

**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**Cross-Cultural Psychology (PSYC 3331, CRN 24092)**  
**Spring 2017**

**Instructor:** Abdolhossein Abdollahy Zarandi, PhD

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**Office:** Department of Psychology

**Class Days:** Tuesdays and Thursdays: 12:00 am - 1:20 pm

**Location:** Liberal Arts Building 318

**Office Hours:** Mondays, 10 am -12 (to make an appointment, please email me.)

### **Course Description and Objectives**

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**

**Matsumoto, David & Juang, Linda (2013). *Culture and Psychology (5<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Wadsworth Cengage Learning.**

**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. Therefore, 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 meeting -- 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. Thus, 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 **15** questions and respond to them in a paper of at least 2000 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 **April 28, 2017**.

**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 the Blackboard homepage before or on **April 28, 2017**.

### **Psychology Pretest**

This course invites you to take a psychology pretest at the beginning of the semester. Specifically, you will take an online multiple question test which will be available on the Blackboard homepage for use for the entire first week of class. The test has two goals: a) to help the department of psychology assess the goal attainment level of some of its introductory

courses, and b) to give the instructor (me) some feedback to review some parts of the course content based on that information. The test counts **5** percent towards your final grade.

### **Course Quizzes and Exams**

You will take two 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 **12** pm and takes 15-20 minutes to finish. Note that each question on the quizzes and exams counts one percent towards the final grade.

### **Quiz and/or Exam Misses**

The students that the miss quizzes and/or exams will not be able to make up, but the military and athlete students on active duty, students with unique issues (e.g., serious illness, pregnancy, mental health problems, family problems, various emergencies), students with disabilities, and students observing religious holidays will be able to make up or deal with their quiz/exam misses through other quiz/exam-related options. If possible, these students will let the instructor know about their absence before the quiz/exam.

### **Course Assessment**

<b>1. Quiz 1</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>2. Quiz 2</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>3. Midterm exam</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>4. Final exam</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>5. Media culture watch paper</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>6. Cultural interview paper</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>7. In-class activities</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>8. Psychology Pretest</b>	<b>5%</b>

### **Grading Scale**

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

### **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.

## **Email Response Policy and Email Communication Rules**

I will respond to emails within 24 hours on all weekdays. Students are welcome to email me for any questions and comments. When you want to send me an email, please use your UTEP email account, include a relevant subject word or phrase, clearly ask your question (s) or make your comment (s), and end off your message with your full name.

## **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](mailto: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](http://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 and Lecture Topic**

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### **Week 1**

**January 17: Chapter 1: An Introduction to Culture and Psychology**

**January 19: Chapter 1: An Introduction to Culture and Psychology**

## **Week 2**

**January 24: Chapter 2: Cross-Cultural Research Methods**

**January 26: Chapter 2: Cross-Cultural Research Methods**

## **Week 3**

**January 31: Chapter 3: Enculturation**

**February 2: Chapter 3: Enculturation**

## **Week 4**

**February 7: Chapter 4: Culture and Developmental Processes**

**February 9: Chapter 4: Culture and Developmental Processes**

## **Week 5**

**February 14: Chapter 5: Culture and Cognition**

**February 16: Chapter 5: Culture and Cognition**

## **Week 6**

**February 21: Chapter 6: Culture and Gender**

**February 23: Chapter 6: Culture and Gender**

## **Week 7**

**February 28: Chapter 7: Culture and Health**

**March 2: Chapter 7: Culture and Health**

## **Week 8**

**March 7: Chapter 8: Culture and Emotion**

**March 9: Midterm Exam**

## **Week 9**

**March 14: No Classes**

**March 16: No Classes**

**Week 10**

**March 21: Chapter 8: Culture and Emotion**

**March 23: Chapter 9: Culture, Language, and Communication**

**Week 11**

**March 28: Chapter 9: Culture, Language, and Communication**

**March 30: Chapter 10: Culture and Personality**

**Week 12**

**April 4: Chapter 10: Culture and Personality**

**April 6: Chapter 11: Culture and Psychological Disorders**

**Week 13**

**April 11: Chapter 11: Culture and Psychological Disorders**

**April 13: Chapter 12 Culture and Psychotherapy as Treatment for Psychological Disorders**

**Week 14**

**April 18: Chapter 12 Culture and Psychotherapy as Treatment for Psychological Disorders**

**April 20: Chapter 13: Culture, Self, and Identity**

**Week 15**

**April 25: Chapter 13: Culture, Self, and Identity**

**April 27: Chapter 14: Culture and Social Behavior**

**May 2: Chapter 14: Culture and Social Behavior**

**May 4: Review**

**May 9: Final Exam at 1 pm – 3:45 pm**

**This syllabus is subject to change.**

