

The University of Texas at El Paso
Department of Psychology
Cross-Cultural Psychology (PSYC 3331, CRN 16571)
Fall 2022

Instructor: Abdolhossein Abdollahy Zarandi, PhD

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Office: Department of Psychology

Class Days: Tuesday and Thursday: 4:30 pm – 5:50 pm

Location: College of Business Administration, Room 313

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Please, email me for appointments.)

Communication

In addition to in-class face-to-face communication, students can contact me via email. I will check my email multiple times per day Monday through Friday, and also during weekends. However, please allow 24 hours for a response (48 hours if you send a message Friday evening or during the weekend). Each email you send me should contain a subject line that includes “PSYC 3331”, a proper greeting (i.e., Dear Dr. Abdollahy Zarandi), and your full name. All emails you send me should come from your UTEP email account.

Questions regarding the course and its content are expected to be emailed to me at aabdollahyzarandi@utep.edu. Note: Blackboard has a Course Messages tool, but before using this tool, please try emailing me via aabdollahyzarandi@utep.edu

Blackboard

This course will use Blackboard as an additional learning-teaching platform. I will make announcements regarding the course via Blackboard periodically. Please check Blackboard for announcements (by clicking on the link **Announcements**). Blackboard is also a place where you will find some course-related information and materials, for example, the textbook PowerPoint slides files. When, especially for the first time, you visit Blackboard, look at the left side of the screen (the dark strip) to learn about **Announcements**.

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 focal 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. Finally, students will be given an opportunity to make an in-class oral presentation to gain or consolidate a number of relevant cross-cultural psychological skills.

Course Text

Matsumoto, David & Juang, Linda (2017). Culture and Psychology (6th edition). Cengage Learning.

<https://www.cengage.com/c/culture-and-psychology-6e-matsumoto/9781305648951PF/>

Course Assignments, Participation, and Activities

1) Instructor-Facilitated Student Oral Presentations

Students are expected to give a talk on an assigned book chapter subject. The oral presentation, facilitated by me (Dr. Abdol), may take two forms: Individual presentation or up-to-5-member group presentation. During the initial class meetings, students will be scheduled to give their talk. A user-friendly rubric appears below:

1. The inclusion, in the oral presentation, of at least 10 PowerPoint slides (2 points)
2. The inclusion, in the oral presentation, of at least two topic-related short (not more than 3 minutes) video adapted from a valid Internet source (2 points)
3. The inclusion, in the oral presentation, of at least 5 questions to be posed to the audience (2 points)
4. The inclusion, in the oral presentation, of at least 5 questions, ideas, and comments that show the presentation group's disagreement with the content. (2 points)
5. The demonstration of a clear and coherent oral presentation (2 points)

2) 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.

3) Out-of-Class Exercises

Two out-of-class hands-on exercises will be presented. These assignments will present students with the opportunity to go into the field and explore some cross-cultural phenomena in their own way. The exercises are described below.

A. 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 **10** questions and respond to them in a paper of at least **500** words. More details will be provided in the first weeks of class. The written report is expected to be uploaded on Blackboard before or by or on **December 1, 2022**.

B. 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 at least **10** questions of your own. You will use this protocol as a basis for a conversation with an adult who gives you their consent for the interview. 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 **500-word** report paper is expected to be uploaded on the Blackboard homepage before or on **December 1, 2022**.

Quizzes and Exams

You will take, throughout the semester, two quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam (see Course Assessment below). The quizzes and exams will mainly consist of multiple choice and fill-in-the blank items and each item on the quizzes and exams counts one percent towards the final grade. The quizzes and exams dates are specified in the course schedule (see below). Finally, it is to be noted that the content of the quizzes and exams will come from both the lectures and the textbook chapters.

Class Attendance, Participation, and Course Drop

Class attendance is expected because you can learn better when you are physically present. If a student has more than four unexcused absences throughout the semester, they will lose a possible extra credit opportunity. Also, please note that if you are in a situation in which you need or plan to drop the course, you are expected to do it by yourself. If you don't drop the course, your final grade will be reported based on your available quiz, exam, and participation grade record.

Class participation is important and has its own points as shown below. Class participation involves two parts: Part 1) Showing such behaviors and attitudes as active listening to the lectures and to other students, making comments during class discussions, asking questions, and being respectful to others and Part 2) Taking part in an activity I call "Discussion Group." In this activity, students are expected to discuss some topics in groups of 2-4 and report the results of their discussions at the end of the class sessions.

Extra Credit Assignment Possibility

If needed, students can choose to do a possible extra credit assignment to increase their final grades. But it comes with a condition: students can use this possible assignment only if they do not have a noticeable history of unexcused absences.

Course Assessment

1. Quiz 1	10%
2. Quiz 2	10%
3. Midterm Exam	25%
4. Final Exam	30%
5. Oral Presentation	10%
6. Media Culture Watch Paper	5%
7. Cultural Interview Paper	5%
8. In-Class Activities	5%

Total **100%**

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 <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/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: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>

Course Schedule and Lecture Topics

Week 1

August 23: Introduction

August 25: Chapter 1: An Introduction to Culture and Psychology

Week 2

August 30: Chapter 1: An Introduction to Culture and Psychology

September 1: Chapter 2: Cross-Cultural Research Methods

Week 3

September 6: Chapter 2: Cross-Cultural Research Methods

September 8: Chapter 3: Enculturation

Week 4

September 13: Chapter 3: Enculturation

September 15: Chapter 4: Culture and Developmental Processes **Quiz 1**

Week 5

September 20: Chapter 4: Culture and Developmental Processes
September 22: Chapter 5: Culture, Self, and Identity

Week 6

September 27: Chapter 5: Culture, Self, and Identity
September 29: Chapter 6: Culture and Personality

Week 7

October 4: Chapter 6: Culture and Personality
October 6: Chapter 7: Culture and Gender

Week 8

October 11: Chapter 7: Culture and Gender
October 13: **Midterm Exam**

Week 9

October 18: Chapter 8: Culture and Cognition
October 20: Chapter 8: Culture and Cognition

Week 10

October 25: Chapter 9: Culture and Emotion
October 27: Chapter 9: Culture and Emotion

Week 11

November 1: Chapter 10: Culture, Language, and Communication
November 3: Chapter 10: Culture, Language, and Communication

Week 12

November 8: Chapter 11: Culture and Health
November 10: Chapter 11: Culture and Health **Quiz 2**

Week 13

November 15: Chapter 12: Culture and Psychological Disorders
November 17: Chapter 12: Culture and Psychological Disorders

Week 14

November 22: Chapter 13: Culture and Treatment for Psychological Disorders
November 24: **No Classes**

Week 15

November 29: Chapter 13: Culture and Treatment for Psychological Disorders
December 1: Review

Final Exam: December 6 at 4:00 pm – 6:45 pm

This syllabus is subject to change.