are taking 17 credit hours.

CCE Independent Study - Domestic

Credit Requirements:

1. Prior to your experience – **Write a Racial/Ethnic Identity Statement. (You will need to include this with your completed IDIS-290 contract.)** Write a statement (**350 words**) about how you identify yourself racially/ ethnically. How important is identity to you? What does it mean to be “x” in the United States? What is one thing that you appreciate about this identity? What is one thing that you would want people to know about this racial/ethnic group?
2. Prior to your experience – Complete an **IDIS-290 Contract**, with all required signatures.
3. Prior to your experience – Complete two short **online self-assessment/awareness quizzes** and write a one-page reflection about how you did on the assessments and what you learned about yourself in the process.
 - a. <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>. Select **Project Implicit Social Attitudes** and complete **TWO** tests, each addressing a different racial/ethnic group.
 - b. <http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/quiz/quiz1.htm>
4. **Read a book** about Race Relations in the United States. You can, if you choose, read this book prior to your experience. Write a reflection paper (**350 words**) on the book. The reflection should highlight several key points, identify things that were particularly helpful to you, and include your emotional responses about what you read. Select a book from the list below:

- *The Heart of Racial Justice* by Brenda Salter McNeil and Rick Richardson (ISBN-10: 0830837221)
- *Gather at the Table* by Tom DeWolf and Sharon Morgan (ISBN-10: 0807014419)
- *A Beginner's Guide to Crossing Cultures* by Patty Lane (ISBN: 978-0-8308-2346-8)
- *Witnessing Whiteness* by Shelly Tochluk (ISBN: 978-1-60709-257-5)
- *Racism Without Racists* by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva (ISBN-10: 1442202181)

5. **Cross-Cultural Conversations:** (The goal is a minimum of 20 hours of conversations with cultural informants). These conversations are to be with adults (ages 18 and over) who are racially/ethnically different than yourself. You can engage one or several people. This should be thought of as times of sharing your story as much as you are listening to the story of your cultural informant. This is NOT to be thought of as an interview. As much as possible, have these conversations over a meal, as part of a cultural excursion, or in an informal setting. (These conversations should be documented in your reflective writing.)

Cross-Cultural Conversations Possible Topics:

- How does this person spend a typical day? How does this compare to your day?
- What are some of the traditions and customs that are important in this informant's cultural community?
- Do racial tensions exist? Do you both see racial tensions or the lack thereof in the same way? What would each of you think it would take to solve racial tensions in the United States?
- Talk about food, music, other forms of media, politics, education, hopes, fears, etc.
- Talk about what you do in your spare time. Who do you look up to? Where do you see yourselves 5 years from now? Etc.

6. **Cross-Cultural Faith Explorations:** Church Visit - Attend at least one church service associated with a group that is different from your own racial/ethnic identity OR is a church which has racial reconciliation as a part of its mission. (*Note:* you may also want to check [Calvin's list of local churches](#). Write reflectively on this experience **(350 words)**).

Churches of possible interest located in the Grand Rapids area:

- [Emanuel Hispanic CRC](#), 1265 36th St. SW, Wyoming, 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
- [Korean Grace CRC](#), 1970 Jefferson Ave. SE, GR, 11:00 a.m.
- [Madison Square Church](#), 1441 Madison Ave. SE, GR, 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
- [Messiah Missionary Baptist Church](#), 513 Henry Ave. SE, GR, 8:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m.

7. **Cultural Explorations:** Three (3) visits/encounters. These visits/encounters are meant to enhance your understanding of the racial/ethnic group associated with your cultural informant. These trips/visits may occur with or without your informant (we strongly suggest that they occur with your informant). These visits or trips may include, but are not limited to: authentic ethnic restaurants, lectures at Calvin during UnLearn Week or FEN SYM, cultural celebrations within the community, museum exhibits and art shows about the people group, documentary-style movies, etc.

8. **Reflective Writing:** (Generally journaling, this can be done electronically (like a blog) or in a bound journal). Reflective writing helps you **PROCESS** your cross-cultural experience for the purpose of: critical reflection, clarification of issues, asking questions, expressing concerns, testing theories against experience, and sharing insights.

*Ideas for Reflections (a minimum of **7 entries**; each entry **between 200 and 350 words**):*

- Conversations with your supervisor about their cross-cultural experiences
- Conversations with your cultural informants
- Reflections on passages from the book selected
- Observations of cultural similarities and differences
- Observations of cultural explorations
- Experiences of cultural shock
- Things that you have questions about
- Exploration of racial/ethnic tensions within your informants' cultural community
- Reflections on your identity
- Explorations of challenges, affirmations, and growth of your own faith

9. **Final Reflective Paper (1500 – 2000 words):**

- a. How did you meet the CCE Objectives listed above?
- b. What lessons in cross-cultural interactions from this experience will have a lasting impact?
- c. How is what you learned about the nature of race relations from the readings different from and/or similar to what you learned about race relations from your cultural informant?
- d. In what ways does a faith perspective differ from a secular perspective in addressing race relations? Is this helpful?
- e. In what ways, if any, did your actual experience differ from what you thought this experience would be like? Explain.
- f. What steps will you take to further your cross-cultural experience and deepen your cultural knowledge?

10. **Turn in all materials to your faculty advisor** listed on your independent study contract by the last day of exams for the semester or interim in which you want your credit applied.