

Culture and Health Decision Making
PSYC 1301, Fall 2015
Education Bld. Rm # 311
MW 4:30-5:50 p.m.

Course Syllabus

Instructors: Eden Robles Ph.D., and Julia Lechuga, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: Psychology building room 119 or 107, by appointment.
Textbooks: Gurung, A. R. R. Health Psychology: A Cultural Approach. 3rd Ed. CA: Wadsworth.

*Additional Readings will be required and will be posted in blackboard.

General Course Goals: This course is designed to expose students to the major theories and supporting research in health psychology. In addition, students will develop skills to formulate and test research hypotheses, develop survey instrumentation following theoretical frameworks of behavior change, reach conclusions and understand the implication of research findings for behavioral intervention design. A main goal is to promote an understanding of the role culture plays in shaping human health-related thought and action. Students will be exposed to basic research methods and research findings of health psychology with a cultural emphasis.

Specific Course Objectives:

- Become knowledgeable about major theories in health psychology.
- Understand the application of basic social science concepts including race, ethnicity and social class to the study of culture and health.
- Become aware of health-related decision making variation across and within cultures.
- Acquire the skills to develop and test research hypotheses including qualitative, quantitative research designs.

Evaluation

Your final grade for this course will be based on the following components:

Final Research Paper: See attached sheet of instructions.

Poster Design and Presentation: See attached sheet of instructions.

In Class knowledge application activities: These will occur during class time and will serve the purpose of facilitating focused discussions to foster critical thinking about class topics.

Readiness Assessment Tests: You will be assigned readings either from the assigned textbook or additional readings I will provide. There will be tests during the semester to ensure that you come prepared to class. Tests will be multiple choice and will be imparted at the beginning of class.

Evaluation of Team Members: you will be evaluated by your team members twice. At the middle of the semester and at the end. This evaluation will be part of your grade.

Exams: There will be **two hourly exams** during the semester and a **final comprehensive examination**. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true-false, short-answer and short essay items.

Research Project: About half of class time will be devoted to data collection procedures, statistical analyses, and research reporting. The skills you acquire will reflect in the final research paper and poster presentation.

MAKE-UPS: Make-up tests or quizzes will *only* be given for **legitimately documented** reasons. Arrangements **must** be made **prior** to the scheduled examinations (except for emergencies, which I **must** be notified of right away, by phone or e-mail)!

Final Grade:

Your final course grade will be based on the following weighting of assessment components: Readiness Assessment Tests will be 10% of your grade (individual) and 10% (team), in-class knowledge application activities 15%, evaluation by team members 10%, exams 15%, the final paper 20%, and the poster 15%.

Final course grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale

A	B	C	D	F
100 - 90	89 - 80	79 - 70	69 - 60	59 - 50

Attendance and Participation: In order to do well in the class, attendance is essential. Class participation will be expected.

Cell phones: Cell phones must be either turned off or put on vibrate during class, as cell phones ringing during class disrupt the learning process.

Disabilities: 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. They will give you the proper paperwork to turn in to me. Please do this as soon as possible.

Note: Schedule is subject to changes

Class Schedule August/Sept 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Aug 24 Introduction Group Formation Reading Assignment	Aug 25	Aug 26 BUILD pre-survey evaluation	Aug 27	Aug 28	Aug 29
Aug 30	Aug 31 Readiness Assessment Test Module 1 (RAT # 1)	Sept 1	Sept 2 Lecture and applied group exercise	Sept 3	Sept 4	Sept 5
Sept 6	Sept 7 Labor Day No Class	Sept 8	Sept 9 Lecture and applied group exercise	Sept 10	Sept 11	Sept 12
Sept 13	Sept 14 Readiness Assessment Test Module 2 (RAT # 2)	Sept 15	Sept 16 Lecture and applied group exercise	Sept 17	Sept 18	Sept 19
Sept 20	Sept 21 Lecture and applied group exercise	Sept 22	Sept 23 Readiness Assessment Test Module 3 (RAT # 3)	Sept 24	Sept 25	Sept 26
Sept 27	Sept 28 Lecture and applied group exercise	Sept 29	Sept 30 Lecture and applied group exercise	Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3

Class Schedule

Oct/Nov 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 4	Oct 5 Exam # 2	Oct 6	Oct 7 Readiness Assessment Test Module 4 (RAT # 4)	Oct 8	Oct 9	Oct 10
Oct 11	Oct 12 Lecture and applied group exercise	Oct 13	Oct 14 Lecture and applied group exercise	Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 17
Oct 18	Oct 19 Readiness Assessment Test Module 5 (RAT # 5)	Oct 20	Oct 21 Lecture and applied group exercise	Oct 22	Oct 23	Oct 24
Oct 25	Oct 26 Lecture and applied group exercise	Oct 27	Oct 28 Readiness Assessment Test Module 6 (RAT # 6)	Oct 29	Oct 30	Oct 31
Nov 1	Nov 2 Lecture and applied group exercise	Nov 3	Nov 4 Lecture and applied group exercise	Nov 5	Nov 6	Nov 7
Nov 8	Nov 9 Exam # 3	Nov 10	Nov 11 Readiness Assessment Test Module 7 (RAT # 7)	Nov 12	Nov 13	Nov 14

Class Schedule
Nov/Dec 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 15	Nov 16 Lecture and applied group exercise	Nov 17	Nov 18 Research paper consultation day	Nov 19	Nov 20	Nov 21
Nov 22	Nov 23 Poster consultation day	Nov 24	Nov 25 Final research paper due	Nov 26 Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov 27	Nov 28
Nov 29	Nov 30 Poster presentations	Dec 1	Dec 2 Poster presentations	Dec 3	Dec 4 Dead Day	Dec 5
Dec 6	Dec 7 Final Exam 4:00-6:45 pm	Dec 8	Dec 9	Dec 10	Dec 11	Dec 12
Dec 13	Dec 14	Dec 15	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18	Dec 19
Dec 20	Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 23	Dec 24	Dec 25	Dec 26

Final Research Paper

You are expected to turn in a final research paper formatted in APA style. Your final project will be a synthesis of five recent published articles (2010-2015) indicating the implication of the research project you will conduct as part of this class and the implication of findings for intervention development and health disparities.

The final paper must include a title page, body, results, discussion, and a reference section.

Purposes:

1. To show that you know APA style.
2. To practice your skills in identifying and obtaining articles from scholarly databases.
3. To practice your skills in reporting results of research.
4. To practice your critical thinking skills.
Being able to develop a persuasive argument based on scholarly literature is indicative of the application of knowledge you have acquired.

Due Date: The final paper is due Nov. 25.

Final Poster Design and Presentation

You are expected to turn in a final research poster. The standard template will be provided to you. You will synthesize your final research papers into a poster presentation.

Purposes:

1. To practice selecting relevant pieces of information for a succinct presentation of research findings.
2. To practice your skills in presenting research to an audience.
3. To practice your skills in advertising and marketing research.
4. To practice your critical thinking skills.

Due Date: The final poster and presentation are due Dec. 1st and 3rd.