

Cross-Cultural Psychology 3210: Fall 2016
Department of Psychology, Lakehead University

Time and Place: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00pm to 5:30pm: RB 1044

Instructor:

Dr. Mirella Stroink
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Teaching Assistant:

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Course Description:

A review of research and theory on how psychological processes support the acquisition, spread, and development of cultural knowledge and practices, and how culture, in turn, influences human thought and behaviour. The questions of what is universal and what is variable psychologically across cultures and the role that evolution and the environment play in psychological universality and diversity will be explored. Topics will include the psychological foundations of culture, the psychological bases of enculturation, the cultural limits of psychological knowledge, cross-culturally divergent ways of thinking, feeling, and acting, psychological acculturation, and the relations between psychology, anthropology, and other social sciences.

*** Note that much of each lecture will be devoted to material that is beyond the textbook. If you miss classes, you are responsible for obtaining notes from a classmate.*

Required Readings:

Matsumoto, D. & Juang, L. (2016). Culture and Psychology, 6th Edition.
Additional materials and lecture slides will be available on WebCT

Evaluation:

40% Midterm Exam
40% Final Exam
20% Major Paper

Midterm and Final Exam:

Each exam will consist of two parts, (a) multiple choice and short answer questions emphasizing course content from lectures, text, and discussion, as well as any supplementary materials, and (b) paragraph and short essay questions testing your knowledge and analysis of broader themes and critical questions. The final exam will be partially cumulative; including key material covered in the first half of the course.

Accommodations:

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please visit:

<http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca>

Regulations:

As per university policy, **make-up exams and assignment extensions are not permitted** without a valid medical certificate. The student must contact the professor or TA within 48 hours of a missed exam or due-date. Students are expected to be familiar with the university's regulations. Disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated. Note that you will have 50% of your mark back by the drop date, which is November 7, 2016.

Assignment: Concept Illustration and Reflection; Due Dec. 1

The purpose of this assignment is to provide you with a deeper understanding of one aspect of cross-cultural psychology, and to allow you to observe how it manifests in daily life. Choose a concept or topic covered in the course or text that is of interest to you. Your topic must involve the role of culture in some psychological process. You may choose a topic not covered in the course or text, but these should be approved by the instructor first. Use the library's resources (e.g. Psych-info online), and conduct a **literature review** on the topic you have chosen. To ensure adequate breadth in your literature review, you should **identify and read at least 5 scholarly articles on your topic**. Scholarly articles are those that appear in academic journals such as the *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, NOT newspaper or magazine articles. Our textbook and other books may be used in addition to the 5 scholarly articles, but do not themselves count as scholarly articles.

In your paper, identify the topic you are studying and summarize what you have learned about this concept from the literature. How is the psychological process affected by culture? How has it been found to differ across cultures? Try to answer the question of *why* the process differs across cultures: is it affected by culturally-rooted values or practices, is it associated with underlying dimensions of cultural variability? In doing so, summarize the research methods and results of specific research studies. The paper should present a comprehensive and integrated summary of the literature, and should NOT be a list of summarized articles.

Once you have learned about how the topic is understood in the academic literature, observe it unfolding in real life. Observe members of your own culture ("Western" or otherwise), rent a foreign film, read a foreign novel, examine media or website content, or interview someone you know from a different culture. With any of these methods, see if you can spot how culture affects the topic you studied. In the last 2 to 5 pages of your paper, describe how the topic or concept you studied is illustrated in your analysis of the real world. For this portion of the paper, you may write in the first person to critically reflect on what you observed and whether or not it supports what you reviewed from the academic literature.

In this assignment, **APA style** must be used for citations and references. Therefore, a references section must be included, and the sources of your ideas cited. The professor, TA, library, and internet offer excellent resources on APA style.

Papers should be **10 to (MAX) 12 pages** in length (plus references), and must be **typed in 12 point font with 1" margins**. An abstract is not required. Attach a **title page** with the name of the assignment, your name and student number. Plagiarism will be dealt with according to university regulations. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day unless accompanied by a valid medical certificate. Late assignments will NOT be accepted after the remainder of the class has received their marked papers (approximately 2 weeks after the due date). Students are responsible for ensuring that the TA has received the paper. Papers we do not receive will be given a grade of zero.

Sample Topics:

Gender

Humour

Aesthetics (perceptions of beauty)

Parenting

Cognitive development

Marriage

Mental health, suicide, substance abuse

Leadership

Conformity and obedience

Perceptions of music

etc.

Course Outline and Chapter Readings

Date	Topic	Chapter
Sept. 6 Sept. 8	Introduction to Culture and Psychology	1
Sept. 13 Sept. 15	Cross-Cultural Research Methods	2
Sept. 20 Sept. 22	Enculturation and Culture Change	3
Sept. 27 Sept. 29	Culture and Developmental Processes	4
Oct. 4 Oct. 6	Culture, Self, and Identity Culture and Personality	5 6
Oct. 11 Oct. 13	Fall Study Break – No Classes	n/a
Oct. 18 Oct. 20	Exam Review Midterm Exam	
Oct. 25 Oct. 27	Culture and Cognition	8
Nov. 1 Nov. 3	Culture and Emotion	9
Nov. 8 Nov. 10	Culture, Language, and Communication Motivation and Behaviour	10
Nov. 15 Nov. 17	Culture and Physical Health Immigration and Acculturation	11
Nov. 22 Nov. 24	Culture and Abnormal Psychology Treatment of Abnormal Behaviour	12 13
Nov. 29 Dec. 1	Culture and Social Behaviour Exam Review; Assignment Due	14

* The final exam will be held in the final exam period

** Final date for withdrawal: Monday, November 7, 2016

Learning Objectives for 3210:

- **Cross-Cultural Psychology:** Expect to learn about universal and culture-specific psychological processes, and about the mechanisms through which culture shapes individual psychology. Also expect to learn about how psychological processes are involved in the evolution and transmission of cultural characteristics.
- **Psychological Perspective:** Expect to further develop your ability to engage in and interpret psychological research, including an increased comfort with finding and reading journal articles, integrating existing psychological research, proposing new research, and understanding the role of culture in the psychological perspective.
- **Cognitive Development:** Expect to see further development in your own critical thinking skills. In particular, you should find that you draw more on research evidence as you exercise judgment and decision-making.
- **Communication Development:** Expect to further improve your oral and written communication skills through your essay, assignment, exams, and class discussions. Learn how to correctly use APA style in your writing.
- **Appreciation for Diversity:** It is particularly important to me that students develop an increased awareness of how all cultures influence cognition, emotion, and behaviour. This includes being aware of how your own culture(s) has shaped you as an individual, and influences your perspective on events. I hope that you will critically reflect on this throughout the course, during in-class dialogue, on Web-CT, and privately.