

Psychology 307

Cultural Psychology

Section 901, 2015, Winter

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Introduction

This course will explore how culture influences human thought. The relations between culture and psychology are both complex and profound. We'll be considering a number of difficult questions including: What is human nature? How do culture and self make each other up? What methodologies can we use to study culture in psychology? How do various ways of thinking differ across cultures? What happens when different cultures collide? How do cultures change or persist over time? The goals of the course are to introduce you to the field of cultural psychology, stimulate critical thinking and analytic skills generally, and help you think about your own psychological experiences from a cultural perspective.

To access course information and lecture slides, visit www.connect.ubc.ca and enter your CWL and password.

Text

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

Sequence of Topics

Each topic corresponds to a chapter in the textbook.

These dates provide a rough guide, and they might be adjusted slightly if needed.

January 7	Chapters 1 and 2: Introduction and Culture and Human Nature
January 14	Chapters 2 and 3: Culture and Human Nature and Cultural Evolution
January 21	Chapters 3 and 4: Cultural Evolution and Methods
January 28	Chapters 4 and 5: Methods and Development and Socialization
February 4	Chapter 6: Self and Personality
February 11	Chapter 10: Living in Multicultural Worlds

February 18	READING BREAK – NO CLASS
February 25	**MIDTERM**
March 4	Chapter 7: Motivation
March 11	Chapter 8: Cognition and Perception
March 18	Chapters 14 and 9: Emotions and Interpersonal Attraction
March 25	Chapters 9 and 13: Interpersonal Attraction and Morality
April 1	Chapters 13 and 11: Morality and Physical Health
April 8	Chapters 11 and 12: Physical and Mental Health
In exam week, as scheduled by the Registrar	**FINAL EXAM**

Assignments

Exams.

There will be two exams (a midterm and a final) in this course. The exams will test your understanding and mastery over the material covered in the readings and lectures. The midterm and final will both consist of multiple choice questions. The final is NOT cumulative and will only cover material since the midterm.

Short Paper

You will need to think about a cultural difference or potential cultural difference you are curious about. Consider this difference. Explain to the reader what this difference is. Explain to the reader why this difference is important or theoretically interesting (This is an extremely important step). And then tell the reader about a study that would examine this difference in a compelling and interesting way. You'll get bonus marks if your study is an experiment in which some variable is manipulated. You do not need to actually conduct the study. You only need to outline it in enough detail so that you can show the reader that the study will convincingly demonstrate what you want to show. Note: you should have at least 2 references other than the textbook. But this paper is not a report of other people's research (you will read enough of that for class). Rather this is a paper describing a phenomenon you want to examine, describing why this phenomenon is theoretically interesting, and then describing a compelling way that your idea can be tested.

You will be required to submit your short paper in electronic form to a service called TurnItIn. UBC subscribes to this service that checks written material for originality. This service is in increasing use in universities as protection for students against the impact of academic fraud on scholarship competitions, graduate and law school admissions, and degree reputation. Students will submit their short papers to the TurnItIn website, where software scans the paper against a database which includes public websites, paper writing services, essays submitted to TurnItIn, and journal articles. The service then produces a report on the paper's originality. The instructor will review the reports, and where necessary, the papers themselves. Students are required to hand in one copy of their paper and submit

the paper electronically to TurnItIn on the due date. Papers are considered late if they are not submitted to the instructor by the end of the class on the due date and if the same paper is not submitted to TurnItIn by the due date. See below section on Academic Dishonesty. You'll receive more information about the paper and using TurnItIn later in class.

Your short paper should be 4 pages, double spaced, with 12 point font and one inch margins, plus title page and references).

The breakdown for your grade will be as follows:

Evaluation	Date	Percent of Final Grade
Midterm Exam	February 25	35%
Short Paper	March 18	20%
Final Exam	As scheduled by the registrar	45%

Extra Credits

Because students get very little hands on learning in these large lecture classes I am encouraging students to participate in any studies that are being conducted in the Psychology Department. You can receive up to **three extra credits** for your grade by participating in experiments offered in the Psychology Department. The department grants these extra credits at a rate of one per hour of experimental participation. Each credit is worth one percent towards your final grade. You can sign up for studies by visiting <http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca>. If you prefer, you can earn these same extra credits by completing a library-writing project, in which you read and summarize a peer-reviewed research article. See <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy> for more information about the extra credit options.

Departmental Policy on Distributions of Grades in all Psychology Classes

All psychology courses are required to meet the grade distributions as described below. This is done in order to “maintain equality among sections and conformity to University, Faculty and Department norms”. Thus scaling of grades may take place. If the grades are scaled, any extra credits that are earned through study participation will be added to your grades after the scaling. Because of the potential need for scaling, “students should therefore note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the faculty, department or school. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.”

Psyc 300 and 400-level courses

Class Performance	Mean	Standard Deviation
Good class	70	13
Average class	68	13
Weak class	66	13

Academic Dishonesty: Please review the UBC Calendar "Academic regulations" for the university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty. Also visit www.arts.ubc.ca and go to the students' section for useful information on avoiding plagiarism and on correct documentation. The Department of Psychology is currently implementing software designed to detect cheating on multiple choice exams. This software will be used to analyze the response patterns of all students taking these exams, and suspicious parties will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University.

The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

Students have the right to view their marked examinations with their instructor, providing they apply to do so within a month of receiving their final grades. This review is for pedagogic purposes. The examinations remain the property of the university.