



# CROSS-CULTURAL SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

## PSYC14H3S LEC02

### The Basics:

**Course name:** PSYC14H3: Cross-Cultural Social Psychology

**Course meeting:** Fridays from 9am – 11am, SY110

**Prerequisites:** PSYB10H3, one of PSYB07H3 or STAB22H3 or STAB23H3, and an additional 0.5 credit B-level PSY course


### Course Description:

Everyone is born into a culture and subsequently our cultural context shapes our thoughts, emotions, and how we interact with others. Despite the powerful effect of culture to shape fundamental aspects of who we are it often goes unnoticed or is even ignored. It is not until we are faced with a different cultural context – where other people think, feel, and act differently – that we become aware of how we've been shaped by our own culture. This course will provide an introduction to theory and research in the field of cultural and cross-cultural psychology. The goals of the course are to help students:

- Gain insight into the central research findings, terminology, principles, and theories in the area of cultural and cross-cultural psychology. These include:
  - Major psychological ideas and frameworks that guide research into cultural psychology
  - How culture is acquired
  - Cultural differences and similarities
  - How and when cultures change
- Practice and develop critical thinking skills
- Gain insight into current controversies in cultural psychology
- Reflect on how culture has shaped your own thoughts, feelings, and actions

### Your Teaching Team:

<b>Course Instructor: Jeffrey Robinson, PhD</b>	
	<b>Email:</b> jeff.robinson@mail.utoronto.ca

	<b>Office hours:</b> Fridays 11am-12pm
	<b>Office hours location:</b> SW132-E
	<b>Website:</b> jeffreyseanrobinson.com
<b>Teaching Assistants</b>	
<b>Nicole Cosentino</b>	<b>Contact:</b> Quercus Discussion Boards
<b>Shauna Solomon-Krakus</b>	<b>Contact:</b> Quercus Discussion Boards

<b>PSYC14: COURSE SCHEDULE</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
January 10, 2020	Course Introduction and What is “Culture”?	None
January 17, 2020	Methods of Cultural Psychology	Ch. 4
January 24, 2020	Interweaving Psychology and Culture <b>DUE:</b> REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT #1	Ch. 1 & 2
January 31, 2020	Evolutionary Bases of Culture	Ch. 3
February 7, 2020	<b>MIDTERM #1 (IN CLASS)</b>	None
February 14, 2020	Development and Socialization <b>DUE:</b> REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT #2	Ch. 5
February 21, 2020	<b>READING WEEK (NO CLASS)</b>	None
February 28, 2020	Culture, Identity, & Social Relations <b>DUE:</b> REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT #3	Ch. 6 & 7
March 6, 2020	Culture and Emotions	Ch. 10
March 13, 2020	Culture, Cognition and Perception <b>DUE:</b> REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT #4	Ch. 9
March 20, 2020	<b>MIDTERM #2 (IN CLASS)</b>	None
March 27, 2020	Culture and Motivation	Ch. 8
April 3, 2020	Culture & Morality	Ch. 12
TBD	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	N/A

## Required Readings:

**Textbook:** Heine, S.J. (2016). *Cultural Psychology. Third Edition.* W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. (Available for purchase through the University of Toronto [bookstore](#)).

- **Lectures will build on material presented in the assigned readings. It is therefore recommended that you complete the assigned readings prior to the corresponding lecture.**

## Course Evaluation:

**Tests and Exams:** This course will include two midterm tests that will take place in class and a *cumulative* final exam that will take place during the final exam period. Each term test will be worth 20% of your final grade. The final exam will be worth 35% of your final grade. Tests and exams will consist of between 40-50 multiple choice questions. Please note that the final exam will be cumulative but will have more questions regarding material that has yet to be tested.

**Reflection Assignments:** In addition to the exams you will be asked to complete four reflection assignments over the course of the term. The student's average grade across these four assignments will make up 25% of their final grade. These questions will provide you with the opportunity to apply the information you have learned. Questions and due dates are provided in the table below. **Your job is to produce a 500 to 750 word essay (excluding references) that answers my question..** Essays should conform to APA-format however there is no need to include a title page. While no additional research will be required to complete these assignments, students who wish to include additional research in their essays are free to do so.

To grade these assignments myself or the teaching assistant(s) will answer three questions; 1) Does the student's answer demonstrate a strong understanding of the relevant concept, 2) Has the student applied the concept correctly, and 3) Is the student's answer well-written (free of spelling / grammar errors, free of awkward sentences, has used APA format correctly)? Each of these statements will be rated on a 5-point scale (1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree). Assignments handed in late will be levied with a 5% penalty and will accrue an additional 5% penalty being every 24 hours after the original due date (including weekends).

Assignment	Reflection Question	Due Date
Reflection #1	"Operationalization is particularly difficult when conducting cross-cultural research. Think about a specific variable you would be interested in researching across cultures. How would you make sure your variable is being understood in the same way in both cultures?"	January 24 @11:59PM
Reflection #2	"In lecture Dr. Robinson discussed features that make information more likely to be transmitted (arousal, moral-emotions) to subsequent generations. Thinking about your own experience what is another feature that information could have that would make it more likely to be transmitted? Justify why do you think this specific feature of information increases the likelihood of transmission.	February 14 @11:59PM
Reflection #3	"In lecture Dr. Robinson discussed how early experience shapes children's attention, thinking about objects, and possibly emotional expression and how these early experiences can contribute to cross-cultural differences. Describe another early childhood experience that differs across cultures and describe how you think these different	February 28 @11:59PM

	experiences could contribute to the emergence of a cross-cultural difference."	
Reflection #4	"As described in lecture, culture influences the emotions we experience and express through the types of appraisals we make and the display rules that indicate when certain forms of expression are permitted. Think about a time in your life when your emotional reaction was altered or limited in order to comply with your cultures display rules. What emotion were you experience during this situation? In the end, did having to alter your emotional expression contribute positively or negatively to your personal well-being?"	March 13 @11:59PM

While accommodation will be given to students who experience a legitimate reason for not being able to complete an assignment. The following reasons will not be accepted for failing to complete an assignment:

#### **INVALID EXCUSES:**

- Issues with your personal computer/connection (you are expected to use a UTSC computer if this occurs)
- Personal travel
- Confusion about deadlines or instructions
- Slow connections at the last minute (submit your assignments at least an hour before they are due)
- Technical issues reported AFTER the deadline for an assignment

**Note:** If you are experiencing an ongoing health issue that is affecting your ability to complete your schoolwork, you should consider visiting AccessAbility Services to explore your options.

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES:**

- If there is a system-wide issue with any of our course activities, we will post an announcement.
- If you are personally experiencing a technical issue with one of our systems, we recommend trying a different browser or a different computer. If it is still not working, you are expected to come to campus and use one of the machines here. The computer labs on campus work reliably with our software so we do not accept the excuse that your personal computer was not working, or you were experiencing issues with your internet connection.
- If you have tried all this and are still experiencing issues, you need to document it. Take screenshots or videos and email Dr. Robinson right away (BEFORE the assignment deadline).
- You are expected to back up your written assignments as you work on them. We do not accept the excuse that one of our systems failed to save your work. Submit your assignments at least an hour before they are due, to avoid slow connections at the last minute. If you are experiencing technical issues, email your assignment to the course account before the deadline.
- Technical issues need be reported BEFORE an assignment is due. Any problems reported after a deadline will not be accommodated.

## **Getting Answers to Your Questions:**

Over the course of the semester you may encounter a personal matter that requires you to get in touch with Dr. Robinson. If this is the case, please don't hesitate to send Dr. Robinson an email.

During the semester it is also likely that you'll need to get clarification on a topic covered in lecture or the readings or something about the course itself (i.e. due dates). When dealing with these issues emailing Dr. Robinson and/or the Teaching Assistant **SHOULD BE A LAST RESORT**. Below are the steps you should take **BEFORE** emailing Dr. Robinson or your TA

- 1) **Read the Syllabus:** Answers to questions like "when is the first test?" are found in the syllabus.
- 2) **Go to the Source Material:** In lecture Dr. Robinson will cover a variety of different papers and studies. Lecture slides will always provide the reference for the material being discussed. If you didn't quite understand a specific study Dr. Robinson discussed use the reference, look up the article, and read it for yourself. See if you can answer your own question using the primary text.
- 3) **Discussion Boards:** On Quercus there will be a discussion board for general FAQ's as well as discussion boards for each lecture. All questions should be posted to the relevant discussion board. Dr. Robinson and the TA will be monitoring these boards closely and will answer questions that have been posted. Emails with content questions that have not been posted to the discussion board will be ignored.
- 4) **Office Hours:** Dr. Robinson will hold office hours from 11:00AM to 12:00PM in SW132-E (right after class). Take advantage of this opportunity to meet with Dr. Robinson directly and discuss your question(s).
- 5) **Email:** If you've completed all of these steps and you still require clarification then reach out to Dr. Robinson or your TA for guidance. Email messages must come from a "utoronto" account and must have PSYC14 in the subject line.

**Exam and Assignment Grades:** After the mid-term exam students may wish to review their answers to identify areas of improvement. Mid-term exams will be able to be reviewed during Dr. Robinson's office hours and any grade dispute will be handled directly by Dr. Robinson. To review the final exam students must petition the Registrar's office in order view their exam. Information regarding viewing your final exam can be found here and questions about this process should be directed to the Registrar's office: <https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/types-petitions>

Students who would like to discuss their reflection assignment should plan to attend office hours with Dr. Robinson prior to submitting their assignment. In addition, UTSC offers writing support. Information about these services can be found here: <http://www.utoronto.ca/eld/> and here: <https://www.utoronto.ca/twc/welcome>.

**Grades and Grade Disputes:** I take student evaluation very seriously and am guided by the goal of providing assignments, that help students further their understanding of course material while also building their analytic research skills, and tests that fairly evaluate a student's grasp of the material covered in lecture and the assigned readings. Please review the Arts and Science grading policy to understand what the grade you receive on an assignment or test means (<http://writing.utoronto.ca/advice/general/grading-policy>).

Grade disputes will be handled by Dr. Robinson personally. It should be noted that there are only three valid arguments that can be made in order to have a grade changed. **1)** A clerical error has been made, **2)** an error was made by either Dr. Robinson or the Teaching Assistant when grading the assignment, or **3)** there was something unfair about the assignment or test itself. Requests for grades to be altered must provide a clear explanation of which of these arguments applies to your particular case. Requests for grade changes for a reason not listed above will be ignored.

## **AccessAbility**

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](#) as soon as possible. AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm SW302, Science Wing) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. You can contact AccessAbility Services at 416-287-7560 or email [ability@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:ability@utsc.utoronto.ca). The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course. <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~ability/>

## **Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Emergency:**

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must submit their request for accommodations **within three (3) business days** of the deadline for the missed work.

Students must submit **BOTH** of the following:

- (1.) A completed **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), and
- (2.) **Appropriate documentation** to verify your illness or emergency, as described below.

### **Appropriate documentation:**

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to **ILLNESS**:

- Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with an **original** copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form ([uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form](http://uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form)) or an **original** copy of the record of visitation to a hospital emergency room. Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date,



and severity of illness. The physician's registration number and business stamp are required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **ILLNESS**:

- Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with a **hardcopy** of the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form ([uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form](http://uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form)).

For missed term tests or assignments in **OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES**:

Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with:

- In the case of a **death of a family member or friend**, please provide a copy of a death certificate.
- In the case of a **disability-related concern**, if your desired accommodation is within the scope of your Accommodation Letter, please attach a copy of your letter. If your desired accommodation is outside the scope of your Accommodation Letter (ex. if your letter says "extensions of up to 7 days" but you need more time than that) you will need to meet with your consultant at AccessAbility Services and have them email Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) detailing the accommodations required.
- For U of T Varsity **athletic commitments**, an email from your coach or varsity administrator should be sent directly to Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **well in advance** of the missed work, detailing the dates and nature of the commitment.
- For **religious accommodations**, please email ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **well in advance** of the missed work.

Documents covering the following situations are NOT acceptable: medical prescriptions, personal travel, weddings/personal/work commitments.

### **Procedure:**

Submit your (1.) [request form](#) and (2.) [medical/self-declaration](#)/other documents in person **WITHIN 3 BUSINESS DAYS** of the missed term test or assignment.

**Submit to:** Keely Hicks, Room SW420B, Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 4 PM

Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances. If you are unable to meet this deadline, you must email Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **within the three business day window** to explain when you will be able to bring your documents in person. Attach scans of your documentation.

Within approximately one week, you will receive an email response from your instructor detailing the accommodations to be made (if any). **You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical.**

Completion of this form does NOT guarantee that accommodations will be made. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

**Instructors cannot accept term work after August 6th, 2019.** Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar's Office to have your term work accepted (<https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>).

Note that this policy applies only to missed assignments and term tests. Missed final exams are handled by the Registrar's Office (<http://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>).

### **AccessAbility Accommodations: Additional Information**

If you are registered with the AccessAbility office to receive accommodations on papers, presentations, and/or assignments, I strongly encourage you to set up a meeting with me early in the term to go over your desired accommodations. You can access your Letters of Introduction through your online [myAIMS account](#). Once you are logged on, select the Accommodations tab. You will be able to view your Letters of Introduction and generate PDF copies for printing.

If you need to register for accommodations or need assistance, please go to the AccessAbility website: <https://www.utoronto.ca/~ability/index.html> and/or contact AccessAbility Services directly: Tel/TTY (416) 287-7560 or [ability@utoronto.ca](mailto:ability@utoronto.ca)

**Please note:** This course encourages participation in the form of in-class and online discussions, activities, and reflection assignments. If you have concerns about any of these elements of the course and how they can fit into your accommodation plan, please schedule an appointment with me as soon as possible (preferably in the first week or two of the term) so that we can discuss accommodation options.

## **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 outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

**Potential violations of academic integrity 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; and



- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing it.

**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 students have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, they are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from their instructors or from other institutional resources.