

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

Spring 2024

Instructor: Dr. Erin Quinlivan Murdoch
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Office hours: Mondays-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*. 7th Edition. Routledge. ISBN: 9780367199395

Course schedule:

- This section of PSYC 379 is a hybrid course.
- We meet in person on Tuesdays from 3:00pm-4:15pm in Innovation Hall 206.
- Additional course content for each week is provided on Blackboard and becomes available each Wednesday at 12:00am.

Week	Class Schedule	Topic	Activities/Assignments
1	January 16	Course Overview	Introductions + Syllabus Review
	Online	Module 1	Cultural Self-Reflection Due: January 30 (2:59pm)
2	January 23	Critical Thinking in Cross-Cultural Psychology	Critical Thinking Exercises
	Online	Module 2	Discussion: Comparing Personal Ads Due: January 30 (2:59pm)
3	January 30	Methodology of Cross-Cultural Psychology	Equivalence Activity
	Online	Module 3	-----
4	February 6	Cognition	Perceptions and Illusions
	Online	Module 4	Discussion: Food Due: February 13 (2:59pm)
5	February 13	Intelligence	Culturally Fair Intelligence Tests
	Online	Module 5	-----
6	February 20	Emotion	Expressions of Emotion
	Online	Module 6	Discussion: Emotions Due: February 27 (2:59pm)
7	February 27	Motivation and Behavior	-----
	Online	Module 7	Work on Reflection #1 Due: March 12 (2:59pm)

8	March 5	Spring Break Week	-----
		No new course content or assignments	-----
9	March 12	Cross-Cultural Experience #1	Share Experiences
	Online	Module 8	Discussion: Arranged Marriages Due: March 19 (2:59pm)
10	March 19	Human Development and Socialization	-----
	Online	Module 9	-----
11	March 26	Psychological Disorders	Culture and Mental Health
	Online	Module 10	Work on Current Events Analysis Due: April 2 (2:59pm)
12	April 2	Current Events	Current Events Discussion
	Online	Module 11	-----
13	April 9	Social Perception, Cognition, and Interaction	-----
	Online	Module 12	Discussion: Privilege Due: April 15 (2:59pm)
14	April 16	Personality and the Self	-----
	Online	Module 13	Work on Reflection #2 Due: April 23 (2:59pm)
15	April 23	Cross-Cultural Experience #2	Share Experiences
	Online	Module 14	Complete Course Evaluation

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:

- Increase your knowledge of culture-related diversity in ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving.
- Identify and examine the extent to which the theories, principles, and knowledge of psychology are universally applicable to humans.
- 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:

In-Class Assignments: Tuesday meetings will often include lecture assignments/activities, each worth 10 points (TOTAL = 100 pts.)

Online Discussions: There will be five online discussion topics. Each topic requires an original post (5 points) and two response posts (2.5 points each). (TOTAL = 50 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.)

Writing Assignment Schedule:	Available:	Due by:
Cultural Self-Reflection (15 points): Guided self-reflection on cultural identity.	Wednesday, January 17 12:00am	Tuesday, Jan 30, 2:59pm

Current Events Analysis (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)	Wednesday, March 27, 12:00am	Tuesday, Apr 2, 2:59pm
Two Cross-Cultural Experiences (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 - Wednesday, Jan 24, 12:00am ----- #2 – Wednesday, Mar 13, 12:00am	#1 - Tuesday, Mar 12, 2:59pm ----- #2 – Tuesday, Apr 23 2:59pm

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

Final Grade Breakdown (250 pts):

IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS (10)	100 pts
ONLINE DISCUSSION POSTS (5)	50 pts
WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (4)	100 pts

Final Grades will be assigned as follows:

A+	99-100%	A	93-98%	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:

This section of PSYC 379 is a hybrid course: half of the course content is delivered in person and the other half is delivered online. We will meet each Tuesday, from 3:00pm-4:15pm in Innovation 206. Additional content for the week will then be available online starting on Wednesday.

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). 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.

Late Assignments:

If you are unable to attend a Tuesday class, please email me so that we can discuss an alternative assignment. All written 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. 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 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. *Do not use AI-generated material unless you have discussed it with me.* All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See honorcode.gmu.edu for detailed information. All writing assignments are checked for plagiarism via Safe Assign.

Having trouble with an assignment or a deadline? Please let me know! Ask me for help, ask for an extension – do not put your college degree in jeopardy by cheating 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 | 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.

[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.](#)