Cross-cultural psychology examines the psychological differences (and similarities) between and among cultures. It assumes that people in various cultures, to a remarkable extent, think and behave in their own ways, different from others. People in China and Finland, for example, attend to and perceive the world differently. Or Americans and Egyptians solve their interpersonal problems in different ways. Continuous with these ideas, in this course, such topics as cross-cultural research methods, culture and development, culture and cognition, culture and gender, culture and emotion, culture and social behavior, and culture and abnormal behavior will be explored.

The main objective of this course is to help students explore, understand and appreciate the effects of culture on a wide range psychological functions and behavior. For example, students will have the opportunity to learn that people from the East and the West differ in how they think about the world. Also, another main objective of the course is to provide the students with a spectrum of in-and-out-of-class activities and exercises so that they can examine and test what they are exposed to in an active fashion.

Course Text


Student Copy ISBN: 978-1-111-34493-1

Course Format

Tuesdays: Lectures and Student Activities/Participation

Thursdays: Lectures and Student Activities/Participation

Lectures will cover the assigned textbook, chapter by chapter. Lectures will also bring in
material from external sources. So students are expected to be present in class in order to not miss the out-of-the-text-book materials as they may appear on the quiz and/or exam questions. Moreover, students are expected to read each book chapter before class and be ready to respond to possible in-lecture questions, start discussions or provide comments.

**In-Class Activities and Participation**

At the end of each class -- right after each lecture -- students will engage in a series of in-class activities individually and/or in groups. The activities will enable students to think and write about, examine, and discuss various topics in cross-cultural psychology. Twenty points (out of the whole course grade points) will be allocated to these activities. So class participation is important and involves two parts: Part 1) showing such behaviors and attitudes as active listening to the lectures and other students, giving opinion during class discussions, asking questions, and being respectful to others and Part 2) taking part in the class activities and exercises.

**Out-of-Class Exercises**

Two out-of-class hands-on exercises will be presented. These assignments -- each carrying **10** points out of the whole 100 course grade points -- will give students the opportunity to go into the field and explore some cross-cultural phenomena in their own way. The exercises are described below.

1. **Media culture watch:** From Week 3 on, you are expected to select a representation of a culture that you encounter in the media. This could include a news report, a commercial, a film, a cartoon, a music video, or an Internet site. To write about your observations, create a list of at least ten questions and respond to them in a paper of at least 1000 words. More details will be provided in the first weeks of class. The written report is expected to be uploaded on Blackboard before or on November 24, 2015.

2. **Cultural interview:** Pick a topic of interest that you want to learn more about by having a conversation with an individual from a different culture. Then develop a series of questions of your own. You will use this protocol as a basis for a conversation with the two adolescents. The final paper must cover the following questions: What did you set out to understand? Who did you talk with (mentioning the individual's full name is not necessary)? What did you expect (based on the readings, lectures, or class discussion—bring in references!)? What did you learn from your interviewee? Is what you learned consistent or inconsistent with what you expected? What did you learn from your informants? Is what you learned consistent or inconsistent with what you expected? Attach the interview protocol to your paper and include references. The report paper is expected to be uploaded on Blackboard before or on November 24, 2015.

**Course Quizzes and Exams**

You will take two random unannounced quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam throughout the semester (see Course Assessment below). The quizzes and exams -- which are not cumulative -- consist of multiple-choice items. The exams dates are specified in the course timetable (see below). Each quiz begins at 9 pm and takes 15-20 minutes to finish. Note that each question on the quizzes and exams counts one percent towards the final grade. Also, please
keep in mind that the possibility of a quiz or exam makeup is zero. If you, for some reason, couldn’t attend a quiz or exam, let me know to deal with it.

Class Attendance and Participation

Class attendance is expected because you can learn better when you are physically present. Also, there will be two random unannounced quizzes throughout the semester (both on Tuesdays and Thursdays). Missing a quiz means losing an influential portion of the final grade.

Course Assessment

1. Quiz 1                                              5%
2. Quiz 2                                              5%
3. Midterm exam                              25%
4. Final exam                                    25%
5. Media watch paper                      10%
6. Cultural interview paper         10%
7. In-class activities                  20%

Grading Scale

90% - 100% = A
80% - 89.9% = B
70% - 79.9% = C
60% - 69.9% = D
00% - 59.9% = F

Classroom Behavior

Please turn off your cell phone on arrival. Don’t talk when others are talking. If you want to ask a question or make a comment, raise your hand and try not to interrupt others as they speak. Don’t use your computer for irrelevant in-class activities such as emailing, visiting a social network profile, playing games, watching videos, listening to music and so on. These activities prevent you from focusing on lectures and other class engagements and may distract other students.

Disability

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

Academic Conduct, Discipline, and Integrity
It is assumed that students are implicitly aware of the principles of academic conduct, discipline, and integrity. But having an explicit knowledge of the principles will be highly beneficial for anybody working within the realm of academia. The following link provides a wide-range information about academic conduct and discipline at UTEP. Please read the file carefully and enthusiastically:

http://admin.utep.edu/LinkClick.aspx?link=HOOP-Section+II.pdf&tabid=30181&mid=63285

Course Timetable

---

Week 1

August 25: Introduction and Chapter 1
August 27: Chapter 1

Week 2

September 1: Chapter 2
September 3: Chapter 2

Week 3

September 8: Chapter 3
September 10: Chapter 3

Week 4

September 15: Chapter 4
September 17: Chapter 4

Week 5

September 22: Chapter 5
September 24: Chapter 5

Week 6

September 29: Chapter 6

October 1: Chapter 6

Week 7

October 6: Midterm Exam
October 8: Chapter 7
Week 8
October 13: Chapter 7
October 15: Chapter 8
Week 9
October 20: Chapter 8
October 22: Chapter 9
Week 10
October 27: Chapter 9
October 29: Chapter 10
Week 11
November 3: Chapter 10
November 5: Chapter 11
Week 12
November 10: Chapter 11
November 12: Chapter 12
Week 13
November 17: Chapter 12
November 19: Chapter 13
Week 14
November 24: Chapter 13
November 26: No classes
Week 15
December 1: Chapter 14
December 3: Chapter 15
December 8: Final Exam at 10 am – 12:45 pm

This syllabus is subject to change.