

## PSYC 379: Applied Cross-Cultural Psychology (3 credits) Spring 2024

**Instructor:** Dr. Erin Quinlivan Murdoch  
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**Office hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30pm via zoom (see Blackboard Syllabus page for link) or by appointment (online or in-person)

**Required textbook:**

Shiraev & Levy. (2020). *Cross-Cultural Psychology: Critical Thinking and Contemporary Applications*. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. Routledge. ISBN: 9780367199395

**Course schedule:** This section of PSYC 379 is an asynchronous online course, with course content available on Blackboard.

Modules	Additional reading	Assignments	Date Available:	Must complete by:
Understanding Cross-Cultural Psychology	Chapter 1	Chapter 1 Quiz Class Intro Blog Post Cultural Self-Reflection	Tuesday, Jan 16 12:00am	Monday, Jan 22 11:59pm
Critical Thinking in Cross-Cultural Psychology	Chapter 2	Chapter 2 Quiz	Tuesday, Jan 23 12:00am	Monday, Jan 29 11:59pm
Methodology of Cross-Cultural Research	Chapter 3	Chapter 3 Quiz Discussion: Equivalence	Tuesday, Jan 30 12:00am	Monday, Feb 5 11:59pm
Cognition: Sensation, Perception, Consciousness	Chapter 4	Chapter 4 Quiz Discussion: Food	Tuesday, Feb 6 12:00am	Monday, Feb 12 11:59pm
Intelligence	Chapter 5	Chapter 5 Quiz	Tuesday, Feb 13 12:00am	Monday, Feb 19 11:59pm
Emotion	Chapter 6	Chapter 6 Quiz Discussion: Emotions	Tuesday, Feb 20 12:00am	Monday, Feb 26 11:59pm
Cross-Cultural Experience		Reflection 1 + Blog Post	Tuesday, Feb 27 12:00am	Monday, Mar 4 11:59pm
Spring Break Week – No new course content or assignments				
Motivation and Behavior	Chapter 7	Chapter 7 Quiz	Tuesday, Mar 12 12:00am	Monday, Mar 18 11:59pm
Human Development and Socialization	Chapter 8	Chapter 8 Quiz Discussion: Arranged Marriages	Tuesday, Mar 19 12:00am	Monday, Mar 25 11:59pm
Psychological Disorders	Chapter 9	Chapter 9 Quiz	Tuesday, Mar 26 12:00am	Monday, Apr 1 11:59pm
Currents Events		Analysis	Tuesday, Apr 2 12:00am	Monday, Apr 8 11:59pm
Social Perception, Cognition, & Interaction	Chapter 10	Chapter 10 Quiz Discussion: Privilege	Tuesday, Apr 9 12:00am	Monday, Apr 15 11:59pm
Personality and the Self	Chapter 11	Chapter 11 Quiz	Tuesday, Apr 16 12:00am	Monday, Apr 22 11:59pm
Applied Cross-Cultural Psychology: Highlights	Chapter 12	Chapter 12 Quiz	Tuesday, Apr 23 12:00am	Monday, Apr 29 11:59pm
Cross-Cultural Experience		Reflection 2 + Blog Post	Tuesday, Apr 30 12:00am	Monday, May 6 11:59pm

PSYC 379 is an approved **Mason Core Exploration Course in Global Understanding**.

The goal of the global understanding category is to help students see the world from multiple perspectives, reflect upon their positions in a global society, and be prepared for future engagement as global citizens. While it may include a historical perspective, global understanding courses focus primarily on a contemporary understanding of one's place in a global society.

**Student Learning Outcomes for Global Understanding Courses:**

- Identify and articulate one's own values and how those values influence interactions and relationships with others, both locally and globally.
- Demonstrate understanding of how the patterns and processes of globalization make visible the interconnections and differences among and within contemporary global societies.
- Demonstrate the development of intercultural competencies.
- Explore individual and collective responsibilities within a global society through analytical, practical, or creative responses to problems or issues, using resources appropriate to the field.

**PSYC 379 Learning Outcomes:** In addition to achieving the learning outcomes designated by the Mason Core, this course is designed to:

1. Increase your knowledge of culture-related diversity in ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving.
2. Identify and examine the extent to which the theories, principles, and knowledge of psychology are universally applicable to humans.
3. Examine some of the psychological implications of cultural differences and of contact among members of different cultures, and to consider the role that psychological research and theory can play in advancing intercultural understanding.

**Criteria for evaluation:**

**Quizzes:** 5-10 item quiz for each of the twelve chapters. 10 points per quiz. No quiz grades will be dropped (TOTAL = 120 pts.)

**Writing Assignments:** There are four writing assignments. Brief summaries are provided below. Details will be provided as the work is assigned. (TOTAL = 100 pts.)

**Discussions:** Five discussion board topics are assigned throughout the course. One original post (5 pts.) and a minimum of one response post (2 pts.) are required for each topic. (TOTAL = 35pts.)

**Blogs:** Three blog entries will be assigned. Each entry is worth 5 points (TOTAL = 15 pts.)

<b>Writing Assignment Schedule:</b> details for each assignment are provided in the accompanying Blackboard module	<b>Available:</b>	<b>Due by:</b>
<b>Cultural Self-Reflection</b> (15 points): Guided self-reflection on cultural identity.	Tuesday, Jan 16, 12:00am	Monday, Jan 29, 11:59pm
<b>Current Events Analysis</b> (25 points): Choose a current event that has a cultural emphasis. Describe the event, being sure to use course concepts that illustrate the role of culture in the event. Read news articles from three different sources, comparing and contrasting the information in each. (2 pages)	Tuesday, Apr 2, 12:00am	Monday, Apr 8, 11:59pm
<b>Two Cross-Cultural Experiences</b> (30 points each): Take part in two cross-cultural experiences (e.g., attend a religious service different from your own, interview someone from a different country, go to a restaurant that specializes in cuisine from a different culture, etc.). Write a reflection paper (2 pages) about what you did, what you observed, how you felt, and apply course concepts to the experience.	#1 - Tuesday, Jan 23, 12:00am  -----  #2 – Tuesday, Mar 12, 12:00am	#1 - Monday, Mar 4, 11:59pm  -----  #2 – Monday, May 6 11:59pm

**Extra credit:** Opportunities to earn extra credit are unlikely but may occur during the course.

### **Final Grade Breakdown (270 pts):**

CHAPTER QUIZZES (12)	120 pts
DISCUSSIONS (5)	35 pts
BLOG ENTRIES (3)	15 pts
WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (4)	100 pts

### **Final Grades will be assigned as follows:**

A+	98-100%	A	93-97%	A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%	B	83-86%	B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%	C	73-76%	C-	70-72%
D	60-69%				
F	59% or lower				

## **Course Setup:**

Please see the course schedule regarding the availability dates of each module and its accompanying assignments. You may take the chapter quizzes at any time during the timeframe that they are open (i.e., from their available date until the deadline date). I do strongly advise, however, that you find time early in each timeframe to complete the assessments. If you experience technical difficulties during the last couple days of availability, it is possible that the issue will not be resolved in time for you to complete the assessment.

Quizzes will be timed. This means that you will need to prepare for quizzes prior to opening the assessment. Read the chapter, take notes, review. When you do start the assessment, I suggest going through all of the questions, answering each one, and SAVING those answers before going back through to focus on ones that you were unsure of. Doing this will ensure that you have an answer saved for each question before time runs out. You can always go back through each question and consult your notes/textbook in the time that you have remaining and resave a new answer.

## **Communication:**

Please communicate with me via your Mason email. I check this each day during the week and at least once on weekends. Please email me if you have concerns that relate specifically to you (e.g., grades, a family emergency, an illness). If you have a general question about the course (e.g., due dates, “where is...?”), please use the Ask the Professor discussion board. In the event of schedule changes, I will notify you via both email and the course announcements page.

Official Communications via GMU E-mail: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

## **Online Courses:**

Taking online courses requires that you are self-motivated and that you let me know right away if you are having any problems. Please alert me to any issues that you may have as soon as they occur. I want to work with you so that you can be successful in my course.

Mason Online is a great resource for you, with strategies for being successful in online courses and a list of student resources. Get started using this link: <https://masononline.gmu.edu/why-online/success/>

## **Late Assignments:**

All assignments should be turned in by the due dates listed. Please contact me to discuss an extension if you are unable to complete an assignment by the due date.

## Technology:

You must have regular access to Blackboard to participate in this course. You must check our course webpage frequently for course content, assignments, and discussions. This course is 100% online. Access to MyMason and GMU email are required to participate successfully in this course. Please make sure to update your computer and prepare yourself to begin using the online format. Check the GMU IT Support Center website as needed, using the Student Support page for help and information about Blackboard.

## Honor Code:

I expect that all submitted work (quizzes, assignments, posts) is done fully and independently by you. George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See [honorcode.gmu.edu](http://honorcode.gmu.edu) for detailed information. ***All writing assignments are checked for plagiarism via Safe Assign.*** Ask me for help, ask for an extension – do not put your college degree in jeopardy by cheating on quizzes or getting inappropriate help on your assignments.

## Accommodations:

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. On the Fairfax Campus, Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: [ods@gmu.edu](mailto:ods@gmu.edu) | Phone: (703) 993-2474

## Inclusion:

[Diversity](#) is appreciated and respected. George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth. An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds, and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard, and respected.

## Enrollment:

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes (available from the Registrar's Website: registrar.gmu.edu.). **Last Day to Add: Jan 23. Last Day to Drop without tuition penalty: Jan 30.** Drop period with 50% tuition refund: **January 31 – Feb 6.** Drop period with no refund: **February 7 – February 20.** Selective withdrawal period: **February 21 – March 25.** After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons.

## University Resources and Support:

[The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) staff offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops, and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance. If you are experiencing feelings of anxiety, panic, depression, sadness, or overwhelm during the semester, please check in with them! They want to help you. Students can call (703-993-2831) or walk-in during open hours to schedule an appointment to talk with a healthcare provider. If you or someone you know experiences a mental health crisis or emergency, seek help immediately. Call 911 for local emergency services, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255), or text the Crisis Text Line (741-741) anytime. I am also available to speak with you about stresses related to your work in my course. Counseling Center: Student Union I, Room 364, 703-993-2380. Website [here](#).

[Student Support and Advocacy Center:](#) Offers educational programs and support services to help students address issues related to personal wellness, interpersonal violence, and alcohol and drug use. SSAC also assists students who are encountering life challenges or crises. Need support for yourself or worried about a peer? You can submit a referral [here](#).

[Learning Services:](#) Provides a variety of experience based learning opportunities through which students explore a wide range of academic concerns. Services include support to students with learning differences, individual study skills counseling, individualized programs of study, and provision of tutoring resources. Presentations on a variety of academic skill topics are available to the university community. The programs are open to all George Mason University students free of charge. Services are confidential and use of these services does not become part of the student's academic record.

[The George Mason University Writing Center](#) staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing. The writing center includes assistance for students for whom English is a second language.

University Writing Center: Robinson Hall Room A114, 703-993-1200.

[Center for Culture, Equity, and Empowerment](#): Leverages programs and services focused on advocacy and direct student support to strengthen equity and inclusion at George Mason University. Their three areas: [Student Access and Equity \(SAE\)](#), [Student Engagement for Racial Justice \(SERJ\)](#), and [LGBTQ+ Resources](#), serve as resources to those in the Mason Community who seek to meaningfully engage and interact with people with different identities and intersections to co-create an equitable campus environment.

[Title IX](#): Notice of a mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling & Psychology Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing [cde@gmu.edu](mailto:cde@gmu.edu).

[Religious Holidays](#): A list of religious holidays is available on the University Life Calendar page. Any student whose religious observance conflicts with a scheduled course activity should let me know in advance of the conflict date so that we can make alternative arrangements.

[University Career Services](#): Provides information on career choices, internships and employment, and graduate and professional school.

Don’t see what you need? Check out the [Stearns Center list of Student Support Resources on Campus](#).