

# PSYC 3350 – Cultural Psychology – 2014/2015

**Course Director :** Richard Lalonde, [lalonde@yorku.ca](mailto: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](mailto:jcila@yorku.ca)  
Office location: 072G BSB  
Office hours: TBA

Sheila Konanur [skonanur@yorku.ca](mailto:skonanur@yorku.ca)  
Office location: 143 BSB  
Office hours: TBA

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

## Required Readings:

**Text** Heine, S. J. (2012). *Cultural Psychology (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*. New York, NY: Norton.

**Journal articles** A journal article will be assigned each week except for the introductory lecture. These are available through York's library e-resources or through 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 of bringing that 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 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 cultural psychology and not all of the information presented in the text will be covered in class. Lectures are designed to motivate you to learn and to highlight some interesting issues that are related to the weekly topic. Some of the lectures information, therefore, will not be found in the textbook. You are responsible for covering the text and the additional readings in their entirety. It is in your best interest to borrow notes from a classmate if you must miss a class, as all information presented in class (including videos and research demonstrations) may lead to questions appearing on exams.

## Evaluation:

Exam 1: 35% (February 12)  
Exam 2: 37%. (April 8<sup>th</sup> – April 24<sup>th</sup>)  
Paper topic: 3% (February 26)  
Paper: 25% (March 19)

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 6, 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](mailto: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 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 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

## Course Timeline and Associated Readings

### **January 8 – Culture & Human Nature (Chapters 1 & 2)**

#### **January 15 – Cultural Evolution (Chapter 3)**

Inglehart, R. (2006). Mapping global values. *Comparative Sociology*, 5, 115–136.

#### **January 22 -- 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 29 -- 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 5 -- Self & Personality (Chapter 6; Chapter 7 pp. 240-254; 263-268)**

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 12 -- Mid-term Exam**

### **February 19 – Reading Week**

#### **February 26 – Perception & Cognition \*NB – paper topic & 2 refs due on this date\***

(Chapter 8; Chapter 7 pp. 269-278)

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 5 -- Emotions (Chapter 14)**

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

#### **March 12 – Morality & Religion (Chapter 13)**

Gervais, W. M., Willard, A.K., Norenzayan, A. & J. Henrich (2011) The cultural transmission of faith Why innate intuitions are necessary, but insufficient, to explain religious belief. *Religion*, 41, 389-410.

#### **March 19 – Health (Chapter 11 & 12) \*\*\*NB – paper due on this date\*\*\***

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 26 -- Relationships and Groups (Chapter 9)**

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.

#### **April 2 -- Multicultural Issues (Chapter 10)**

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.