



Department of Psychology
Psych 352
Cultural Psychology
Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 - 2:20, DWE1501

Instructor and T.A. Information

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Course Description

Psychology 352 will familiarize the student with the field of Cultural Psychology. At the micro-level, culture can influence an individual's thought and behaviour. To an extent, our identities, emotions, worldviews, how we solve problems, and how we perceive the world around us are at least partly a product of our cultural environments. Moreover, because humans are also social animals, we share our cultural experiences with our fellow group members but not necessarily with members of other groups. Thus, at the macro-level, cross-cultural differences in thought and behaviour can be observed. Psychology 352 will explore these themes using evidence from traditional ethnographies, laboratory investigations, cross-cultural surveys, and archives. In addition, this course will describe the methods and issues associated with performing cultural research and will encourage students to critically evaluate such investigations.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should:

- A. Be knowledgeable about the field of Cultural Psychology, its perspectives, issues, and research methods.
- B. Be able to critically evaluate scientific research conducted in Cultural Psychology.
- C. Gain greater insight into yourself by understanding how culture has influenced your thought and behaviour.
- D. Enhance your appreciation for cultural diversity, and other ways of thinking and behaving.

Required Text

Heine, S. J. (2012). *Cultural psychology (2nd edition)*. New York: W. W. Norton.

Information Available on LEARN

The course web page can be found on LEARN (<https://learn.uwaterloo.ca/>). Here, you will find links to the syllabus, lecture slides, and to important announcements. I will do my best to have the lecture slides for the upcoming lecture available at least 24 hours in advance of class time.

Withdrawal Dates

Withdrawal deadline with no penalty: September 26th, 2014

Withdrawal deadline to receive “WD” on transcript: November 14th, 2014

Withdrawal deadline to receive “WF” on transcript: December 3rd, 2014

Attendance

In this course, material that is taught in class might be different from or supplement the text material. It is, therefore, essential that you attend classes and it is strongly recommended to read ahead in the text. If, however, you do miss a class, you are responsible for getting the notes from another student. If an exam is missed, a medical note from a physician (or verification of another valid excuse) is required in order to avoid receiving a zero for that exam. Make-up exams will only be provided for students with valid absences. Please submit your documentation to the instructor as soon as possible. Absence due to religious holiday is a valid excuse, but notify your instructor at the beginning of the course in the event of a conflict.

Absences for varsity athletics, family obligations, co-op interviews or other similar engagements are not part of University policy and students should not assume that they would be accommodated. If you have a pressing issue that conflicts with an exam, you should discuss this with your instructor as soon as possible.

Grading

The marks for each exam will be posted in the gradebook on LEARN. Students who wish to inspect their exams may do so by visiting the teaching assistant during scheduled office hours or by appointment.

In order to maintain equity among sections and conformity across University, faculty, department or school norms, students can expect a class average of approximately 73 – 75% including any extra credit. Therefore, although this seldom occurs, grades might be scaled to meet this requirement.

Course Assessment

There are three components to the assessment for this course. The first is examinations, which represent 60% of your total grade, and will test your mastery of lecture and textbook material. The portfolio provides you with the opportunity to actively and creatively reflect on and synthesize course content and apply it to the world you live in. You will write a number of entries detailing your experiences and and this component is worth 20%. Finally, one important method some researchers use to investigate culture is called an ethnographic interview. During which, the researcher interviews a person from a different culture. This person (called an informant) acts as an expert in his/her own culture and shares her/his knowledge with the researcher via a structured interview. Students will perform a similar task in this course and submit a paper detailing their experience worth 16% of their grade.

Assessment	Date	Topics	Weight
Midterm 1	October 07	Chapters 1 – 5	20%
Midterm 2	November 04	Chapters 6 – 10	20%
Final Exam	December 04 – 19	Chapters 11 – 14.	20%
Ethnographic Interview	October 23		20%
Portfolio	November 13		20%
Research Participation			4%
Total			104%

Examinations

There will be two midterm examinations and one final. Each exam will be worth 20% of your final grade and will cover approximately 1/3rd of the course content. The format of all three exams will be a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Midterm exams will take up the entire class period on the date that they are scheduled. The final exam will be take place during the final exam period beginning December 4th. It will be the same length and duration as the midterm exams. The exact date of the final exam will be announced later in the term after the university publishes the exam schedule.

Portfolio

This task requires that students complete option (a) and any three of options (b) – (e). Each entry should be no more than one page in length (double-spaced, 12pt font, 1-inch margins). All entries should be combined into a single report with a cover page. Check LEARN early in the course for detailed guidelines and rubric for this assignment.

- a) Summarize an academic journal article and relate it to course material: Use PsycInfo to locate a recent article investigating cross-cultural differences. This could be a comparison at the national level (e.g., Japan vs. Canada) or it could focus on cultural variables within one nation (e.g., ethnicity, religion, SES, etc). Briefly summarize the the article in one paragraph without plaigerizing the abstract and then relate the article to topics and themes presented in the course. Be sure to include the full reference of the article in APA format.
- b) Summarize a news article and relate it to course material: Identify an information article in the news, online, in a magazine, or other printed non-academic source that can be related to course content. Briefly summarize the article in one paragraph without plaigerizing the article, and then relate the content to topics and themes presented in your Cultural Psychology course. Be sure to include a full reference of the source in APA format.
- c) Write a diary entry and relate it to course material: Choose an event from your life that has cross-cultural implications. You could describe an experience while traveling, or an encounter you had with someone from another culture. Briefly describe the event and then relate the experience to topics and themes in your Cultural Psychology Course. Explain how taking Cultural Psychology has revealed something about that experience that you had not previously considered.
- d) Watch a form of entertainment from another culture and relate it to course material: Watch a form of entertainment media from another culture (e.g., movie, television program, sporting event, musical performance, etc.). Briefly describe the media in one paragraph and then relate the experience to topics and themes in your Cultural Psychology course.
- e) Research a cultural phenomenon: Choose a cultural phenomenon that you have heard of, but have never experienced (festival, custom, event, sport, media, behaviour or norm). You can use examples from the course or you can use a topic that you have been curious about. Research the phenomen by reading about it, using internet resources, or even talking to someone who is knowledgeable on the topics. Sources for this option need not be academic in origin. Describe what you found and relate the information to topics and themes in your Cultural Psychology course.

Ethnographic Interview

For the ethnographic interview you will be asked to interview a person who is culturally different from you (e.g., different country of origin, generation, race/ethnic background, socioeconomic etc.). You will prepare a set of questions prior to meeting with your interviewee exploring how your difference in culture has led to different experiences, perceptions of the world, etc. During the interview, you will keep notes, which will be handed in. Based on your interview, you will identify one cultural difference that you think is interesting, and then propose a way to study this difference. You will write a 3 page paper (double-spaced, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins) in which you will reflect on your interviewing experience, and present your research idea based on the interview. More information about the ethnographic interview and content of the paper will be available on LEARN.

Research Experience Marks

Experiential learning is considered an integral part of the undergraduate program in Psychology. Research participation is one example of this, article review is another. A number of undergraduate courses have been expanded to include opportunities for Psychology students to earn grades while gaining research experience.

Since experiential learning is highly valued in the Department of Psychology, students may earn a **"bonus" grade of up to 4%** in this course through research experience. Course work will make up 100% of the final mark and a "bonus" of up to 4% may be earned and will be added to the final grade if/as needed to bring your final grade up to 100%. The two options for earning research experience grades (participation in research and article review) are described below. Students may complete any combination of these options to earn research experience grades.

OPTION 1: Participation in Psychological Research

Research participation is coordinated by the Research Experiences Group (REG). Psychology students may volunteer as research participants in lab and/or online (web-based) studies conducted by students and faculty in the Department of Psychology. Participation enables students to learn first-hand about psychology research and related concepts. Many students report that participation in research is both an educational and interesting experience. Please be assured that all Psychology studies have undergone prior ethics review and clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee.

Educational focus of participation in research: To maximize the educational benefits of participating in research, students will receive feedback information following their participation in each study detailing the following elements:

- Purpose or objectives of the study
- Dependent and independent variables
- Expected results
- References for at least two related research articles
- Provisions to ensure confidentiality of data
- Contact information of the researcher should the student have further questions about the study
- Contact information for the Director of the Office of Research Ethics should the student wish to learn more about the general ethical issues surrounding research with human participants, or specific questions or concerns about the study in which s/he participated.

Participation in LAB studies is worth 0.5 participation credits (grade percentage points) for each 30-minutes of participation. Participation in ONLINE studies is worth .25 credits for each 15-minutes of participation. Researchers will record student's participation and will advise the course instructor of the total credits earned by each student at the end of the term.

How to participate?

Study scheduling, participation and grade assignment is managed using the SONA online system. All students enrolled in this course have been set up with a SONA account. You must get started early in the term.

How to log in to Sona and sign up for studies:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/research-experiences-group/participants/sona-information>

More information regarding the Research Experience Group:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/research-experiences-group/participants>

**** Please do not ask the Course Instructor or REG Coordinator for information unless you have first thoroughly read the information provided on this website.****

OPTION 2: Article Review

Students are not required to participate in research, and not all students wish to do so. As an alternative, students may opt to gain research experience by writing short (1½ to 2 double-spaced typed pages) reviews of research articles (i.e., scientific journal articles) relevant to Cultural Psychology. Each review article counts as one percentage point.

Guidelines:

- The article must be a RESEARCH article (i.e., introduce new data) from a prominent journal in the area of cultural psychology (e.g., Journal of Cross-cultural Psychology).
- Each review should be 1.5 – 2.0 pages, typed and double-spaced with a cover page. A copy of the original article must be attached.
- Content of the review should briefly summarize the research question, methods, variables, results, and implications of the study. In addition, you should indicate the pages in the textbook that are relevant to the article and critically evaluate the application or treatment of those concepts in the article. If inappropriate or incorrect, identify the error and its implications for the validity of the article. You may find, for example, misleading headings, faulty research procedures, alternative explanations that are ignored, failures to distinguish factual findings from opinions, faulty statements of cause-and-effect relationships, errors in reasoning, etc. Provide examples whenever possible. **DO NOT COPY WORD-FOR-WORD FROM THE ABSTRACT OR ANY OTHER PART OF THE ARTICLE!** Instead, you should paraphrase and cite from the source.
- A hard copy of the review must be submitted to your instructor before the last lecture in the course. An electronic copy of the review must be uploaded to **turnitin.com** by midnight of the same day. Late submissions will NOT be accepted under ANY circumstances.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

The AccessAbility Services office, located in Needles Hall Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

<https://uwaterloo.ca/disability-services/>

Concerns About the Course or Instructor (Informal Stage)

We in the Psychology Department take great pride in the high quality of our program and our instructors. Though infrequent, we know that students occasionally find themselves in situations of conflict with their instructors over course policies or grade assessments. If such a conflict arises, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs (Dr. Myra Fernandes) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor. Dr. Fernandes' contact information is as follows: Email: mafernan@uwaterloo.ca, Phone: 519-888-4567, x32142. A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. See Policy 70 and 71 below for further details.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 – Student Discipline.

<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4.

<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 – Student Appeals.

<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>

Other sources of information for students

Academic Integrity (Arts): <https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/ethical-behavior>

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): <https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

Counselling Services (uWaterloo): <https://uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services/>

Term Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Readings
1	Sep 09 & 11	Course Overview Introduction to Cultural Psychology	Chapter 1
2	Sep 16 & 18	Culture and Human Nature	Chapter 2
3	Sep 23 & 25	Cultural Evolution Methods for Studying Culture & Psychology	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
4	Sep 30 & Oct 02	Development and Socialization	Chapter 5
5	Oct 07 & 09	MIDTERM 1 Self & Personality	Chapter 6
6	Oct 14 & 16	Motivation	Chapter 7
7	Oct 21 & 23	Cognition & Perception	Chapter 8
8	Oct 28 & 30	Close Relationships Living in Multicultural Worlds	Chapter 9 Chapter 10
9	Nov 04 & 06	MIDTERM 2 Physical Health	Chapter 11
10	Nov 11 & 13	Mental Health	Chapter 12
11	Nov 18 & 20	Morality, Religion, and Justice	Chapter 13
12	Nov 25 & 27	Emotions	Chapter 14