

PSYC 379: Applied Cross-Cultural Psychology Spring 2021

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Office hours: Wednesdays 9:30am-10am or by appointment (online)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

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

COURSE LOGISTICS

This section of PSYC 379 is an asynchronous online course, with all content available on Blackboard. It will require just as much time and effort as a face-to-face course, but in a different format. Even though we don't meet in person, we will still have interaction with each other, and you will engage in group discussions throughout the course. Because the course is entirely online, it is extremely important to become familiar with the online format right away.

Of note, *I will be available through email or virtual office hours throughout the entire semester*. We will also have an Ask the Professor forum that runs throughout the semester. There will be multiple ways for you to contact me with questions – I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

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.

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.

REQUIREMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Chapter Quizzes (110 pts): There will be a timed quiz for each of the 12 chapters, and each quiz is worth 10 points. You cannot make up chapter quizzes past their respective due dates (i.e. late submissions will be counted as missing), but you will have the flexibility to drop *one* quiz.

Exams (120 pts): There will be two timed exams, and these exams will be given using the **Respondus Lockdown browser on Blackboard**. No exam will be dropped. Given the flexibility of an online class, make-up exams will be given only for *extreme* situations. Material on the exams will come from modules and assigned readings.

Writing Assignments (130 pts): Four writing assignments will be given during the course. A brief summary is provided below, and details will be provided as they are assigned. Late submissions will be subject to daily 10% penalty deductions—submissions more than 2 days late (without prior arrangements) will not be accepted.

Cultural Self-Reflection: Guided self-reflection on cultural identity.

Critical Thinking Exercises: Specific exercises from the textbook will be assigned.

Current Events Analysis: Choose a current event with a cultural emphasis. Describe the event using course concepts that illustrate the role of culture in the event. Include news articles from three different sources, comparing and contrasting the information in each.

Cross-Cultural Experiences: Take part in two cross-cultural experiences, and write a reaction paper about what you did, what you observed, and what your feelings were about the experience.

Discussions (40 pts): Five discussion board topics will be assigned throughout the course. You are responsible for *one discussion post AND one response* on another classmate's post. Each discussion is worth 10 points (5 points for the discuss post and 5 points for commenting on another post). Posts should be written in complete sentences with proper grammar and punctuations. These discussions have been created to help foster learning not only for yourself, but *between* each of you. You cannot make up discussions past their respective due dates (i.e. late submissions will be counted as missing). However, you will have the flexibility to drop *one* discussion.

FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN

Exam 1	60 pts
Exam 2	60 pts
Chapter Quizzes (after dropping one quiz)	110 pts
Writing Assignments	130 pts
Discussions (after dropping one discussion)	40 pts
Total	400 pts

GRADING SCALE

Your final letter grade will be calculated based on the total points earned using the following scale. *Please do not email me about rounding up.*

A+ = 97-100%	B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	D = 60-69%
A = 93-96%	B = 83-86%	C = 73-76%	F = <60%
A- = 90-92%	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%	

COURSE SCHEDULE

All requirements are due by **11:59pm** of their respective due dates. Due dates for your discussion posts are in red (always on Fridays), and due dates for your response are in *italics* (always on Mondays). Quizzes, exams, and writing assignments (with the exception of Writing Assignment #4 and Exam 2) are due on Mondays.

Module #	Modules	Assigned Readings	To-do and Due Dates
1	Understanding Cross-Cultural Psychology	Chapter 1	Chapter 1 Quiz - <i>Due on Feb 1</i> Discussion - <i>Due on Jan 29 / Feb 1</i> Writing Assignment #1 - <i>Due on Feb 1</i>
2	Critical Thinking in Cross-Cultural Psychology	Chapter 2	Chapter 2 Quiz - <i>Due on Feb 8</i> Writing Assignment #2 - <i>Due on Feb 8</i>
3	Methodology of Cross-Cultural Research	Chapter 3	Chapter 3 - <i>Due on Feb 15</i> Discussion - <i>Due on Feb 12 / Feb 15</i>
4	Cognition: Sensation, Perception, & Consciousness	Chapter 4	Chapter 4 Quiz - <i>Due on Feb 22</i> Discussion - <i>Due on Feb 19 / Feb 22</i>
5	Intelligence	Chapter 5	Chapter 5 Quiz - <i>Due on Mar 1</i>
6	Emotion	Chapter 6	Chapter 6 Quiz - <i>Due on Mar 8</i>
	EXAM 1		Exam 1 - <i>Due on Mar 15</i>
7	Motivation and Behavior	Chapter 7	Chapter 7 Quiz - <i>Due on Mar 22</i>
8	Human Development and Socialization	Chapter 8	Chapter 8 Quiz - <i>Due on Mar 29</i> Discussion - <i>Due on Mar 26 / Mar 29</i>
9	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 9	Chapter 9 Quiz - <i>Due on Apr 5</i>
10	Social Perception, Cognition, & Interaction	Chapter 10	Chapter 10 Quiz - <i>Due on Apr 12</i> Discussion - <i>Due on Apr 9 / Apr 12</i>
11	Personality and the Self	Chapter 11	Chapter 11 Quiz - <i>Due on Apr 19</i> Writing Assignment #3 - <i>Due on Apr 19</i>
12	Applied Cross-Cultural Psychology: Highlights	Chapter 12	Chapter 12 Quiz - <i>Due on Apr 26</i>
	Cross-Cultural Experiences		Writing Assignment #4 - <i>Due on Apr 30</i>
	EXAM 2		Exam 2 - <i>Due on May 7</i>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS: This is an ONLINE class and you MUST be familiar with blackboard. I will post the syllabus, lectures, assignments, discussion posts, resources, grades, and announcements on Blackboard. You MUST frequently check Blackboard because you will be responsible for the material posted. To use Blackboard you will need to go to <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>. Please become familiar and comfortable with using Blackboard since your assignments and exams will be submitted through here. You will also need **a webcam and the Respondus Lockdown browser** for the two exams.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS VIA MASON EMAIL: Please communicate with me via your Mason email (and make sure to include your name in the email). Generally, I will respond within 48 hours. If you have concerns that relate specifically to you (e.g., grades, a family emergency, an illness), please email me. If you have a general question about the course (e.g., due dates, “where is...?”), use the Ask the Professor discussion board. In the event of schedule changes, I will notify the entire class via both email and the course announcements page.

All primary contact in the course will be via email *and* Blackboard; thus, you are *required* to check your Mason email account regularly and to keep your mailbox maintained so that messages will not be rejected for being over quota. Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, and 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 email account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly

HONOR CODE STATEMENT: Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously. When you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else’s work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind), please ask for guidance and clarification.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you are student with 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.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last Day to Add: 2/1/2021

Last Day to Drop With 100% Tuition Refund: 2/12/2021

Final Drop Deadline with 50% Tuition Refund: 2/16/2021

Selective Withdraw Period: 3/2/2021-4/1/2021