
Psychology 491	Cross-Cultural Cognition	Fall 2014
Instructor:	Valerie Pruegger	Lecture Location: SS010
Phone:	403-256-2770	Lecture Days/Time: Thursdays 17:00-19:50
Office:	n/a	
Office Hours:	By appointment	

Course Description and Goals

This course will explore the often controversial topic of information and cognitive processing across cultures. Are there differences between cultural groups, and if so, are these a reflection of variations in inborn competencies or variations in social and cultural contexts? Topics include cross-cultural research in intelligence, perception, language processing, emotions, memory, decision making and reasoning among others.

Prerequisites

Psyc 312 (Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods) and 365 (Cognitive Psychology).

Required Text

There is no required text for this course. Students will be assigned readings for each class.

Evaluation

As this class is highly participative with case studies and class exercises, participation will be graded.

1. Participation (30% of final grade) – This includes 20% for a group presentation, and 10% for participating in class discussions and exercises.
 2. Mid-term Essay – Oct 30 (40% of final grade).
 3. Final Exam – November 27 and December 4 (30% of final grade, 15% for presentation, 15% for paper). This is an oral presentation in class with a formal paper. Two classes may be needed depending on number of students in the class.
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1. **Participation:** worth 30% of grade. It will be indicated by attendance (see more on Desire2); evident completion of readings and preparedness for each class; and active participation in class discussions, group dialogues and exercises. Participation is crucial, as the lectures will often differ substantially from the material in the readings. To benefit maximally from lectures, discussions, and activities in class, students are strongly advised to complete the assigned readings before class. For each class, a group of students will be charged with the task of leading a class discussion on issues from the readings. Additionally, discussion leaders will submit a 1-3 page group thought paper (not individual papers) to the professor on the day of the session. Although discussion leaders are charged with

providing discussion questions and facilitating the discussion, all students are expected to read the assigned materials and come prepared to class (see Desire2) for more information and readings for each class).

- 2. Mid-term Exam:** worth 40% of final grade. Students are to choose a topic relevant to the course and are expected to look at recent relevant research on that topic. Essays will be NO MORE than 3-5 pages, double-spaced in length with an APA style reference page included. A title page with your name and student number should be included with the essay. Essays are to be delivered electronically by email (vpruegge@ucalgary.ca) no later than 12 pm on Thursday, October 30, 2014. NO late assignments will be accepted. **Students must discuss their topic with the professor no later than October 2.**
- 3. Final Exam:** worth 30% of grade. Held in class November 27 and December 4 (depending on class size). The final exam will be in the form of an oral argument. Each student will be asked to prepare a detailed argument on a particular topic covered in the course, or that pertains to the course, that focuses on how and why the topic is critical to our understanding of human cognition. **Topics must be discussed and cleared with the professor prior to November 6, 2014.** Length of arguments will be determined by class size (usually no more than 5 minutes) and students will be required to submit a 1-2 page formal APA formatted paper that clearly presents the oral argument.

Students will be graded per the criteria below.

Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be "A" grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be "A" grades.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.* Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance.* Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.* Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential

requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards.* Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Lecture Schedule

Date		
	Activity	Assignments/Readings
R Sep 11	Lecture 1 Introduction	Note: Assigned Readings for each lecture are on Desire2 site under lecture notes
R Sep 18	Lecture 2 TBA	
F Sep 19	Last day to drop full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. No refunds for full courses (Multi-term) or Fall Term half courses after this date.	
M Sep 22	Last day to add or swap full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.	
R Sep 25	Lecture 3 Language Acquisition and Communication	
F Sep 26	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.	
R Oct 2	Lecture 4 Interpersonal Cognition	Midterm topics due
R Oct 9	Lecture 5 Perception	
M Oct 13 Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.		
R Oct 16	Lecture 6 Emotion	

R Oct 23	Lecture 7 Problem Solving	
R Oct 30	Lecture 8 Intelligence	Midterm Papers due
R Nov 6	Lecture 9 Memory	Final Topics due
T Nov 11 Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.		
Nov 8-11 Reading Days. No lectures.		
R Nov 13	Lecture 10 Social Implications	
R Nov 20	Lecture 11 Political Implications	
R Nov 27	Final Oral Topics – Day One	
R Dec 4	Final Oral Topics – Day Two	
F Dec 5	Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.	
Dec 8-18	Fall Term Exam Period.	

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered except under exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 255), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Course Credits for Research Participation

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Dec 5, 2014**

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS).

They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca

(<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Friday, September 19, 2014**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Monday, September 22, 2014**.

The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 5, 2014**.