

**Current Topics in Abnormal Psychology:  
Cultural-Clinical Psychology**  
(PSYD33H3 F LEC02)

Fall 2013 Course Syllabus

**Instructor:** Jessica Dere, Ph.D., C. Psych.

**Class Time and Location:** Mondays, 1:00-3:00pm in Management Wing, Room 223

**Office Hours and Location:** Thursdays, 2:00-4:00 in Science Wing, Room 521

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**Office Phone:** (416) 208-2999

*\*\* Please note: Course announcements will generally be made through Blackboard. Students are responsible for monitoring the course website regularly for important announcements and updates. Class emails will also be sent through Blackboard; please make sure your listed email address is correct. \*\**

**Prerequisite:** PSYB32H3 plus one C-level half-credit in PSY

**Required Readings:** Required readings for this course will be made up of journal articles and book chapters; these will largely consist of recent scholarly work in the field, but will also include some seminal articles. All required readings will be made available online through Blackboard, via a Libguide designed specifically for this course, which can be found under Course Readings in the Blackboard menu. The readings are organized in the Course Readings Guide by week. If you run into any problems, please contact our Liaison Librarian, Kate Johnson, at [kjohnson@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:kjohnson@utsc.utoronto.ca).

**Additional Material:** Supplemental readings and/or other course material will also be placed on the Blackboard course page over the course of the semester, to complement the required readings and material discussed in class. These materials are likely to serve as valuable resources when preparing course assignments.

**Course description:** This course will provide students with an in-depth introduction to the field of cultural-clinical psychology. We will examine recent empirical efforts to address the complex interactions between cultural factors and psychopathology, incorporating an interdisciplinary perspective. Students will be asked to engage with both seminal works in the field, as well as cutting-edge lines of research. The overarching aim is to gain an increased understanding of the multifaceted inter-play between culture and mental health, with a focus on implications for the study and treatment of psychopathology.

**Learning objectives:** At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to ...

1. Discuss the development of the field of cultural-clinical psychology, and its connection to other disciplines concerned with issues of culture and mental health

2. Describe several fundamental ways in which the examination of cultural factors is crucial to the study of psychopathology, with reference to relevant examples from the empirical literature
3. Critically analyze empirical work in this field, and clearly communicate their understanding of and ideas about recent research relevant to cultural-clinical psychology
4. Conduct a careful literature search and review on a chosen topic in the area of cultural-clinical psychology, and select appropriate sources in the creation of an annotated bibliography
5. Independently develop a proposed research study grounded in recent empirical work on a chosen topic within cultural-clinical psychology, and clearly communicate the proposed research idea in written assignments and a final research paper

### **Important dates:**

September 9: First class

September 23:  $\frac{1}{2}$  **Page proposal due**

September 30: Presentation topics and dates will be assigned in class

October 14: Reading week (Thanksgiving holiday)

October 21: **Annotated bibliography due**

November 4: **Structured 1-page outline due**

November 25: No class this week - Extra office hours will be offered

December 2: Final class, **Final paper due**

**Class structure:** The first five weeks of this course will be largely lecture-based, in order to provide a solid introduction to the area of cultural-clinical psychology. We will cover several fundamental topics in the interdisciplinary area of culture and mental health, with lectures being supplemented by video and other multi-media materials. Though these classes will include a lecture component, student discussion and debate will also be strongly encouraged.

Following reading week, the course structure will shift, with a greater emphasis on student-led discussion. Each week will focus on an overarching topic (e.g, depression, anxiety), and the class will begin with approximately five student presentations of 10-12 minutes. Each student will present a recent empirical article that addresses cultural-clinical questions that fit within that week's broad topic. Following the individual student presentations, the class will engage in a wider discussion of the week's topic, guided by the themes and questions raised by the student presentations.

**Class schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment notes</b>
September 9	Introduction to the course	
September 16	Introduction to cultural-clinical psychology Culture and emotion	<u>In-class quiz</u>
September 23	Culture and symptoms	<u>In-class quiz</u> * ½ Page proposal due *
September 30	Culture and diagnosis	<u>In-class quiz</u> <i>Presentation topics and dates to be assigned</i>
October 7	Culture and treatment	<u>In-class quiz</u>
READING WEEK		
October 21	Student presentations and group discussion: Topic TBA	* Annotated bibliography due *
October 28	Student presentations and group discussion: Topic TBA	
November 4	Student presentations and group discussion: Topic TBA	* Structured 1-page outline due *
November 11	Student presentations and group discussion: Topic TBA	
November 18	Student presentations and group discussion: Topic TBA	
November 25	* NO CLASS * Extra office hours to be offered	
December 2	Synthesis and future directions	* Final papers due *

*Please note:* The class schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

## **Evaluation:**

### Participation:

- Course participation: 5%
- In-class quizzes: 5%

### Assignments:

- ½ page proposal: 5%
- Annotated bibliography: 15%
- Structured 1-page outline: 15%
- Presentation: 15%
- Final paper: 40%

**Course participation:** The aim of a seminar course is to promote discussion and debate amongst the group, as a means of enriching our understanding of and engagement with the course material. Students are encouraged and expected to constructively contribute to class discussions, and to share their own reflections and insights about the course content. Developing the skills to effectively communicate one's questions and ideas about complex topics is a crucial part of one's academic development. I recognize, however, that in-class participation may be more challenging for certain students. Therefore, I will also recognize active participation in the online discussion forum(s) on Blackboard outside of class time as a form of course participation.

**In-class quizzes:** There will be brief quizzes at the beginning of class during the weeks prior to reading week (a total of four quizzes). These quizzes will consist of a few short answer questions designed to assess your comprehension of that week's assigned readings. These quizzes will take place during the first 15 minutes of class. **If you are late or absent from class in a given week, you will NOT be able to write a make-up quiz, and will be assigned a grade of zero for that week's quiz.**

### **Written Assignments:**

1. ½ Page proposal
2. Annotated bibliography
3. Structured 1-page outline
4. Final paper

The major assignment for this course is a final research paper on a topic that falls within the general area of cultural-clinical psychology; this paper should be approximately **12-pages** in length, excluding the reference list. Students will be asked to formulate a proposed research study based on a critical review of the literature to date on their chosen topic. Several course assignments are designed to help support and structure your work towards this final paper over the course of the semester. Specific details for each of these assignments will be discussed in class and posted on Blackboard.

Formatting: Papers **must** follow the American Psychological Association (APA) formatting and citation style guidelines (6<sup>th</sup> edition). Papers must be double-spaced and use a highly readable 12-

point font such as Times New Roman. Further details, as well as library resources to help support correct formatting, will be discussed in class.

**Presentation:** Students will be asked to each present **one recent empirical article** in the area of cultural-clinical psychology. These presentations will take place during the five weeks following reading week, and will be **10-12 minutes** in length. Students are asked to prepare PowerPoint slides for their presentation. Each week will have an overarching topic (e.g., depression), and students must choose an article that fits within the broad topic. The focus of the selected article must not be directly relevant to the student's chosen topic for their final paper. The presentations will then be followed by a class discussion of the week's topic, based upon the themes and findings highlighted in the student presentations. Additional details regarding the requirements and evaluation of the presentation, as well as the procedure for article selection, will be provided in class. **Presentation topics and dates will be assigned during class time on September 30<sup>th</sup>.** Students absent on that date will be informed of their presentation topic and date via email.

### **Policies for Assignments in this Course:**

**Submission:** All assignments are due by **11:59pm EST on their due date**. The ½ page proposal, annotated bibliography, and structured 1-page outline are to be submitted through Blackboard. The final paper is to be submitted as a Turnitin.com assignment, using the Blackboard portal.

**Statement regarding Turnitin.com:** Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

**Late assignments:** Unless you have legitimate documentation for a late assignment, 10% of the total value of the assignment will be deducted for each day that it is late. An assignment is considered late as soon as the due date and time passes (i.e., one minute past 11:59 EST), so you are strongly encouraged to submit your assignments early in order to avoid any technical delays. Difficulties with the Blackboard portal will not be accepted as a legitimate reason for a late assignment. If you have legitimate documentation to explain your late assignment (e.g., a UTSC Medical Certificate completed by your doctor), you must contact Dr. Dere as soon as possible to discuss your situation and to establish a new deadline for your assignment.

**Missed presentations:** Students who are absent on their assigned presentation date without legitimate documentation will receive a mark of zero for their presentation. If you have legitimate documentation to explain your inability to present on your assigned date, you must contact Dr. Dere as soon as possible to discuss alternative arrangements.

The form for medical documentation can be found at the following link:

[http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/resources/pdf\\_general/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf](http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/resources/pdf_general/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf)

**\* Please Note: The UTSC Medical Certificate must be signed by a registered member in good standing with the *College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario*.\***

### **Rights and Responsibilities**

#### **Copyright in Instructional Settings:**

If a student wishes to tape-record, photograph, video-record or otherwise reproduce lectures, course notes/slides, or other similar materials provided by instructors, he or she must obtain the instructor's written consent beforehand. Without consent, all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is absolutely prohibited. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent will not be unreasonably withheld.

#### **Accessibility:**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or [ability@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:ability@utsc.utoronto.ca).

#### **The Writing Centre:**

Your performance in this class will depend in large part upon your ability to communicate clearly and effectively. The Writing Centre supports student learning at any stage in the writing process, from planning an outline to polishing a final draft. Their services include online resources, drop-in hours, one-on-one consultations, and writing workshops. Additional information can be found at: <http://ctl.utsc.utoronto.ca/twc/main>

#### **Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

##### *In papers and assignments:*

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

##### *On tests and exams:*

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
- Misrepresenting your identity.

*In academic work:*

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/>).

### **Grade Scale:**

NUMERICAL MARKS	LETTER GRADE	GRADE POINT VALUE
90 - 100%	A+	4.0
85 - 89%	A	4.0
80 - 84%	A-	3.7
77 - 79%	B+	3.3
73 - 76%	B	3.0
70 - 72%	B-	2.7
67 - 69%	C+	2.3
63 - 66%	C	2.0
60 - 62%	C-	1.7
57 - 59%	D+	1.3
53 - 56%	D	1.0
50 - 52%	D-	0.7
0 - 49%	F	0.0

### **Additional information**

**Some important dates for Fall 2013 semester** (from UTSC Course Calendar):

September 16: Last day to add F and Y courses

November 18: Last day to drop F courses without academic penalty and have them removed from the transcript

December 2: Last day of classes and last day for submission of term assignments in F courses

December 3 - 5: Study break

December 5: Last day to drop UTSC F courses (on eService only) and have them remain on the transcript with a grade of LWD indicating withdrawal without academic penalty

December 6 - 20: Final examination period