

Culture and Psychology (Psych 352)
Winter 2009

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Office Hours: By appointment, scheduled in class or by email.

Class Times and Location

10:30-11:50 MW AL 208

Teaching Assistant: Kristen Laurin
Office: PAS 3040
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Office Hours: By appointment, scheduled in class or by email.

Required Readings:

- 1) **Matsumoto, D., & Juang, L. (2008). Culture and Psychology, 4th 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.

Course Web Page

Access course web page via UW-ACE:

<https://uwangel.uwaterloo.ca/uwangel/frameIndex.htm>

Log into UW-ACE using your QUEST/UWdir userid and password. The syllabus and all course information, including course notes, course updates, news, and experimental demonstrations will be posted on the course website. Course notes should appear by 8 AM on the morning of the lecture. Bring the notes to the lectures. The course notes are a reduced version of my PowerPoint presentations and lectures. The notes are designed to reduce the amount of writing you have to do during the lectures, but will not substitute for the lectures. Check the website frequently for course notes, experimental demonstrations, and course news.

Course Description and Objectives

Cultural psychologists study how people around the world think, feel, and behave. This course will examine how many psychological processes that were once considered human universals actually vary importantly across cultures. This cultural psychology course surveys the major theories and research in the field. The course should also

provide you with new insights into your own culture.

The course consists of readings, lectures, and experiments in which you can participate. In the lectures, I attempt to provide perspective, demonstrate research, and discuss what I think are some of the more important and interesting issues. I hope that there will be plenty of give-and-take during the lectures. The experiments carried out in this course are designed to provide you with direct experience in how cultural psychology is conducted. The information collected will be used only to illustrate points in the lectures. Any information that you provide will be completely confidential and anonymous.

Make an appointment if you would like to meet with me outside of class time. You can arrange an appointment either in class or by e-mailing me. You can also meet with the teaching assistant by appointment. The teaching assistant can help you prepare for exams and understand your exam grades.

Course Requirements and Grading

Requirements

Term Tests

You will take three tests during the semester. Each test will be non-cumulative and will contain 45 multiple-choice questions. The tests will cover material that is presented in lectures and readings. In general, there will be no make-up exams, but in cases of severe illness (with a doctor's note) or other extenuating circumstances a make-up exam will be offered. There will be no final exam.

Term Paper

This paper will be an exercise in turning the cultural lens inwards. You will examine how North American cultural values influence what we consider to be normative behaviors. You will write a short paper describing three North American cultural practices that people from other cultures may find curious or even bizarre. Using research and theory from this course briefly describe how each cultural practice you select reflects North American cultural values. Also explain why these practices may be seen as strange or even maladaptive by members of another culture. All the information you will need can be found in the text and lectures. Provide citation (e.g., a page number in the text or a lecture date) for the relevant theory and research that you describe.

The paper should be about 6-8 double-spaced pages (1,800-2,400 words) with reasonable fonts and margins. **A hardcopy of the paper is to be handed in during the last class, April 1.**

Your paper will be evaluated in terms of:

1. The quality of the type of North American cultural practices you select. The cultural practices you select should be widely accepted by the majority of North American society and should not have already been discussed in class.
2. The accuracy of your description of the relevant research and theory.
3. The quality of your explanation for how this cultural practice reflects North American values.
4. The quality of your explanation for why people from other cultures may find this cultural practice bizarre or maladaptive.

Late assignment policy: There is sufficient lead-time for the paper so that you can plan ahead. **Late papers will not be accepted.** That is, if a student turns in the paper late, this student will receive a grade of zero for it.

Experimental Demonstrations

The demonstrations will be posted on the website throughout the term. You can participate at any point prior to the deadline specified for each demonstration. You will receive bonus points for participating (see below) by the deadline, but your participation is entirely voluntary. By participating you will learn more about how cultural psychology research is conducted and you will provide data that can be discussed in the relevant lecture. Your responses will be anonymous and confidential and only group averages will be presented in the lectures. You will receive **.5 bonus points** for each experimental demonstration in which you participate by the specified deadline.

Grading:

- 3 Tests (25% each): 75%
 - Term paper: 25%
 - Experimental demonstrations: .5% bonus each
- There will be no final exam in this course.**

The Official Version of the Course Outline

If there is a discrepancy between the hard copy outline and the outline posted on UW-ACE, the outline on UW-ACE will be deemed the official version.

Students with Disabilities

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), 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 OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

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. Colin Ellard) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor. Dr. Ellard's contact information is as follows:

Email: cellard@uwaterloo.ca
Ph 519-888- 4567 ext 36852

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 Offenses, Grievance, and Appeals

To protect course integrity, as well as to provide appropriate guidance to students, course outlines in the Faculty of Arts incorporate the following note on avoidance of academic offenses:

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

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, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (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,
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

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, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Course Schedule

Date	Day	Topic	Assigned Readings
Jan 5	Mon	Introduction	
Jan 7	Wed	Introduction: Culture and Human Nature	Chapter 1 pp. 1 - 12
Jan 12	Mon	Introduction: Cultural Evolution	Chapter 1 pp. 13 - 26
Jan 14	Wed	Cross-Cultural Research Methods	Chapter 2
Jan 19	Mon	Enculturation	Chapter 3
Jan 21	Wed	Developmental Processes	Chapter 4
Jan 26	Mon	Self and Identity	Chapter 13
Jan 28	Wed	Test # 1	
Feb 2	Mon	Cognition	Chapter 5
Feb 4	Wed	Gender	Chapter 6
Feb 9	Mon	Love, Sex, Marriage	Chapter 14 pp. 356 - 366
Feb 11	Wed	Interpersonal and Intergroup Relations	Chapter 14 pp. 367 - 394
Feb 16	Mon	<i>Reading week. No class.</i>	
Feb 18	Wed	<i>Reading week. No class.</i>	
Feb 23	Mon	Stereotyping and Prejudice Guest lecturer: Emiko Yoshida	
Feb 25	Wed	Organizations	Chapter 15
Mar 2	Mon	Language and Communication	Chapter 9
Mar 4	Wed	Test # 2	
Mar 9	Mon	Emotion Guest lecturer: Lindsay Schaefer	Chapter 8
Mar 11	Wed	Personality	Chapter 10
Mar 16	Mon	Abnormal Psychology	Chapter 11
Mar 18	Wed	Treatment of Abnormal Behavior	Chapter 12
Mar 23	Mon	Health	Chapter 7
Mar 25	Wed	Multicultural Identities	Hong, Morris, Chiu, & Benet-Martinez(2002) Heine & Lehman (2004)
Mar 30	Mon	Test # 3	
Apr 1	Wed	Due: Term Paper	