

PSYC14: Syllabus

Cross-Cultural Social Psychology

Course

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Class Time and Location: Thursdays 2-4pm , Science Research Building SY110

Blackboard: <https://portal.utoronto.ca/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

Instructor

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Teaching Assistant

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Course Description, Goals, and Objectives

The cultural experience is a powerful and universal phenomenon, guiding the ways in which we think, how we feel, and what we do in social interactions. Surprisingly, culture itself often goes unnoticed or even ignored. It is not until we are in unfamiliar territory – where others act differently, talk differently, think differently, and even feel differently – that we become aware of our own culture and the striking cultural differences.

The course provides an introduction to theory and research in cultural and cross-cultural psychology. It covers topics including (1) the acquisition of cultural meaning, (2) the development and maintenance of ethnic and cultural identity, (3) the negotiation of multiple cultural identities, (4) the cognitive, affective, and motivational processes across various cultures, (5) the influence of globalization on changing cultures, and (6) the implications of social policy and intervention.

The ***general goals and objectives*** of the course are to help students:

- Learn and gain mastery over basic facts, research findings, terminology, principles, and theories important in various areas of cultural and cross-cultural psychology.
- Gain a basic understanding of
 - **Theoretical Perspectives** – major ideas and frameworks that have guided research on culture: psychological, sociocultural, and anthropological perspectives.
 - **Learning and Acquisition of Culture** – language, play, social structure, socialization, and other processes of culture development
 - **Cultural Differences and Similarities** – cross-cultural examination of cognitions, emotions, motivations, and values.
 - **Changing Communities** – effects of globalization, acculturation, enculturation, and adaptation among diverse communities.
 - **Health and Intervention** – diversity training programs and health implications for inter- and intra-ethnic conflict and distress
- Practice and develop critical thinking skills, written and oral communications skills.
- Analyze current issues and controversies in the field of cultural psychology.
- Find ways to apply psychological findings to everyday life.

Course objectives may be obtained through reading and studying the course textbook and supplemental readings, through satisfactory completion of assignments, and by attention to and active participation in classroom lectures, discussions, and activities.

Required Readings

- Heine, S. J. (2008). *Cultural Psychology*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Co.
- All supplemental materials will be provided for you on Blackboard.

In the course outline, all chapters from *Cultural Psychology* will be referred to as “Chap-” followed by the corresponding chapter and all supplemental readings will be referred to as “Supp-“ followed by the corresponding reading from Blackboard.

Exams

There will be 3 exams throughout the course. The first exam will cover the first part, the second exam will cover the second part, and the third exam (not cumulative) will cover the last part. The exams will cover material from the textbook, supplemental readings, as well as class lectures and discussions. Each exam will contain multiple choice and short answer items, and each is worth 100 points. Exams are to be taken when scheduled. Make-up exams will only be given in cases of 1) illness and 2) emergencies. Make-up exams will be given only if I am contacted before the exam is given (unless completely incapacitated). Further, you must be able to produce a written excuse from a responsible party, such as a doctor or a lawyer. In the case of illness, a UTSC medical form must be signed and submitted to me. Excuses from mothers, fathers, friends or roommates will not be accepted.

If the need for a make-up exam should arise, the student may take a cumulative final exam during finals week to make up for the missed exam. The mark for the cumulative exam will count twice (for the missed exam and also for the third exam).

Disabilities

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities who are registered with AccessAbility Services. Students who register and utilize the AccessAbility services will not be identified on their transcript as receiving accommodations. Information disclosed to the service is confidential and is disclosed only with the student's permission. Students in need of disability accommodations should schedule an appointment with me early in the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations for the course. Talking with me well in advance is always better. There is little to nothing that I can do for you *after* an exam or *after* an assignment is due.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University of Toronto's *Code of Behavior on Academic Matters* outlines the behaviors that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

Scholastic Dishonesty: Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

In this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, please don't hesitate to ask me.

Course Evaluation

Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
Total	300 points

Grade	Point Value	Percentage	Definition
A+	269 to 300	90-100	Excellent
A	254 to 268	85-89	
A-	239 to 253	80-84	
B+	230 to 238	77-79	Good
B	218 to 229	73-76	
B-	209 to 217	70-72	
C+	200 to 208	67-69	Adequate
C	188 to 199	63-66	
C-	179 to 187	60-62	
D+	170 to 178	57-59	Marginal
D	158 to 169	53-56	
D-	149 to 157	50-52	
F	0 to 148	0-49	Inadequate

Course Calendar

Date	Deadlines	Chp	Topic
Sep-08 Sep-15 Sep-22 Sep-29	Autobio Due	Chap-1 Chap-2, Supp-1 Chap-4, Supp-2 Chap-3	Interweaving Psychology and Culture Evolutionary Bases of Culture Development and Socialization Methods of Cultural Psychology
Oct-06	Exam 1		
Oct-13 Oct-20 Oct-27		Chap-5 & 6, Supp-3 Chap-7 & 8 Chap-9	Culture, Personality and Social Identity Culture, Morality, and Emotions Cultural Psych of Cognition and Perception
Nov-03	Exam 2		
Nov-10 Nov-17 Nov-24		Chap-10, Supp-4 Chap-11 Chap-12, Supp-5	Culture, Subjective Well-Being, and Health Social Relationships and Social Structure Living in Multicultural Worlds
Finals	Exam 3 (not cumulative)		