



Department of Psychology
Psychology 503.66 – Selected Topics in Psychology
(Introduction to Cross-Cultural Psychology)
Winter 2010 – Course Outline

Instructor:	Dr. Valerie Pruegger	Lecture Location:	EDC172
Phone:	403-268-5126	Lecture Days/Time:	W 15:00-17:50 pm
Email:	vpruegge@ucalgary.ca or vpruegger@calgary.ca		
Office:	800 Macleod Tr S, Municipal Building		
Office Hours:	By appointment		

Course Description and Goals

Cross-cultural psychology is the study of the similarities and difference in individual psychological functioning in various cultural and ethnic groups; of the relationships between psychological variables and sociocultural, ecological and biological variables; and of current changes in these variables. This discipline arose from related disciplines such as ecology, anthropology, sociology, linguistics and biology and seeks to test existing psychological knowledge and theory to establish cross-cultural generality of these principles before considering them to be established.

As much of the world, including Canada, becomes more and more pluralistic, professionals are needed who understand the impact that culture and systemic discrimination have on human behaviour. This understanding begins to address CPA and APA ethical guidelines for providers of psychological services to ethnic, linguistic and culturally diverse populations.

Prerequisites

Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methodology

Required Text

Matsumoto, D. & Juang, L. (2008). Culture & Psychology (4th Ed.). Thomson-Wadsworth.
Available in bookstore or online at the following URL:

http://www.coursesmart.com/givecoursesmartatry?xmlid=9780495097877&_instructor=2177232

Additional readings as assigned.

Evaluation

This course will be evaluated through a mid-term exam worth 30% of the course grade, and a final exam worth 35%. The format of the mid-term exam will be short answer and one essay question. The final exam will be an oral exam where the student will be assigned a topic to become an 'expert' on. The student and the professor will agree on 5-6 questions to be asked in a 'talk show' like presentation, where the professor will be the 'host' asking the student questions about his/her topic. Members of the audience (class) will also be able to ask

questions. Marks will be based on knowledge of material and clarity of the answers. In addition, students will be graded on group exercises conducted throughout the course in terms of participation accounting for 10% of the final grade. The final 25% of the grade will be graded on an assigned team exercise that will require students to work together on a group project that will involve some field work and a 20-30 minute class presentation. The field work will ask each group to pick a marginalized group (e.g., Aboriginal people, homeless persons, racialized persons). Then, the professor will help them set up an opportunity to connect with a service agency or individual working with one of these groups to find out some of the language/cultural or social barriers they may experience. This information will form the basis of the presentation.

The midterm and final exam will be conducted in class time and due at the end of the class. The group project can be submitted electronically and is due no later than 4 pm of the due date. Late assignments will be docked 5% for each day submitted late unless students arrange for late submission with the professor ahead of time.

Assignment	Topics	Due Date	% of Grade
Mid-term Exam	Chs 1-7	2010 Feb 24	30
Final Exam	Chs 8-15	2010 Apr 16	35
Group Project	TBA	Presentations March 24 & 31	25
Group Exercises	TBA	each class	10

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date (2010)	Topic	Pre-reading
January 13	Introduction & Assigning Group Work	Ch 1
January 20	Research Methods	Ch 2
January 27	Enculturation	Ch 3
February 3	Developmental/Gender	Chs 4 & 6
February 10	Cognition/Health	Chs 5 & 7
February 17	READING WEEK	
February 24	MIDTERM (30%)	All above chapters covered
March 3	Language & Emotion	Chs 8 & 9
March 10	Abnormal Psyc	Chs 11 & 12
March 17	Self/Interpersonal Rel'ns	Chs 13 & 14
March 24	Personality Group Project Presentations	Ch 10
March 31	Organizations Group Project Presentations	Ch 15
April 7	Talking Circle and Tips for Final Exam	None
April 14	FINAL EXAM (35%)	Chapters covered from March 3-April 7

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%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. 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%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc.).

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. 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 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. As the final exam is oral, students missing this exam will have the option of providing their oral presentation to the professor or writing a make-up exam consisting of short-answer and essay style questions.

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 (2) 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 **April 15, 2010.**

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

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Jan 22nd, 2010**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Jan 26th, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Apr 16th, 2010**.