



CROSS-CULTURAL SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC14

The Basics:

Course name: PSYC14: Cross-Cultural Social Psychology

Course meeting: Mondays 7PM – 9PM; MW170


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. Subsequently our cultural context shapes how we think, how we feel, 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 introduces theory and research in the fields 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 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:

Course Instructor: Jeffrey Robinson, PhD, MA, RP (Qualifying)	
	<p>Email: jeff.robinson@mail.utoronto.ca or jeff@examinedlife.ca</p> <p>Office hours: By Appointment (Zoom)</p>
Teaching Assistants	
Prisca Obierfu	<p>Email: prisca.obierfu@utoronto.ca</p> <p>Office hours: By Appointment (Zoom)</p>
Lydia Jiang	<p>Email: lydia.jiang@mail.utoronto.ca</p> <p>Office hours: By Appointment (Zoom)</p>

Course Schedule:

A comprehensive list of lecture topics, assigned readings, and tests/exam dates can be found on the final page of this document.

Required Readings:

Textbook: Heine, S.J. (2016). Cultural Psychology. Fourth Edition. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. (Available for purchase through the University of Toronto bookstore; E-book version of the textbook can be rented or purchased here: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/culturalpsych4>).

- 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 Format:

In addition to the required reading, this course will consist of weekly lectures held on Mondays from 7-9PM in MW170. Students are encouraged to complete the assigned reading prior to lectures. Assessments will be completed online via Quercus.

Course Evaluation:

Term Tests: During the semester students will complete two, 2-hour term tests. Each term test will count for 30% of your final grade and will be completed online via Quercus. Term tests will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions (with each multiple-choice question worth 1-point and questions equally covering lecture and textbook content) and 1 essay question (worth a total of 20 points). For the essay portion of the term test students should expect to complete a 500–1000-word essay addressing the question that has been posed. Teaching assistants (TAs) will use the rubric found on the final page of this syllabus to grade each student’s essay. It would be wise to review this rubric prior to the term test

so that you know what is expected of you. **Term test #1 will take place on Monday October 3rd from 7pm to 9pm** and will cover readings and lecture material from weeks 1 through 3. **Term test #2 will take place on Monday, November 7th from 7PM to 9PM** and will cover readings and lecture material from weeks 5 through 7.

Students who miss a term test will be required to complete a make-up test once they have provided the necessary documentation (see below).

Term tests are closed book and students are asked NOT to consult lecture slides, notes, or video/audio recordings of lecture material during the test.

Final Exam: The final exam will take place during the exam period in December (the specific date and time will be announced later in the semester) and will be completed online via Quercus. The final exam will count for 40% of your final grade and be the same format as the term tests (2 hours long, 25 multiple-choice questions, and 1 essay question). However, unlike the term tests the final exam will be cumulative, covering readings and lecture material from weeks 1 through 12. The questions on the final exam will place an emphasis on material that was not evaluated on the previous term tests (i.e., material from weeks 9 through 12). TAs will evaluate students' essays using the same rubric used to evaluate that term test essays.

The final exam is closed book and students are asked NOT to consult lecture slides, notes, or video/audio recordings of lecture material during the exam.

Disability-Related Accommodations

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 (<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/ability/>) as soon as possible.

AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm AA142, Arts and Administration Building) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. Please contact 416-287-7560 (tel/TTY) or email ability.utsc@utoronto.ca for more information. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Department of Psychology Missed Term Work Policy

For missed term work (assignments and term tests) due to illness, emergency, or other mitigating circumstances, please follow the procedures outlined below.

Note:

- The following reasons are not considered sufficient for missed term work: travel for leisure, weddings, personal commitments, work commitments, human error.
- [Missed Final Exams](#) are handled by the Registrar's Office and should be declared on eService.
- Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, accommodations are only possible via the Registrar's Office [petition process](#).

The email address to submit missed term work accommodation requests in **PSYC14** is:
jeff.robinson@mail.utoronto.ca

ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY accommodations:

For missed work due to ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY, complete the following process:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
2. Declare your absence on [ACORN](#) (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)
3. Email **both** of the following items to the course email **WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS** of the missed work:
 - a. the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#)
AND
 - b. a screenshot of your Self-Declared Absence on ACORN

Note:

- *If you are unable to submit your request within 2 business days, you must still email your instructor within the 2 business day window to explain the nature of the delay. Exceptions to the 2 business day deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances.*
- *If your absence is declared on ACORN, we do not require any additional supporting documentation (e.g. medical notes) to support your missed term work accommodation request.*

ACADEMIC CONFLICT accommodations:

For missed term work due to an ACADEMIC CONFLICT (e.g. two midterms at the same time):

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
2. Take screenshots of your course Quercus pages that demonstrate the conflict.
3. Email the form and screenshots to the course email **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier. Requests sent after the activity deadline may not be accommodated.

Note:

- *Multiple assignments due on the same day are not considered conflicts. Students are expected to manage their time effectively to meet assignment deadlines.*
- *Back-to-back tests/quizzes are not considered conflicts. Only overlapping activities are conflicts.*
- *Students are responsible for keeping their course timetables conflict-free. Students who register in two courses with overlapping lecture/tutorial/lab schedules will not be accommodated.*

RELIGIOUS CONFLICT accommodations:

For missed term work due to a RELIGIOUS CONFLICT:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
2. Email the form to the course **email at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier. Requests sent after the activity deadline may not be accommodated.

ACCESSABILITY SERVICES accommodations:

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:

- **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email the course email detailing accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:

- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (e.g. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” and you need 3 days):

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
 2. Email the form ***AND*** your **Accommodation Letter** to the course email specifying how many days extension you are requesting.
- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (e.g. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” but you need more time than that):
 1. **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email the course email detailing the accommodations required.

Accommodation Procedure:

After submitting your documentation, you will receive a response from your instructor or TA. This form does not guarantee that you will be accommodated. 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. **You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily**, as accommodations may be time-critical.

For missed assignments, **do not wait for the instructor’s response to resume work on your assignment**. Extensions may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency. Complete your assignment as soon as you’re able, and email it to your instructor.

For an **anticipated absence** (e.g. a scheduled surgery or an illness with a prolonged recovery period), if you would like to request accommodations in advance, submit a [Verification of Illness Form](#) completed by your doctor AND the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) to the course email. Absences can be declared up to 14 days into the future on ACORN.

Missed Accommodations

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting its requirements, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations. **Please make it clear in your subject line that you are requesting a second accommodation**. E.g. If you are given an extension but are still sick and need more time, or if you miss a make-up term test, you must submit *another* [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) and declare your extended absence on ACORN. *Note: In the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not necessarily be provided.

Getting Answers to Your Questions:

During the semester it is 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., test 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. ***Emails containing such questions will be ignored.***
- 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 TAs will be monitoring these boards closely and will answer

questions that have been posted. **Please allow up to two business days for responses to discussion board questions and note that the discussion boards will not be monitored during weekends or holidays. Emails with content questions that have not been posted to the discussion board will be ignored.**

- 4) **Email:** If you've completed all of these steps and you still require clarification then email Dr. Robinson to arrange a virtual meeting via Zoom. In your email, please include 3 or 4 specific time slots when you're able to connect with Dr. Robinson. **Please note email messages must come from a "utoronto" account and must have PSYC14 in the subject line or else they will be ignored.**

If you 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. Please note that **Email messages must come from a "utoronto" account and must have PSYC14 in the subject line or they will be ignored. Please allow up to two business days for a response before sending any subsequent emails. Please note that emails sent on weekends or holidays will not be read until the next business day.**

Grades and Grade Disputes

Dr. Robinson takes student evaluation very seriously and is guided by the goal of providing tests that fairly evaluate a student's grasp of the material covered in lectures 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>).

If you have concerns about the grade you received, please follow these steps:

1. Contact your TA to arrange a virtual meeting where your work can be discussed in more detail. Please note that TAs do not have the power to change a student's grade without Dr. Robinson's approval.
2. If after this meeting you continue to have concerns about your grade email Dr. Robinson requesting your work be re-evaluated. Dr. Robinson will then personally evaluate your work and provide you with feedback and a final decision regarding your grade. Relative to the grade assigned to you by the TA Dr. Robinson's evaluation could result in your grade going up, down, or remaining the same. Dr. Robinson's decision is final and any further grade disputes will have to be made via a formal petition.

When considering whether you would like Dr. Robinson to re-evaluate your work you should consider that there are only three valid arguments that can be made to justify your grade being 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 be accompanied by a clear explanation regarding which of these arguments applies to your case. **Requests for grade changes for a reason not listed above will be ignored.**

Each student's final grade will be round to the nearest whole percentage using standard rounding practices. For instance, a final grade of 79.5% will rounded to 80% and a final grade of 79.4% will be rounded to 79%. **Requests for a final grade to be changed to reach a higher GPA category will be ignored.**

Academic Integrity

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 in papers and assignments include 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 cheating includes using or possessing unauthorized aids, looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test, misrepresenting your identity, or falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

Religious Accommodations

The University has a commitment concerning accommodation for religious observances. I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. According to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (like a test, or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

Masks in the Classroom

While the mask mandate has been paused as of 1 July 2022, the use of medical masks continues to be strongly encouraged at U of T Scarborough in indoor settings where physical distancing is not possible. We ask everyone to respect each other's decisions, comfort levels, and health needs. Masks are available at all building entrances at U of T Scarborough and in all classrooms.

Reference Letter Requests

Dr. Robinson **does not** provide students with recommendation letters for graduate programs. These recommendations usually require Dr. Robinson to assess, whether a student will succeed in the program to which they are applying. In my view, the interactions with students during a single university course does not provide enough of a basis for making such a judgment. Therefore, in fairness to the student and the graduate program Dr. Robinson makes it his policy not to provide recommendation letters to students who have completed his course.

PSYC14: COURSE SCHEDULE			
Date	Topic	Readings	Important Dates
Week 1: Sept. 12	Course Introduction & Methods of Cultural Psychology	Ch. 4	N/A
Week 2: Sept. 19	Interweaving Psychology & Culture	Ch. 1 & 2	N/A
Week 3: Sept. 26	Evolutionary Bases of Culture	Ch. 3	N/A
Week 4: Oct. 3	TERM TEST #1		Test #1: Oct 3 rd 7PM – 9PM
Week of Oct. 10	READING WEEK		
Week 5: Oct. 17	Development & Socialization	Ch. 5	N/A
Week 6: Oct. 24	Culture, Cognition & Perception	Ch. 9	N/A
Week 7: Oct. 31	Culture & Identity	Ch. 6	N/A
Week 8: Nov. 7	TERM TEST #2		Test #2: Nov 7 th 7PM to 9PM
Week 9: Nov. 14	Culture & Emotions	Ch. 10	N/A
Week 10: Nov. 21	Culture & Motivation	Ch. 8	Drop Date Nov. 21
Week 11: Nov. 28	Culture & Morality	Ch. 12	N/A
Week 12: Dec. 5	Culture Change & Acculturation	Ch. 7	Declare Credit/No Credit: Dec. 5
TBD	FINAL EXAM	N/A	Exam period: Dec. 8-20
<p>*NOTES* 1) Dr. Robinson reserves the right to alter the order and/or content of the lectures described above, 2) Dates and times refer to Eastern time.</p>			

PSYC14 Essay Grading Rubric

Criteria & Points Assigned	Missing or Serious Problems	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Excellent Work	Points Earned
	1	2	3	4	
Relevance of the answer to the question	Exclusively a discussion of unrelated issues and/or serious errors in content	Excessive discussion of irrelevant issues and/or significant errors in content	Some discussion of irrelevant issues and/or minor errors in content.	Answer focuses only on issues relevant to the question; factually correct with no content errors.	
Thoroughness of the answer	The answer defines/describes none of the relevant concepts/ideas	The answer defines/describes less than half of the relevant concepts/ideas; Concepts/ideas are not defined/described in sufficient detail	The answer defines/describes most of the relevant concepts/ideas, but concepts/ideas could have been described in more detail	The answer fully and completely describes/defines the relevant concepts/ideas	
Use of evidence to support answer	Answer does not provide any evidence to support the relevant concepts/ideas, or the evidence provided was irrelevant to the question	Answer provides evidence to support some of the relevant concepts/ideas; Evidence provided does not actually support the relevant concept/idea or was not discussed in sufficient detail	Answer provides evidence to support most of the relevant concepts/ideas; Evidence provided does not actually support the relevant concept/idea or was not discussed in sufficient detail	Answer provides evidence to support all the relevant concepts/ideas; Evidence provided supports the relevant concepts/ideas and was discussed in detail	
Organization and logic of answer	Answer seriously lacking organization or logical flow.	Weak organization or logical flow; sentences rambling; ideas are repeated	Minor problems of organization or logical flow; Needs work on creating transitions between ideas	Clear and logical presentation; good development of an argument; Transitions are made clearly and smoothly	
Mechanics of Writing (spelling, punctuation, grammar, clarity of prose)	Major problems with mechanics of language; Awkward sentence construction; Poor or absent transitions; Frequently difficult to understand	Frequent problems with mechanics of language; Frequent awkward sentences and poor transitions; reduced readability	Minor problems with mechanics of language; Occasional awkward sentences and poor transitions;	Clear, readable, prose. Good use of transitions; no problems with spelling, punctuation, or grammar.	
Total Points (20 Points Possible)					