

**PSYC 379: Applied Cross-Cultural Psychology (3 credits)**  
**Spring 2019**

**Instructor:** Dr. Erin Quinlivan Murdoch  
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**Office hours:** by appointment (online or in-person)

**Required textbook:**

Shiraeve & Levy. (2016). *Cross-Cultural Psychology: Critical Thinking and Contemporary Applications*. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Routledge. ISBN: 978-1138668386

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

Modules	Additional assigned reading	Assessment	Date Available:	Must complete by:
Understanding Cross-Cultural Psychology	Chapter 1	Chapter 1 Quiz	Tuesday, January 22 12:00am	Monday, January 28 11:59pm
Critical Thinking in Cross-Cultural Psychology	Chapter 2	Chapter 2 Quiz	Tuesday, January 29 12:00am	Monday, February 4 11:59pm
Methodology of Cross-Cultural Research	Chapter 3	Chapter 3 Quiz	Tuesday, February 5 12:00am	Monday, February 11 11:59pm
Cognition: Sensation, Perception, & Consciousness	Chapter 4	Chapter 4 Quiz	Tuesday, February 12 12:00am	Monday, February 18 11:59pm
Intelligence	Chapter 5	Chapter 5 Quiz	Tuesday, February 19 12:00am	Monday, February 25 11:59pm
Emotion	Chapter 6	Chapter 6 Quiz	Tuesday, February 26 12:00am	Monday, March 4 11:59pm
<b>EXAM 1</b>		Exam 1	Tuesday, March 5 12:00am	Monday, March 11 11:59pm
Spring Break				
Motivation and Behavior	Chapter 7	Chapter 7 Quiz	Tuesday, March 19 12:00am	Monday, March 25 11:59pm
Human Development and Socialization	Chapter 8	Chapter 8 Quiz	Tuesday, March 26 12:00am	Monday, April 1 11:59pm
Psychological Disorders	Chapter 9	Chapter 9 Quiz	Tuesday, April 2 12:00am	Monday, April 8 11:59pm
Social Perception, Cognition, & Interaction	Chapter 10	Chapter 10 Quiz	Tuesday, April 9 12:00am	Monday, April 15 11:59pm
Personality and the Self	Chapter 11	Chapter 11 Quiz	Tuesday, April 16 12:00am	Monday, April 22 11:59pm
Applied Cross-Cultural Psychology: Highlights	Chapter 12	Chapter 12 Quiz	Tuesday, April 23 12:00am	Monday, April 29 11:59pm
<b>EXAM 2</b>		Exam 2	Tuesday, April 30 12:00am	Monday, May 6 11:59pm
Cross-Cultural Experiences			Tuesday, May 7 12:00am	Monday, May 13 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.)

**Exams:** You will take two exams: one at the midterm and one near the end of the course (60 points each). Material on the exams will come from modules and assigned readings. No exam grades will be dropped. (TOTAL = 120 pts.)

**Writing Assignments:** Six writing assignments will be given during the course. A brief summary is provided below. Details will be provided as the homework is assigned. (TOTAL = 150 pts.)

**Discussions:** Five discussion board topics will be assigned throughout the course. Students will provide one original post (5 pts.) and a minimum of one response post (5 pts.) for each topic. (TOTAL = 50pts.)

**Blogs:** Two blog entries will be assigned. Each entry is worth 5 points (TOTAL = 10 pts.)

Writing Assignment Schedule	Available	Due by:
<b>Cultural Self-Reflection</b> (10 points): Guided self-reflection on cultural identity.	Tuesday, January 22, 12:00am	Monday, February 4, 11:59pm
<b>Critical Thinking Exercises</b> (20 points): Specific exercises from within the textbook chapter will be assigned.	Tuesday, January 29, 12:00am	Monday, February 4, 11:59pm
<b>Comparing Personal Ads</b> (20 points): Compare and contrast the content of ads between two newspapers. What are the similarities? What are the differences? What does the content indicate about values within each culture?	Tuesday, February 12, 12:00am	Monday, February 18, 11:59pm
<b>Current Events Analysis</b> (40 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.	Tuesday, April 2, 12:00am	Monday, April 22, 11:59pm
<b>Cross-Cultural Experiences</b> (60 points): 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 reaction paper about what you did, what you observed, and what your feelings were about the experience.	Tuesday, February 26 12:00am	Friday, May 10, 11:59pm

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

**Final Grade Breakdown (450 pts):**

EXAM 1	60 pts	WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (6)	150 pts
EXAM 2	60 pts	DISCUSSIONS (5)	50 pts
CHAPTER QUIZZES (12)	120 pts	BLOG ENTRIES (2)	10 pts

<b>Final Grades will be assigned as follows:</b>					
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 quiz. After the deadline has passed for the quizzes, you will still be able to see the module to review the material; however, *you will not be able to complete the quiz or assignments associated with that module after the deadline has passed*. Because the answers are available after the deadline has passed, there are no exceptions to this.

You may take the assessments 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 and exams will be timed. This means that you will need to prepare for quizzes and exams 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:**

Some of you may be taking an online course for the first time. You will find that there are advantages and disadvantages to taking online courses. One advantage is the flexibility to do the work at a time and place of your choice. However, please be aware that there are still deadlines in place for the assessments and assignments. You may do the work on a beach at sunrise, but you still need to get it submitted by the date noted on the schedule. 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.

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 date. A late penalty of 5% per day will be applied to assignments submitted after the due date. Chapter quizzes may not be submitted after 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:**

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.

## **Accommodations:**

If you have any specific needs (e.g., related to vision, learning, or medical conditions) or any religious or cultural practices, please let me know by the second week of class so that I can make the appropriate arrangements. Disabilities must be documented by the Office of Disability Services (703-993-2474) for reasonable accommodations to be provided.

**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: January 29. Last Day to Drop with no tuition penalty: January 29.** Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.