

The University of Texas at El Paso
Department of Psychology
Cross-Cultural Psychology (PSYC 3331, CRN 18911)
Fall 2018

Instructor: Abdolhossein Abdollahy Zarandi, PhD

E-mail: aabdollahyzarandi@utep.edu

Office: Department of Psychology

Class Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 4:30 pm - 5:50 pm

Location: College of Business Administration, Room 301

Office Hours: Monday through Friday (online communication)

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 skills.

Course Text

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

Student Copy ISBN: 978-1-305-64895-1

Course Format

Tuesdays: Lectures, Student Oral Presentations, and Participation

Thursdays: Lectures, Student Oral Presentations, and 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.

Student Oral Presentations

Students are expected to give a talk on an assigned book chapter subject. The oral presentation may take two forms: Individual presentation or two-member group presentation. During the initial class meetings, students will be scheduled to give their talk. More details will be provided in class.

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. 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 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.

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 1500 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 **December 4th, 2018**.

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 **December 4th, 2018**.

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 top of the hour 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 Exam Misses

The students that miss the quizzes and/or exams and have valid excused absence documents in hand will not be able to make up, but they can avail themselves of an opportunity. That is, through a procedure that I call “mapping”, I can transfer their attended quizzes or exams grades to their missed ones. For example, if a student has missed the first quiz (consisting of, say, 10 items having a worth of 10 points) and has received a zero grade, and also if she/he has taken the second one (also consisting of, say, 10 items having a worth of 10 points) and has received a grade of 9 out of 10, the second quiz grade (that is 9) will be given (applied) to the first one -- which has now a grade of 9 as well.

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.

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. Oral Presentation	10%
6. Media culture watch paper	5%
7. Cultural interview paper	10%
8. In-class activities	15%

Total **100%**

Grading Scale

90% - 100% = A

80% - 89.9% = B

70% - 79.9% = C

60% - 69.9% = D

00% - 59.9% = F

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, 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 Timetable and Lecture Topic

Week 1

August 28: Introduction

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

Week 2

September 4: Chapter 1: An Introduction to Culture and Psychology

September 6: Chapter 2: Cross-Cultural Research Methods

Week 3

September 11: Chapter 2: Cross-Cultural Research Methods

September 13: Chapter 3: Enculturation

Week 4

September 18: Chapter 3: Enculturation

September 20: Chapter 4: Culture and Developmental Processes

Week 5

September 25: Chapter 4: Culture and Developmental Processes

September 27: Chapter 5: Culture, Self, and Identity

Week 6

October 2: Chapter 5: Culture, Self, and Identity

October 4: Chapter 6: Culture and Personality

Week 7

October 9: Chapter 6: Culture and Personality

October 11: Chapter 7: Culture and Gender

Week 8

October 16: Chapter 7: Culture and Gender

October 18: Chapter 8: Culture and Cognition

Week 9

October 23: Chapter 8: Culture and Cognition

October 25: Midterm Exam

Week 10

October 30: Chapter 9: Culture and Emotion

November 1: Chapter 9: Culture and Emotion

Week 11

November 6: Chapter 10: Culture, Language, and Communication

November 8: Chapter 10: Culture, Language, and Communication

Week 12

November 13: Chapter 11: Culture and Health

November 15: Chapter 11: Culture and Health

Week 13

November 20: Chapter 12: Culture and Psychological Disorders

November 22: No Classes

Week 14

November 27: Chapter 12: Culture and Psychological Disorders

November 29: Chapter 13: Culture and Treatment for Psychological Disorders

Week 15

December 4: Chapter 13: Culture and Treatment for Psychological Disorders

December 6: Chapter 14: Culture and Social Behavior

Week 16

December 11: Final Exam: 4:00 pm – 6:45 pm

This syllabus is subject to change.