I. OBJECTIVES

A number of recent developments have created what perhaps are the most perplexing and unfathomable, and at the same time exciting and rich in opportunity, market conditions that both marketers and consumers worldwide have ever faced. The much-abused term “globalization” does not really refer to a new phenomenon. Nations, empires, and city-states, their rulers and citizens and businesses – they all have sought to expand to new environments ever since the Phoenicians, Greeks, Assyrians, Chinese, Romans, and other ancient peoples, with each expansion bringing both conflict and greater understanding between and among those involved. But the pace of globalization today, facilitated as it is by advances in communications and transportation, greater mobility and rising incomes, and the overall progress of science and knowledge, are unprecedented. At the same time, the same factors coupled with phenomena such as migration, regionalism, the rise in education levels, and the relative decline of the “nation-state”, have brought about fragmentation, factionalism, as well as Creolization.

Consumers today do not just “buy” products – they communicate through them, they use them to express their value systems and to build or underscore their identities – in short, they use them in ways far more complex than ever before. Three main schools of thought have emerged to explain today’s “global” markets – convergence (we are all becoming more alike), divergence (the more technical global barriers fall, the more we focus on expressing our local identities), and eclecticism (some combination of the two, depending on the case).

Against the above, the main objective of this course is to develop a managerial understanding of international buyer behaviour. The course builds on the basics of consumer behaviour and related fields (e.g., ethnography, cultural anthropology), and focuses on consumption in the context of culture, ethnicity, and multi-cultural buyers, on global acculturation and diversity, and on the effects of the emerging “new consumer” on marketing strategy. This course will hopefully be challenging, fun, and interesting, but it will not be easy since it deals with a brand-new field that
is little understood – success depends in “getting involved” throughout, individualized learning, and a very, very open mind willing to strike out at new and untried directions.

II. COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION & PREREQUISITES

Behaviour of end-consumers, business and government buyers, and investors in the international context. National, cross-national, and subnational segments and behaviour differences. Adaptation vs. standardisation strategies in the context of socio-psychological, legal, technological, international procurement rules, and other constraints and opportunities.

Third-year standing in B. Com or B.I. B; BUSI 2204 OR BUSI 2208; and BUSI 2702 or BUSI 3703. The School of Business enforces all prerequisites.

III. READING MATERIALS


Additional suggested readings: See section IV.3. below and Appendix.

Note: Having simply “taken” the prerequisites for this course is not enough – the operating assumption is that students taking it actually know the relevant material. If you have any doubt that your working knowledge is substantive and current, an additional reading requirement due on Session 2 is: “Know prerequisite content.”

IV. METHOD AND EVALUATION

- See “Summary of Evaluation” later in this section for due dates and marking weights. The due dates are also shown in section V. Class Schedule.

1. Class Participation (CP)
CP is the classroom equivalent to professionals’ participation in meetings. It is an important part of success in this course and is a specific assignment, not an option. Effective participation means (a) active, (b) substantive, and (c) continuous contribution. In other words, occasional nonsubstantive comments or questions will not meet the requirements of this assignment. Performance is assessed by the instructor based on each participant's contribution, which may take the form, among others, of raising or answering questions, offering comments, enriching the class with relevant items of interest from the media or personal experiences, taking part in brief in-class and/or take-home quizzes, cases, or other exercises, and overall effort throughout the term. To participate, one has to be in class; so, while there is no specific requirement for attendance, it also affects the CP evaluation.

2. Two in-class tests
These tests will help consolidate the knowledge that you acquire during the course. The format will be short essay and each test will take one hour. The test in which you achieve the higher mark will be weighed higher than the other in the evaluation plan (see below).

3. “Understanding the impact of culture” project (UICP)
The purpose of this project is to gain a better understanding of the role of culture in international buyer behaviour, by writing a short paper that will enable you to: (a) focus on a subject of your
choice within the overall field; (b) learn about your chosen topic by drawing information from a number of cognate disciplines, so that you can broaden the perspective offered by the assigned text; and (c) learn about the impact of culture on specific aspects of the consumer behavior domain. The specific requirements are:

- The assignment will be handled on a team basis (team size tbd).
- The title of each team’s paper will be “Culture and Buyer Behaviour: The impact on “XYZ”, where “xyz” will stand for the specific behavioral aspect you chose. Sample focus areas for defining “xyz” may be found in the Appendix A. Topic selections must be pre-cleared with me.

  Content: Within the chosen topic, the focus will normally be on explaining the type of impact culture exercises on the buyer behavior regarding the specific aspect you chose. Theoretical explanations as well as real examples are welcomed. Please write the paper (essay) following the APA style.

- Each team must submit a paper summarizing its research on the chosen topic. The paper must be submitted both in hard copy and by email. It must be no longer than ten (10) pages (single space) plus appendices and references, and must be based on a bibliography containing a minimum of two (2) articles from academic journals per team member. Of the total number of articles, up to one-half may be drawn from those in Appendix A; the remainder must be identified by the team members based on a search of the literature.
- Each team must also do a formal presentation in class during a session dedicated to this purpose.
- Please see the Appendix A for suggested sources for this assignment.

4. “ICB analysis” project (ICB)
The main objective of this project is to demonstrate the link among cultural values and products/services consumption. These are the guidelines:

- The assignment will be handled on a team basis (team size = 5). Each group must decide which type of products and services consider for the project.
- Projects will normally be based on secondary information culled from online or hard-copy resources such as databases, country profiles, magazine or academic articles, and books (for example, EIU reports, Nielsen reports, etc.).
- Cultural values do not only refer to Hofstede’s 6-dimension model, but you can also use the 9-dimension of the GLOBE project, Schwartz 7-dimensions, or any other for which you find the corresponding scores.
- Please keep in mind that income is probably an intervening variable that in many cases may explain why people consume certain types of products. Therefore, if you are analyzing countries with significant differences in income, then it might be possible that you will not find significant relationships between consumption and cultural values.
- You can use correlations and regressions to explain how cultural values are linked with products/services consumption.
- In order to find relationships you must have data that shows consumption at a very specific type of product. For instance, if you are analyzing liquor consumption probably no relationship will be find because you are mixing too many different types of liquors together. In such a case it would be much better to look for specific types of liquor (i.e. Whisky, vodka, brandy, tequila, etc).
- Probably you will find much more rewarding to work with set of countries that have similar income levels, so any difference in consumption may be attributed to cultural values.
- If you decide to run multiple regressions, where consumption is the dependent variable and cultural values are independent variables, then do not forget to include income also as an independent variable just in case it captures some of the variance on the dependent variable.
- Both correlations and regressions to be considered significant must have a p-value lower than 0.05.
- Be aware of potential spurious relationships. These are statistically significant relationships but you cannot make sense of the relationship based on theoretical grounds.
- If you have had difficulties in finding significant relationships, please try to replicate the relationships reported in the textbook but with more recent data.
- Once you have found a relationship that your group can explain theoretically, then it would be nice to support that with a TV commercial or a printed ad as an example. This should include an in-depth analysis of the chosen product category with two broad themes in mind: “what makes these buyers unique, different from, or similar to, others” and “what must a manager know as a precondition for marketing successfully that product category in international markets”.
- Each team must submit a written report. Your report for this project should not have more than 20 pages (double space) excluding appendices and list of references.
- For every table, graph, figure, etc., that your group elaborate for this project must have the proper source and the year of the data.
- The time allocated for each group presentation will be 20 minutes.

### Summary of Assignments and Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Session due</th>
<th>% of grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two in-class tests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Understanding Impact of Culture”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>project</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team paper</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“ICB analysis” project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team presentation</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team written report</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>throughout</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Important Notes on Assignments and Evaluation

a. All page limits specified in this outline are “hard” and non-negotiable; in other words, aim for the upper limit in each case (e.g., a 3-page submission for an assignment with a 10-page limit will be judged as insufficient) but do not exceed it. Material beyond the stated limit will not be read and the remaining submission will be judged on its merits. For fairness and comparability, all take-home written work must be submitted typed, on letter-size paper, with 2.5 cm margins all-round, in Times-Roman 12.

b. In addition to content, all written work will be graded for grammar, spelling, writing style, and organization and presentation of the material. Cheating, plagiarism, and other instructional
offences are not tolerated and can have severe penalties (please see the University’s statement on plagiarism below).

c. For the in-class tests, you can bring a single sheet of letter-sized paper with handwritten notes on one side only providing they can be read without magnification tools (No photocopies are allowed)
d. The group ICB presentations will be evaluated 50/50 by the class and the instructor.
e. In case you think your group members have contributed unequally during the term to the 2 projects, you must submit, by Session 12, an independent evaluation of each team member’s (including self) contribution to the UICP and ICB projects, on a form that I will supply. If the mean mark given a student by his/her colleagues is at considerable variance (lower or higher) from his/her marks for other class work (tests, CP), then his/her team project marks will be adjusted accordingly.
g. All assignments are normally marked and returned in-class one week after submission, and, in case a student is absent when an assignment is returned, are available for pick-up thereafter during office hours.
h. Supplemental and grade raising examinations are not available in this course.
i. Deadline extensions will not be granted, late assignments will not be accepted, and missed tests will not be rescheduled except for university-approved reasons (e.g., on medical grounds and with appropriate documentation).
j. The above evaluation plan may have to be changed if changing class conditions so warrant.

V. CLASS SCHEDULE

This schedule may be modified depending on the level of interest in the subjects to be discussed. It is each participant’s responsibility to keep up to date with the overall progress of the course as the term unfolds, and with any specific changes announced in class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Text chapter</th>
<th>Assignments*</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07.01.20</td>
<td>Course introduction and overview</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Form teams</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Select UICP &amp; ICB topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.01.20</td>
<td>Values and culture</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.01.20</td>
<td>Values and culture</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>28.01.20</td>
<td>Convergence and divergence in CB</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>04.02.20</td>
<td>Focus on consumer attributes</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>UICP papers due</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.02.20</td>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>1 – 4</td>
<td>In-class test 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.02.20</td>
<td>Focus on social processes</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.03.20</td>
<td>Focus on psychological processes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.03.20</td>
<td>Dimensions of consumer behaviour</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.03.20</td>
<td>Application to Marketing and Advertising Summary and advice for the final project</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.03.20</td>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>1 - 8</td>
<td>In-class test 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>31.03.20</td>
<td>Students’ Presentations</td>
<td>1 - 8</td>
<td>ICB presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ICB papers due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Course Sharing Websites
Materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Required calculator in BUSI course examinations
If you are purchasing a calculator, we recommend any one of the following options: Texas Instruments BA II Plus (including Pro Model), Hewlett Packard HP 12C (including Platinum model), Staples Financial Calculator, Sharp EL-738C & Hewlett Packard HP 10bII

Group work
The Sprott School of Business encourages group assignments in the school for several reasons. They provide you with opportunities to develop and enhance interpersonal, communication, leadership, follower-ship and other group skills. Group assignments are also good for learning integrative skills for putting together a complex task. Your professor may assign one or more group tasks/assignments/projects in this course. Before embarking on a specific problem as a group, it is your responsibility to ensure that the problem is meant to be a group assignment and not an individual one.

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p 34), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:
- A+ = 90-100
- A  = 85-89
- A - = 80-84
- B+ = 77-79
- B  = 73-76
- B - = 70-72
- C+ = 67-69
- C  = 63-66
- C - = 60-62
- D+ = 57-59
- D  = 53-56
- D - = 50-52
- F    = Below 50

Grades entered by Registrar:
- WDN = Withdrawn from the course
- DEF = Deferred

Academic Regulations
University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university’s website, here:
http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/

Requests for Academic Accommodation
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.
For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Academic Integrity
Violations of academic integrity are a serious academic offence. Violations of academic integrity – presenting another’s ideas, arguments, words or images as your own, using unauthorized material, misrepresentation, fabricating or misrepresenting research data, unauthorized cooperation or collaboration or completing work for another student – weaken the quality of the degree and will not be tolerated. Penalties may include; a grade of Failure on the submitted work and/or course; academic probation; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; suspension from full-time studies; suspension from all studies at Carleton; expulsion from Carleton, amongst others. Students are expected to familiarize
themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy which is available, along with resources for compliance at: https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/.

**Sprott Student Services**
The Sprott student services office, located in 710 Dunton Tower, offers academic advising, study skills advising, and overall academic success support. If you are having a difficult time with this course or others, or just need some guidance on how to successfully complete your Sprott degree, please drop in any weekday between 8:30am and 4:30pm. Our advisors are happy to discuss grades, course selection, tutoring, concentrations, and will ensure that you get connected with the resources you need to succeed! [http://sprott.carleton.ca/students/undergraduate/learning-support/](http://sprott.carleton.ca/students/undergraduate/learning-support/)

**Centre for Student Academic Support**
The Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS) is a centralized collection of learning support services designed to help students achieve their goals and improve their learning both inside and outside the classroom. CSAS offers academic assistance with course content, academic writing and skills development. Visit CSAS on the 4th floor of MacOdrum Library or online at: carleton.ca/csas.

**Important Information:**
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- All final grades are subject to the Dean’s approval.
- For us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid CARLETON address. Therefore, in order to respond to your inquiries, please send all email from your Carleton CMail account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting [https://carleton.ca/its/get-started/new-students-2/](https://carleton.ca/its/get-started/new-students-2/)
APPENDIX “A”
International Buyer Behaviour – BUSI 3705

SAMPLE SOURCES FOR THE UICP

Articles in Peer-reviewed Academic Journals
(All journals cited are available online via the Carleton University library.)
(There is considerable overlap among the categories below – articles in one may fit others too.)

Acculturation

Consumer Animosity


**Consumer Cosmopolitanism**


**Consumer Ethnocentrism**


**Consumer Xenocentrism**


**Consumer Patriotism**


**Cultural Distance**


Culture and Advertising


Culture and Emotions


Culture and Family Decision Making

Culture and the Global Consumer


**Culture and Impulsive Behavior**


**Culture and Personality**


Culture and Time