**PURPOSE:** To introduce the field of cross-cultural psychology and its contemporary applications. To develop a broader knowledge of contemporary psychology. To discuss current psychological research and its applications from a cross-cultural perspective. To provide a useful set of critical-thinking tools with which to analyze and evaluate psychology and behavior of various ethnic, national, social, and religious groups. To help in developing psychological skills necessary for a successful professional in today's global world.

**REQUIREMENTS:**
- The final grade will be based on four exams and one term paper (a written homework assignment). The exams—February 12, March 5, April 16, and May 14 (the final)—will consist of short-answer and multiple-choice questions. Practice quizzes are available on the web: Blackboard or [http://www.ericshiraev.com/5.html](http://www.ericshiraev.com/5.html)
- The term paper (final written assignment) is due: April 30 or earlier. No deadline extension. Paper copies only please. The topics for the written assignment appear on the syllabus at the bottom of this page. You will have to choose one topic from the list. You can suggest your own topic but the professor must approve it before April 2nd.
- **Extra credit** (max. 5 points can be added to your total score) is available. It is an optional mini-research project. See Blackboard for details. Deadline: April 30. No extensions.

Grading: Tests 1, 2, and 3 are worth 25 points (maximum) each. Test 4 is 15 points (max.). Paper is 10 points (max). To receive an A+: you must earn at least 97 points, A you must earn at least 93 points, A- you must earn at least 90 points, B+ you must earn at least 88 points, B you must earn at least 83 points, B- you must earn at least 80 points, C+ you must earn at least 78 points, C you must earn at least 73 points, C- you must earn at least 70 points, D you must earn at least 60 points. An A+ grade may not be earned by adding the points from your extra credit work.


For the term paper, select one of the exercises: 1.1 on page 21; 4.2. on page 112; 5.3 on page 140; 6.2. on page 164; 8.1. on page 213; 9.1. on page 245; 10.3. on page 267; 11.1. on page 288; 12.1. on page 299. Your term paper is graded according to the following general criteria (specific requirements are in the assignments and they may differ): Format (if not specified): 2,000 words or more, single or double-spaced. Turn in the original and keep a copy for your files. Style: Make an introduction, in which you describe briefly the goal of your paper. Generalize your thoughts in a conclusion. Break up your paper in several paragraphs. Each paragraph should represent a particular idea, explanation, or description. Validity: You have to use facts to support your ideas and suggestions. The assignment should contain references (include name, year, title of article or book, journal title; city/state and publisher if you cite a book; include an Internet address if you are referring to the Web). You are welcome to suggest a topic for your original term paper. Talk to your professor or send an email before April 2nd to confirm.

Student members of the George Mason University must follow the provisions of the Honor Code. They pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work. All work submitted to fulfill course requirements is to be solely the product of the individual(s) whose name(s) appears on it. Except with permission of the instructor, no recourse is to be had to projects, papers, lab reports or any other written work previously prepared by another student, and except with permission of the instructor no paper or work of any type submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of another course may be used a second time to satisfy a requirement of any course in the Department of Psychology. No assistance is to be obtained from commercial organizations, which sell or lease research help or written papers. With respect to all written work as appropriate, proper footnotes and attribution are required. If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Last day to add: January 29; Last day to drop: February 22.
**Course description and schedule**


**Topic 3. Critical Thinking in Cross-Cultural Psychology.** The Evaluative Bias of Language: To describe is to prescribe. Differentiating Dichotomous Variables and Continuous Variables: Black and white, or shades of gray? The Similarity-Uniqueness Paradox: All phenomena are both similar and different. The Barnum Effect: “One Size Fits-All” descriptions. The Assimilation Bias: Viewing the world through schema-colored glasses. The Representativeness Bias: Fits and misfits of categorization. The Availability Bias: The persuasive power of vivid events. The Fundamental Attribution Error: Underestimating the impact of external influences. The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy: When expectations create reality. Correlation Does Not Prove Causation: Confusing “what” with “why.” Bi-Directional Causation and Multiple Causation: Causal loops and compound pathways. The Naturalistic Fallacy: Blurring the line between “is” and “should”. The Belief Perseverance Effect: “Don’t confuse me with the facts!” “To metathink or not to metathink?” Other topics discussed in class. Video and electronic materials.

**Test 1. September 20**


**Test 2. March 5**


**Test 3. April 16**


**Test 4. May 14**