

**Psychology 352 -- Culture and Psychology**  
**Winter 2007**  
**M/W 4:30 – 5:50, PAS 2083**

**Instructor:** Dr. Elaine Perunovic  
**Office:** PAS 3243  
**Office hrs:** W 3:00 – 4:00

<b>Teaching Assistants:</b>	<b>Office:</b>	<b>Office hrs:</b>
Justin Cavallo	PAS 3050	T 9:30 – 10:30
Karen Choi	PAS 3261	Th 1:00 – 2:00

**Course e-mail address:** [psych352@gmail.com](mailto:psych352@gmail.com)

To contact the instructor or the TAs, please use the course e-mail address.

**Course Website:** <http://uwace.uwaterloo.ca>

Log into UWACE using your QUEST/UWdir userid and password. The syllabus and all important announcements will be there. Course notes (PowerPoint presentations of the lectures) should appear by 11 AM on the morning of each lecture. Bring the notes to the lectures. The notes are designed to reduce your writing during the lectures, but will not substitute for the lectures. Check you UWACE course website regularly. Important announcements about the course will be posted there.

**Required Readings:**

- 1) **Matsumoto, D., & Juang, L. (2004). Culture and Psychology, 3rd edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth:** Available at the UW bookstore. This book will also be on 3-hour reserve at the Dana Porter Library Circulation Desk. Note that chapters assigned are based on this edition. Use of earlier editions of the text is NOT recommended.
- 2) **Assigned Articles:** See course website on how to access the assigned articles. This information will be available by January 15, 2007.

**Course Overview:**

As participants in our increasingly global community, it is very important that we understand how people from different cultures think, feel, and behave, and to understand the forces, beliefs, and motivations that underlie their behaviours. Yet, psychology as a field has tended to focus on the behaviour of members of North American and Western European cultural backgrounds. This course will explore how culture influences human thought and social behaviour, and how our own experiences and perceptions may differ from those of persons from other cultures. We will also examine closely what is known about cultural variations in social psychological functioning, and the extent to which our identities, ways of thinking, and social behaviours are products of our cultural environments.

**Course Goals:**

- To introduce the field of cultural psychology and to examine the concepts and processes necessary for cross-cultural research.
- To help students better evaluate the absolutist and relativist claims regarding human nature in the academic and everyday discourse.
- To help students think about their own values, have an appreciation for the diversity of cultures, and take better perspectives of other people.
- To stimulate critical thinking and analytic skills.

## Course Composition:

### 1) Lectures and Pop Quizzes

The majority of classes will be comprised of lectures, which may cover material in the assigned readings or might introduce new material that does not appear in the readings. Demonstrations, films, presentations from guest speakers, and group exercises may also take place during class time. Thus, it is important to attend lectures. In addition, certain reading material may not be addressed in the lectures. There will also be pop quizzes given during the term. For the pop quizzes, you will be responsible for assigned reading material (which may or may not have been covered in lecture). Therefore, doing the assigned readings before coming to class is essential. The pop quizzes will usually be two or three questions either in the format of short answer questions or multiple-choice questions. The pop quizzes will make up 5% of the total course grade. There will be no make-up pop quizzes.

### 2) Discussion Sessions and Related Assignments

To encourage students to think actively about course material, this course includes 5 class periods devoted to discussion (see schedule for dates). In preparation for discussion sessions, you are required to compose a discussion question and to write a reflection paper, and you will need to submit them at the start of each discussion session.

#### Details:

Each student will be assigned to a particular group-discussion (assignment to discussion sessions will be posted on the course website). The purpose of the discussion sessions is to give you the opportunity to reflect on the course material and to share your thoughts with your peers and your discussion leader. You will be required to do three things for each discussion session:

1. Read and think about the assigned reading material.
2. Prepare a discussion question **before** the discussion session and bring it to class. A discussion question need only be **a sentence or two**. The questions should not be of the type that can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no", instead they should be ones that stimulate discussion and interest. You will need to **hand in your discussion question to your discussion leader at the beginning of discussion session**, and should **also make a copy of the question to keep with you** during the discussion. You might be asked to present your question to the class during the discussion session.
3. Write a **1 page (12 pt font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins) reflection paper** in response to the assigned reading material for the discussion session, **due at the start of each discussion session**. These papers do not need to be written in a formal style (although they should be comprehensible), but they must be typed. You should not write more than one page. We will stop reading after the first page. A title page is not necessary. This paper should not be a summary of the reading material. Rather, it should be a reflection on how thinking about the issues you have read about affect your own thinking about life and your view of the world, how you might apply your thoughts about these issues to your life, ways in which you have seen your own values or past experiences in a new light, a reconsideration of your values and beliefs, etc.

For each discussion session and its related assignments, you will be able to earn a possible total of 7 points: 1pt. for submitting the discussion question to the leader, 1 pts for participation in the discussion, and 5 pts. for the reflection paper. Together the five discussion sessions and the related assignments will make up 35% of the total course grade. Note that if you are absent during the discussion session, you cannot earn any participation points; and if you do not hand in the reflection paper before the start of the discussion session, you cannot earn points for the paper. There will be no alternate make-up arrangements, except in cases of severe illness or other extreme circumstances. In these cases, you must contact the instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements. Arrangements must be made **before** the discussion session occurs.

### 3) Tests

There will be 3 **non-cumulative** tests during the term (see schedule for dates). Each test will consist of approximately 30 multiple-choice questions. There may be also one or two short-answer questions on the test. The tests will assess your knowledge and understanding of the assigned reading materials and the lectures. Approximately half of the test questions will be from the reading material (which may or may not have been covered in lecture) and the other half will be from the lectures (including any demonstrations and film materials as well as presentations by guest speakers). Each test will be worth 20% of the final grade. Together the three tests will make up 60% of the total course grade. There will be no make-up tests, except in cases of severe illness or other extreme circumstances. In these cases, you must contact the instructor immediately to make arrangements. Arrangements must be made **before** the scheduled date of the test.

**Evaluations:**

Pop quizzes: 5%

5 Discussion sessions with related assignments (7% each): 35%

3 Tests (20% each): 60%

**There will be no final exam in this course.**

**Late Assignment Policy:**

Keeping up with assignments is essential for getting the most out of this course as a student, and keeping track of late assignments is very time-consuming for the instructor and TAs. Therefore, to encourage timely submission of assignments, **late assignments will not be accepted**. That is, if a student turns in an assignment late, this student will not receive credit for it. This applies for all assignments including discussion questions and reflection papers. Only in cases of severe illness or other extreme circumstances will provisions be made for turning in an assignment late. If you should find yourself in such a situation, it is necessary to contact the instructor immediately to make arrangements. Arrangements must be made **before** the due date, and proof of the reasons (e.g., a note from a physician) must be shown to the instructor.

**Information on Computer Account:**

All undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts may obtain a free computer account on Waterloo Polaris (other faculties have similar accounts). The account gives students free access to all Polaris applications (e.g., word processing, electronic mail, spreadsheets, statistical and graphic packages, and access to the internet). Students are charged for printing and can put money for printing on to their Arts Computing Resources Account at PAS 1080 using their WATCARD. Instructions for obtaining a Polaris account are available from the Arts Computing Office. Note that library catalogue searches as well as journal article searchers are available on the Internet (<http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca>).

**Message from the Faculty of Arts Council:**

*All students registered in the course of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy # 71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p. 1:10, and on the web at <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.*

*In addition, I would like to direct your attention to the following link to the Arts Faculty Web page, "How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors" (<http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html>)*

### Tentative Course Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>
Jan 3	Wed	Introduction	
Jan 8	Mon	Introduction and Methods	Ch. 1
Jan 10	Wed	Methods cont'	Ch. 2
Jan 15	Mon	Stereotype and Prejudice	Ch. 3
Jan 17	Wed	Socialization and Enculturation	Ch. 5
Jan 22	Mon	<b>Reflection paper due; Discussion session</b>	Ch. 11 pp. 300-329; Wang (2006)
Jan 24	Wed	No class: Instructor and TAs attending conference	
Jan 29	Mon	<b>Test # 1</b>	
Jan 31	Wed	Development	Ch. 6
Feb 5	Mon	Gender	Ch. 7
Feb 7	Wed	<b>Reflection paper due; Discussion session</b>	TBA
Feb 12	Mon	Health and Subjective Well-Being	Ch. 8
Feb 14	Wed	Emotion	Ch. 9
Feb 19,21	Mon,Wed	No class: Reading week	
Feb 26	Mon	<b>Test # 2</b>	
Feb 28	Wed	Language and Communication	Ch. 10
Mar 5	Mon	<b>Reflection paper due; Discussion session</b>	TBA
Mar 7	Wed	Disorders	Ch. 12
Mar 12	Mon	Treatment	Ch. 13
Mar 14	Wed	<b>Reflection paper due; Discussion session</b>	TBA
Mar 19	Mon	Social Judgment and Behaviour	Ch. 14
Mar 21	Wed	Culture and Organizations	Ch. 15
Mar 26	Mon	TBA	
Mar 28	Wed	<b>Test # 3</b>	
Apr 2	Mon	<b>Reflection paper due; Discussion session</b>	TBA