

PSYC 3350 – Cultural Psychology – 2015/2016

Prerequisites: Introduction to Psychology (minimum of C)

Recommended: Statistics and Research Methods

Course Director : Richard Lalonde, lalonde@yorku.ca
Office location: 237 BSB Office hours: Thursdays 3:00 – 4:00
Website: <http://www.psych.yorku.ca/lalonde/>

Teaching Assistants: Jorida Cila jcila@yorku.ca (Students with last name initial A to K)
Office location: 072G BSB Office hours: Mondays 11:00 – 12:00

Sheila Konanur skonanur@yorku.ca (Students with last name initial L to Z)
Office location: 143 BSB Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30 – 2:30

Class Time: Thursdays (Winter Term) 11:30 – 2:20 (Curtis F)

Required Readings:

Text Heine, S.J. (2016). *Cultural Psychology (3rd Edition)*. New York, NY: Norton.
OR
Heine, S. J. (2012). *Cultural Psychology (2nd Edition)*. New York, NY: Norton.

Journal articles A journal article will be assigned each week except for the introductory lecture. These are available through the York library's e-resources or through Moodle.

Course objectives and format:

The goal of this course is to get you to think about the deep and meaningful ways in which culture shapes who we are, how we think, and what we do. We will do this by addressing theory, research, and methods pertaining to culture and psychology. 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.

In addition to content, weekly lectures may include a research demonstration, some video clips, and class discussion. Each lecture is 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 cultural psychology and to highlight and clarify some of the content that is related to the weekly topic. Not all of the information presented in the text will be covered in class. Moreover, some lecture information will not be found in the textbook. You are responsible for covering the text and the additional readings in their entirety. It would be a good idea to borrow notes from a classmate if you must miss a class, as all information presented in class (e.g., videos, research demonstrations) may lead to questions appearing on exams.

Evaluation:

Exam 1: 35% (February 11)
Exam 2: 35%. (April 6th – April 20th)
Paper topic: 5% (February 25)
Paper: 25% (March 24)

Each exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.
Information on the paper will be provided in week 2.

Bonus marks

You have the opportunity to gain up to 2 bonus marks if you serve as a research participant in a Cultural Psychology study. Announcements for these studies will be given throughout the course.

Drop Deadline:

Friday March 4, 2015 (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 Jorida Cila (jcila@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 exceptional 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 a make-up, unless the conflict involves another exam. 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 <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 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 impersonates 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

Email Etiquette

- Make your subject line brief but clear
- Briefly indicate who you are and regarding what course you are writing about
- Use real words instead of slang or text language
- Avoid being overly familiar
- Use correct grammar
- Keep messages short and to the point
- Don't say anything in an email that you wouldn't say in public
- Include the email chain in your response
- Use a signature that includes contact information
- Be polite

Course Timeline and Associated Readings

January 7: Culture & Human Nature (Chapters 1 & 2)

January 14: Cultural Evolution (Chapter 3)

Uskul, A. K., Kitayama, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2008). Ecocultural basis of cognition: Farmers and fishermen are more holistic than herders. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 105, 8552–8556.

January 21: Research Methods (Chapter 4)

Hormes, J., & Rozin, P. (2010). Does "craving" carve nature at the joints? Absence of a synonym for craving in many languages. *Addictive Behaviors*, 35, 459–463.

January 28: Development and Socialization (Chapter 5)

Miller, K.F., Smith, C.M., Zhu, J., & Zhang, H. (1995). Preschool origins of cross-national differences in mathematical competence: The role of number-naming systems. *Psychological Science*, 6, 56–60.

February 4: Self & Personality (Chap 6) (2ndChap7: 240-254; 263-268 / 3rdChap8: 301-313; 322-328)

Markus, H. R., Uchida, Y., Omoregie, H., Townsend S. S. M., & Kitayama S. (2006). Going for the gold: Models of agency in Japanese and American contexts. *Psychological Science*, 17,103–112.

February 11: Mid-term Exam

February 18: Reading Week

February 25: Cognition & Perception **NB – paper topic & 2 refs due on this date**

(2nd Chap 8; Chap 7 pp. 269-278) (3rd Chap 9; Chap 8 pp. 328-337)

Masuda, T., Gonzalez, R., Kwan, L., & Nisbett, R. E. (2008). Culture and aesthetic preference: Comparing the attention to context of East Asians and Americans. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 34, 1260–1275.

March 3: Emotions (2nd Chapter 14 / 3rd Chapter 10)

Elfenbein, H.A., & Ambady, N. (2003). Universals and cultural differences in recognizing emotions. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 12, 159–164.

March 10: Morality & Religion (2nd Chapter 13 / 3rd Chapter 12)

Haidt, J. (2007). The new synthesis in moral psychology. *Science*, 316, 998-1002.

March 17: Health (2nd Chapters 11 & 12 / 3rd Chapters 13 & 14)

Kuo, B. C. H., Hsu, W. S., & Lai, N. H. (2011). Indigenous crisis counselling in Taiwan: An exploratory qualitative case study of an expert therapist. *International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling*, 33,1–21.

March 24: Relationships and Groups (2nd Chapter 9 / 3rd Chapter 11) **NB – paper due on this date**

Adams, G. (2005). The cultural grounding of personal relationship: Enemyship in North American and West African worlds. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 88, 948–968.

March 31: Multicultural Issues (2nd Chapter 10 / 3rd Chapter 7)

Giguère, B., Lalonde, R. N., & Lou, E. (2010). Living at the crossroads of cultural worlds: The experience of normative conflicts by second generation immigrant youth. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 4, 14–29.