PSYC 3350 -- Cultural Psychology

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Class Time: Thursdays 8:30-11:15 (SLH-A)

Required Readings:


Journal articles A journal article will be assigned just about every week. These are available through e-resources in the York library system or through the course Moodle.

Course objectives and format:
This course addresses theory, research, and methods pertaining to culture and psychology. The course begins by offering different perspectives on culture and the methodological challenges that researchers face when bringing a cultural level of analysis to human behaviour. The potential role of culture is examined across a range of psychological areas including perception, cognition, emotion, developmental processes, as well as social and abnormal behaviour. Each week we will have a lecture which may include a research demonstration, some video, and some class discussion. The lecture will be related in part to an assigned chapter from the textbook as well as an additional journal article. Lectures are designed to stimulate your interest in the cultural psychology and not all of the information presented in the text will be covered in class. My job as a course instructor is to motivate you to learn and to highlight what I think are some interesting issues that are related to the weekly topic. You are responsible, however, for covering the text and the additional readings in their entirety. In addition, some of the lectures will contain information that is not in the text. Questions pertaining to such information may appear on exams, and it is in your best interest to borrow notes from a classmate if you must miss a class. Exam questions may also be derived from supplementary materials such as videos. Research demonstrations may also be conducted in class and questions pertaining to these research demonstrations also may appear on exams.

Evaluation:
You will be given two exams. The first exam is worth 32% of your final grade and the second exam is worth 40%. One exam will be given on February 9th and the other exam will be given during the final examination period. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions, as well as a series of short answer questions. You will also have one paper to write for the course. This paper is worth 25% of your final grade. The deadline for the paper submission will be March 15th. You will also have to submit your paper topic and some preliminary literature research by February 16th for 3% of your final grade. More information regarding the paper will be provided during the second meeting of the class.

Drop Deadline:
Friday March 9, 2011 (last day to drop the course without receiving a grade on your transcript)
Grading Percentage  Letter Grade
90+         A+
80-89        A
75-79        B+
70-74        B
65-69        C+
60-64        C
55-59        D+
50-54        D
40-49        E
0-39         F

Missed exams:

According to University Policy, the only legitimate reason for missing an exam (i.e., one for which a make-up will be scheduled) is because of medical problems or exceptional circumstances. If you miss an exam, please e-mail the Teaching Assistant (elou@yorku.ca) within 48 hours of the missed exam. Clearly indicate your full name and student number in your e-mail. If you are unable to contact the TA during this period, documentation accounting for the delay must be provided. Documentation verifying the reason for the missed exam (see below) must be provided either prior to or at the time of the one-time only make-up exam. Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in a grade of 0.

A. Tests or examinations missed on the grounds of medical circumstances must be supported by an Attending Physician’s Statement or a Statement by a Psychologist or Counsellor. The Attending Physician’s Statement must include (I) the full name, mailing address and telephone number of the Physicians, (ii) state the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered), and (iii) an indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have seriously affected your ability to study and perform over the period in question.

B. Exams missed on the ground of exception non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation: obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/train/bus tickets/receipt for emergency travel (with date of booking on ticket), etc. Receipts from emergency travel must indicate destination, departure and return dates.

In the case of the make up exam, you must be prepared to write within the week following the missed exam. Although the content to be examined will be the same, the format may or may not follow that of the original exam. It is your responsibility to check with the TA about the date/time of the make-up. A conflict with another course during the time of the make-up is not an acceptable reason for missing the make-up (unless there is an exam in that course at that time). There will be no second opportunity for a make-up.
General information:
Important information for students regarding University policies, including Academic Honesty/Integrity (see below as well) can be found at: http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/

Cheating/Plagiarism:
The University does not look favourably on cheating of any kind and the penalties for doing so are very harsh. Become familiar with the rules and regulations regarding cheating/plagiarism and academic honesty. Go to the following website http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/ and read the section ‘For Students.’

Cheating: Cheating is the attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation. Among the forms this kind of dishonesty can take are; obtaining a copy of an examination before it is officially available or learning an examination question before it is officially available; copying another person’s answer to an examination question; consulting an unauthorized source during an examination; obtaining assistance by means of documentary, electronic or other aids which are not approved by the instructor; or changing a score or a record of an examination result.

Impersonation: It is a breach of academic honesty to have someone impersonate one’s self in class, in a test or examination, or in connection with any other type of assignment in a course. Both the impersonator and the individual impersonated may be charged.

Plagiarism and other misappropriation of the work of another: Plagiarism is the representation of another person’s ideas or writing as one’s own. The most obvious form of this kind of dishonesty is the presentation of all or part of another person’s published work as something one has written. However, paraphrasing another’s writing without proper acknowledgment may also be considered plagiarism. It is also a violation of academic honesty to represent another’s artistic or technical work or creation as one’s own. This is not to say that students should not use the work of others with the proper acknowledgment.

Sanctions for Academic Misconduct:
When verified, a violation of academic honesty may lead to the following penalties:
1. Oral or written disciplinary warning or reprimand;
2. A make-up assignment or examination;
3. Lower grade or failure on assignment or examination;
4. Failure in the course;
5. Suspension from the University for a definite period;
6. Notation on transcript;
7. Withholding or rescinding a York degree, diploma or certificate
Course Timeline and Associated Readings

**January 5 -- Culture & Human Nature** (Chapters 1 & 2)

**January 12 – Cultural Evolution** (Chapter 3)

**January 19 -- Research Methods** (Chapter 4)

**January 26 -- Development and Socialization** (Chapter 5)

**February 2 -- Self & Personality** (Chapter 6; Chapter 7 pp. 240-254; 263-268)

**February 9 -- Mid-term Exam**

**February 16 – Perception & Cognition** *NB – paper topic & 2 refs due on this date*
(Chapter 8; Chapter 7 pp. 269-278)

**February 23 – Reading Week**

**March 1 -- Emotions** (Chapter 14)

**March 8 – Morality & Religion** (Chapter 13)

**March 15 – Health** (Chapter 11 & 12) ***NB – paper due on this date***

**March 22 – Relationships and Groups** (Chapter 9)

**March 29-- Multicultural Issues** (Chapter 10)