

PSYCHOLOGY 250
CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY
Hybrid Course

Syllabus

DR. HELEN TAYLOR, INSTRUCTOR

CLASS: 10:30-11:20 M-Th, L126

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OFFICE HOURS: M-Th 11:30-12:20 and by appointment

TEXTS:

Shiraeve, E.B., & Levy, D.A. (2013). *Cross-Cultural Psychology: Critical Thinking and Contemporary Applications*, Fifth Edition. Boston: Pearson.

Additional readings will be linked to the online portion of the class. Some will be assigned from *Online Readings in Psychology and Culture*, International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/orpc/> (free access).

BACKGROUND:

Before psychological theories can legitimately claim to explain behavior in general, the behaviors must be examined from the perspective of a cross-section of all the world's cultures and not just a select few that are easily accessible to researchers in the highly "psychologized" Western world. The extent to which currently accepted explanations of human behavior can be applied to individuals and groups raised in non-Western, or non-majority American, cultures is a growing area of research. In its broadest sense, cross-cultural psychology is concerned with understanding truth and psychological principles as either universal (that is, true for all people of all cultures) or culture-specific (true for some people of some cultures).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines psychological theories and research from a cross-cultural perspective. Students will discuss the impact of culture on cognition, development, emotion, motivation, sex roles, disorders, group behavior, conflict, stereotyping, and prejudice. Cross-Cultural Psychology examines the strengths and weaknesses of the Western social science approach to understanding human behavior. It considers universal components of behavior from a cross-cultural perspective, and explores the influence of differing beliefs and values on human perception, goals and interactions. In addition to looking at comparative international research, we will also take a close look at U.S. ethnic group psychologies, values, and experiences, with a special focus on identity development and cross-cultural understanding.

SPECIFIC GOALS:

Students who complete Psych. 250 will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which culture, beliefs, values, the environment, and behavior interact.
2. Identify ethnocentrism in psychological thought, theory, and research methods, and to suggest means for reducing bias in the study of human behavior.
3. Develop an appreciation for the wide diversity of human behavior as well as an appreciation for the common threads and values.

4. Understand the mutual relevance of psychology and other disciplines in understanding human behavior from a global perspective.
5. Discover how ways of seeing, knowing, and experiencing the world differ according to our races, ethnicities, classes, and genders.
6. Develop competencies in functioning in a diverse society, making cross-cultural interactions more productive and enjoyable.
7. Develop at least a functional understanding and appreciation of both world events and everyday behavior of people from other cultures.
8. Identify psychological and social sources of ethnocentrism, prejudice, and interpersonal conflict, as well as strategies for cooperation and communication.
9. Appreciate the wide diversity of human identities as well as appreciate common threads and values.

General Education Outcome:

Connections: The ability to identify and explore connections, themes, and patterns in the social and natural world, and to see commonalities within dissimilar circumstances. Specific topics that fit within this area in this class include: Global Citizenship and Cultural Diversity

COURSE STRUCTURE:

The course is organized around 5 modules of content. This particular section of Psyc.250 is offered as a hybrid class, meaning that for most of the time, we will meet in person, and for part of the time, we will be working online.

Class sessions: We will meet Monday through Thursday from 10:30-11:20. Class sessions will include lectures, discussions, activities, and demonstrations on the key ideas of each unit, as well as exams. Attendance will be taken at these sessions.

Online: Using the new Canvas platform, we will be conducting discussions and submitting some assignments. Students will need to have frequent access to a computer and the internet. There is an open computer lab available in N250 for those who need it.

Instructions for how to access the on-line portion of the class can be found at: http://bellevuecollege.edu/distance/Canvas_classroom.asp, or you can just go to: <http://bc.instructure.com> and log in using your BC Student ID number as your username, and your birthdate (mmddyy) as your password.

You have already been loaded into the online section; once you log on with your user name and password, click on “courses” at the top left of the screen to see the drop-down menu. Click on PSYC 250 Cross-Cultural Psychology – 5468 to enter the online portion of the class. Read the Getting Started materials to get oriented to this part of the class. You are encouraged to print the syllabus.

REQUIREMENTS

Exams:

There will be five unit exams covering material from the reading, lecture notes, and discussions. Exams will be given in class according to the calendar schedule, roughly every two weeks. Tests will include a combination of multiple choice, true false, and matching questions, and study guides will be provided. There will be no comprehensive final exam; the last unit test will include some reflection on learning from the whole quarter. Exams will be worth 100 points each for a total of 50% of the final grade.

Online Weekly Discussion Forum

Online discussions will provide an additional forum for talking about course material besides our in-person class sessions. Students will be responding to my questions and responding to other students. There will also be interactive activities to do and report on in the discussion. The discussion sessions will run from Monday to Friday every week starting the second week of the quarter. The questions will be posted on Monday morning. You are expected to post a response to at least one of the questions by Wednesday at 11 p.m., and a response to a student who answered a different question by Friday at 11 p.m. More specific instructions will be available in class and in the online (Canvas) course site. Up to 20 points per week will be assigned for this portion of the course, based on your level of participation and the quality of posts for a possible total of 200 points or 20% of the grade.

Assignments:

There will be several small assignments and a few larger assignments. Some of these will be due in class and some will be submitted online.

- Module 1: 1st Day Assessment (online: 10 points)
Personal Introduction (online: 10 points)
Cultural Artifact (in class: 20 points)
- Module 2: Cultural Autobiography (online: 40 points)
- Module 3: Socialization Stories (in class: 20 points)
Interview of Someone from a Different Culture (online: 50 points)
- Module 4: Research Paper on Culture-Specific Phenomenon or Cultural Perspectives on a Controversy (online: 60 points)
- Module 5: Summary and Reflections (online: 30 points)
Last day Assessment (online: 10 points)

The assignments will ask you to apply the ideas of the course, and will be due as noted on the calendar. Assignments will be submitted in class or posted on discussion boards for other students to read. All assignments will be graded with a scoring rubric. Each assignment will be described fully in the appropriate module. Altogether, the assignments will be worth 240 points, or 24% of the final grade.

Attendance and Participation:

Up to 50 points will be assigned for attendance, participation in class activities and discussions, as well as the quality of online discussions.

Extra Credit:

There will be a few opportunities over the course of the quarter to earn up to 5 extra credit points. These will be posted in some of the units.



Grading Break-down:

Exams	5 @ 100 pts each	= 500
Assignments	First Day Assessment=10 Introduction=10 Cultural artifact=20 Cultural autobiography=40 Stories=20 Interview=50 Research paper: Cultural Practice or Controversy=60 Summary=30 Last Day Assessment=10	= 250
Discussions	10 @ 20 pts each	= 200
Attendance & Participation		= 50
	Total	= 1000

Grading Scale:

Points assigned for each of the course components will accumulate to a possible total of 1000 points, with the grading scale as follows:

940-1000 A (94-100%)	770-799 C+ (77-79%)
900-939 A- (90-93%)	740-769 C (74-76%)
870-899 B+ (87-89%)	700-739 C- (70-73%)
840-869 B (84-86%)	670-699 D+ (67-69%)
800-839 B- (80-83%)	640-669 D (64-69%)
	Below 640 F



COURSE ORGANIZATION

Module 1: Core Issues, Research Methods, and Self-Concept

Introduction to cross-cultural issues, research methods, self-concept

- Definition of terms and theoretical concepts that aid in understanding culture and behavior, cross-cultural psychology
- Research methods and methodological issues in cross-cultural studies. Problems in studying cultures and behavior across cultures.
- Social cognition and self-concept: Cultural influence on self-views.

Module 2: Thinking, Feeling, Intelligence, and Psychological Processes

Thinking, feeling, intelligence, perception, cognition, dreaming

- Perception and cognition
- Altered states of consciousness
- Intelligence and culture
- Emotions and emotional expression

Module 3: Cultural Influences on Development and Psychological Disorders

Development, children, parenting, schools, health, mental health

- Child development, education, socialization, and child-rearing
- Relationships, family, and gender roles
- Physical and mental health
- Psychological disorders

Module 4: Cross-Cultural Communication, Motivation, and Social Behavior

Communicating across cultures, social psychology applied world-wide

- Social interaction and social psychology
- Culture and communication, language, verbal and non-verbal behavior
- Conformity, obedience, and social behavior
- Motivation and culture

Module 5: Critical Thinking about Diversity and Intercultural Relationships

Gender, race, and ethnicity in the United States, relating to the "other"

- Diversity; experience of major U.S. ethnic groups; whiteness
- Applying critical thinking to the way we perceive groups
- Intra- and inter-group relations: expectations, conflict, intercultural communication
- Cross-cultural competence

See each module and the course calendar on Canvas for specific assignments, discussions, and exam dates.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Revised Fall 2009

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ('I'). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an 'F').

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of 'HW' (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter. Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

**If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*