

CES/PSYCH 403: Cultural Issues in Psychology
Summer 2008 (June 16-July 25)
M-F 3:00-4:15 PM; Avery 102

Instructor: Amy La

Office Hours: MWF 2:00-3:00 PM, and by appointment

112 Wilson-Short Hall, Phone: 335-2605 (CES)

Email: amy_la@wsu.edu

Required Texts:

1) Matsumoto, D., & Juang, L. (2008). *Culture and Psychology* (4th Edition). California: Thomson Wadsworth.

2) Goldstein, S. (2008). *Cross-Cultural Explorations: Activities in Culture and Psychology* (2nd Edition). Massachusetts: Allyn & Bacon, Inc.

*Other readings may be assigned and will be noted in class when applicable.

Online Resources:

<http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~culture/readings.htm> (also listed on p. 376 in Goldstein text)

Course Description:

Multidisciplinary analyses of the relationship between social-ecological and political contexts and individual and collective psychology.

Course Objectives:

We will examine the influence of culture on human behavior as necessary for it to qualify as a universally valid science of human behavior. Topics in psychology will be viewed from the perspective of other cultures in the world and not just on a select few that are easily accessible to researchers in universities. Academic psychologists in the United States have historically used college students as respondents in their research. However, there are complex sociopolitical factors that are not addressed, such as not including people of color, members of lower socioeconomic statuses, and people from non-Westernized societies. This course focuses on cultural issues in psychology with the aim to enhance your knowledge and awareness of the effects of culture on psychology. Overall, this course will ameliorate your understanding of the relationship between culture and social behavior.

Course Goals:

- To help students appreciate the interaction between culture, ecology, and behavior
- To demonstrate that much of psychological thought/theory is ethnocentric
- To help students develop an appreciation for the wide variations there are in human behavior and also the universalities in human behaviors
- To encourage and appreciation for mutual relevance of psychology and other disciplines in studying human behavior in a broad international perspective
- To help students prepare for other courses where culture and ecology might be salient variables
- To provide students insight into their own behavior, attitudes, and values as shaped by culture

Course Evaluation:

Exam I	= 20%
Exam II	= 25%
Final Paper	= 25%
Participation	= 30%

(Includes attendance and homework)

*Exams are non cumulative

*Final Paper will be discussed in class.

Grades will be assigned based on standard distribution:

100-93: A	79-77: C+
92-90: A-	76-73: C
89-87: B+	72-70: C-
86-83: B	69-67: D+
82-80: B-	66-60: D

59 and Below: F

Course Schedule:

*Please be prepared and read in advance the corresponding chapter in Matsumoto and Juang text for the class topic. Additional readings will be assigned in class. In addition, exercises/assignments will be assigned from the Goldstein text and announced in class.

Week One:

- June 16th: Course Overview
- June 17th: Introduction to Culture and Psychology (Chapter 1)
- June 18th/June 19th: Cross-Cultural Research Methods (Chapter 2)
- June 20th: Enculturation (Chapter 3)

Week Two:

- June 23rd: Culture and Developmental Processes (Chapter 4)
- June 24th/June 25th: Culture and Cognition (Chapter 5)
- June 26th/June 27th: Culture and Gender (Chapter 6)

Week Three:

- June 30th/July 1st: Culture and Health (Chapter 7)
- July 2nd: Culture and Emotion (Chapter 8)
- July 3rd: Exam I
- July 4th: HOLIDAY

Week Four:

- July 7th/July 8th: Culture, Language, and Communication (Chapter 9)
- July 9th/July 10th: Culture and Personality (Chapter 10)
- July 11th: Culture and Abnormal Psychology (Chapter 11)

Week Five:

- July 14th/July 15th: Ethnic Minority Groups in the United States
(Readings will be assigned from articles)
 - July 16th: Culture and the Treatment of Abnormal Behavior (Chapter 12)
 - July 17th/July 18th: Culture and Social Behavior, I: Self and Identity (Chapter 13)
- Note:** Final Paper Due July 18th (beginning of class)

Week Six:

July 21st/July 22nd: Culture and Social Behavior, II: Interpersonal and Intergroup Relations (Chapter 14)

July 23rd/July 24th: Culture and Organizations/Review (Chapter 15)

July 25th: Exam II

Academic Integrity

Any member of the University community who witnesses an apparent act of academic dishonesty shall report the act either to the instructor responsible for the course or to the Office of Student Affairs. Please refer to the WSU Student Handbook for protocol and information on academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism and cheating. The Handbook defines academic dishonesty to include “cheating, falsification, fabrication, multiple submission [e.g., submitting the same or slightly revised paper or oral report to different courses as a new piece of work], plagiarism, abuse of academic material, complicity, or misconduct in research.” Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in this course and infractions will be addressed according to procedures specified in the Handbook. For more information, visit the Office of Student Conduct website:
<http://www.conduct.wsu.edu/default.asp?PageID=343>

Students with Disabilities

I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Disability Resource Center (DRC). All accommodations MUST be approved through the DRC (Administration Annex Building, Room 205). Please stop by or call (509) 335-3417 to make an appointment with a disability specialist. Their website is: <http://www.drc.wsu.edu/>