**Applied Cross-Cultural Psychology**

# George Mason University Fall 2021 PSYC 379 001

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CLASS MEETS: Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30-2:45 Innovation Hall 206

OFFICE HOURS: TBA Zoom chats are always welcome

*A cautionary statement. We are all aware that the Delta variant now accounts for most COVID-19 infections, and the numbers could be climbing or remaining high in the fall. There could be changes in some policies between now and the end of the semester. As a result, we should be prepared for a shift to online teaching or some other changes, if necessary. In this case, our class will be taught online and recorded on Zoom during our scheduled time. Thank you for understanding.*

**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.

**PROCEDURE:**

**Lectures on Blackboard:** The lectures’ content is posted. The course is conveniently broken down into several sessions corresponding with fifteen weeks of our classes. These lectures contain your professor’s original lecture texts (written by him), source materials, comments, discussion points, as well as links to videos. All lecture files are in PowerPoint. Based on the calendar, visit a specific session, open the lecture file, read the lecture materials, watch the suggested videos. You can read the posted lecture materials before, during, or after the scheduled class period.

This is not an easy time for us and for our families; we all have different circumstances; there are health issues and work-related problems, appointments, limited access to wi-fi, and privacy-related challenges at home. Therefore, your professor offers you as much reasonable flexibility as possible to accomplish your educational goals.

**Textbook:** Eric Shiraev & David Levy.*Cross-Cultural Psychology*. 7th edition. New York: Taylor and Francis. This required textbook is essential in your studies for quizzes and exams. The textbook, which was translated into many languages, contains a structured, balanced, comprehensive, and peer-reviewed discussion of cross-cultural psychology. The lectures are structured “reflections” of the textbook material. You would be required to read approximately one chapter per week (in addition to the posted materials). Your schedule conveniently suggests which chapter is required for each week.

**Exams:** You will be taking weekly quizzes: 10 quizzes (50% of the final grade) and 4 class-time exams(40% of the final grade).All the quizzes and class-time exams are multiple-choice, online tests based on the book and the lectures. All the exams (four of them, see the schedule) will take during the class time. All the quizzes (ten of them, ten questions in each, see the schedule) will be open on Thursdays at 4:00 pm and closed at 10 pm on Saturdays. There could be exceptions or changes, so that see the syllabus and announcements. You will have 30 minutes for each quiz. Practice tests are available and will be posted (practice test scores will not affect your grade).

**Paper**. **Due: December 2, 10 pm**. For the term paper, select one of the following exercises: 1.1 on page 32; 4.2. on page 170; 5.3. on page 216; 6.1 on page 250; 7.1 on page 294; 8.1. on page 337; 9.1. on page 387; 10.3. on page 431; or 11.1 on page 267. You may choose other exercises for your paper—in this case, you should talk to your professor to discuss the details. 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 briefly describe 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 ifyou are referring to the Web). You are welcome to suggest your original topic for term paper, but you need to receive an emailed consent from your professor before November 1st.

**Discussion Board:** Discussion materials will be posted regularly on Blackboard. They all are related to applied, practical aspects of the lectures or some most current, interesting, or precious issues. Join the discussions of contemporary topics related to cross-cultural psychology on Facebook: [Cross-Cultural Psychology](https://www.facebook.com/Cross-Cultural-Psychology-Textbook-109441872573211/?ref=ts&fref=ts)

**Extra credit:** Extra points can be earned and added to your total score for completing an elective assignment. The topics are posted. Submit online (upload). The deadline for extra-credit work: **November 30, Tuesday, 10 pm.** No extensions. Talk to professor for details, if necessary.

**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 a(n): 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.*

 **Textbook: Shiraev, E. & Levy, D. (2021) *Cross-Cultural Psychology*. 7/e: Routledge. Lecture slides, study guides, additional reading materials, practice quizzes, and lectures-related links are posted on the Backboard. Official textbook site:** [**Cross-Cultural Psychology.**](https://www.routledge.com/Cross-Cultural-Psychology-Critical-Thinking-and-Contemporary-Applications/Shiraev-Levy/p/book/9780367199395) Follow our course on Facebook where you will find and discuss most interesting and relevant topics related to cross-cultural psychology and learn more about your career choices: [**Cross-Cultural Psychology on Facebook**](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cross-Cultural-Psychology-Textbook/109441872573211?ref=ts&fref=ts)(or when you are on Facebook, search for: “Cross-cultural psychology textbook”). Blackboard, the companion website, and Facebook are three major technologies that will be used in our class.

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."

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND SCHEDULE**

 **Quiz 1, assigned on September 2: Chapter 1. Understanding Cross-Cultural Psychology.** What is cross-cultural psychology? Basic definitions: Culture, cultural psychology, race, nationality, and ethnicity. Empirical examination of culture. Power distance, masculinity, and uncertainty avoidance. Collectivism and individualism. Different views on cross-cultural psychology. Evolutionary approach. Sociological approach. Ecocultural approach. The Cultural Mixtures approach: A new cross-cultural psychology in the 21st century. The Integrative approach. Indigenous psychology. Ethnocentrism. Multiculturalism. A brief history of cross-cultural psychology. Other topics discussed in class. Video and electronic materials. The quiz contains 10 questions (5% of the final grade) and will be available from 4:00 pm on Thursday until 10 pm on Saturday. You can start at any time within this period, but you have 30 minutes and one attempt only. No retries. Your score will appear automatically in Grades. The feedback is released after 10 pm.

**Quiz 2, assigned on September 9: Chapter 2. 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. The quiz contains 10 questions (5% of the final grade) and will be available from 4:00 pm on Thursday until 10 pm on Saturday. You can start at any time within this period, but you have 30 minutes and one attempt only. No retries. Your score will appear automatically in Grades. The feedback is released after 10 pm.

**Quiz 3, assigned on September 16: Chapter 3. Methodology of Cross-Cultural Research**. Goals of cross-cultural research. Quantitative research in cross-cultural psychology. Looking for linkages and differences. Qualitative approach in cross-cultural psychology. Major steps for preparation of a cross-cultural study. Sample selection. Observation in cross-cultural psychology. Survey methods. Experimental studies. Content-Analysis. Focus-group methodology. Meta-Analysis: Research of research. A hidden obstacle of cross-cultural studies: Test translation. Comparing two phenomena: Some important principles. On similarities and differences: Some critical thinking applications. Cultural dichotomies: There are fewer/more differences than one might think. Avoiding bias of generalizations. Know more about cultures you examine! Other topics discussed in class. Video and electronic materials. The quiz contains 10 questions (5% of the final grade) and will be available from 4:00 pm on Thursday until 10 pm on Saturday. You can start at any time within this period, but you have 30 minutes and one attempt only. No retries. Your score will appear automatically in Grades. The feedback is released after 10 pm.

**September 23, class time. Exam 1 (20 questions, 10% of the final grade) will cover the materials from Quizzes 1-3. Online.**

 **Quiz 4, assigned on September 30. Chapter 4. Cognition: Sensation and Perception. States of Consciousness**. Sensation and perception: Basic principles. Sensation and the brain: Basic universal pathways. How culture influences what we perceive. How people perceive depictions. How do people scan pictures? Perception of depth. Are people equally misled by visual illusions? Some cultural patterns of drawing pictures. Perception of color. Other senses. Perception of time. Perception of the beautiful. Perception of music. Consciousness and culture. Sleep and cultural significance of dreams. Beyond Altered States of Consciousness. Other topics discussed in class. Video materials. The quiz contains 10 questions (5% of the final grade) and will be available from 4:00 pm on Thursday until 10 pm on Saturday. You can start at any time within this period, but you have 30 minutes and one attempt only. No retries. Your score will appear automatically in Grades. The feedback is released after 10 pm.

**Quiz 5, Quiz 3, assigned on October 7 to cover Chapters 5 and 6. Chapter 5. Intelligence.** Defining intelligence. Ethnic differences in IQ scores. Explaining group differences in test scores: Intelligence and intelligent behavior. Do biological factors contribute to intelligence? Incompatibility of tests: Cultural biases. A word about “cultural literacy”. Environment and intelligence. Socioeconomic factors. The family factor. ‘Natural selection’ and IQ scores? Cultural values of cognition. General Cognition: What is ‘underneath’ intelligence? Cognitive skills, school grades, and educational systems. Culture, tests, and motivation. IQ, culture, and social justice. And in the end, moral values. Other topics discussed in class. Video and electronic materials.

**Chapter 6. Emotion.** When we laugh, we are happy: Similarities of emotional experience. You cannot explain pain if you have never been hurt: Differences in emotional experience. Emotions: Different or universal? Physiological Arousal. The meaning of preceding events. Emotion as an evaluation. We are expected to feel in a particular way. How people assess emotional experience. When emotions signal a challenge: Cross-cultural research on stress. Expression of emotion. When emotion hurts: Cross-cultural studies of anger. Emotion and inclination to act. Emotion and judgment. Other topics discussed in class. Video materials shown in class. The quiz contains 10 questions (5% of the final grade) and will be available from 4:00 pm on Thursday until 10 pm on Saturday. You can start at any time within this period, but you have 30 minutes and one attempt only. No retries. Your score will appear automatically in Grades. The feedback is released after 10 pm.

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 **October 14, class time. Exam 2 (20 questions, 10% of the final grade) will cover the materials from Quizzes 4-5. Online.**

 **Quiz 6, assigned on October 21. Chapter 7. Motivation.** A glance into evolution. Social science: See the society first. Drive and arousal: Two universal mechanisms of motivation. The power of the unconscious: Psychoanalysis. Humanistic theories. Learning and motivation: Cognitive theories. A carrot and a beef tongue: Hunger and food preference. When hunger causes distress: Eating Disorders. Victory and harmony: Achievement motivation. Aggressive motivation and violence. Culture and sexuality. Sexual and Gender Identity disorders. Sex and sexuality: Some cross-cultural similarities. Other topics discussed in class. Video and electronic materials. The quiz contains 10 questions (5% of the final grade) and will be available from 4:00 pm on Thursday until 10 pm on Saturday. You can start at any time within this period, but you have 30 minutes and one attempt only. No retries. Your score will appear automatically in Grades. The feedback is released after 10 pm.

**Quiz 7, assigned on October 28. Chapter 8. Human Development and Socialization.** Development and socialization: Definitions. Quality of life and the child’s development. Norms, customs, and child-care. Parental values and expectations. Erik H. Erikson's Stages of Psychosocial Development. Jean Piaget: Stages of cognitive development. Stages of moral development according to Kohlberg. Developmental stages. Life before birth: Prenatal period. First steps: Infancy. Discovering the world: Childhood. Major rehearsals:Adolescence. Adulthood. Late Adulthood. Other topics discussed in class. Video materials shown in class. The quiz contains 10 questions (5% of the final grade) and will be available from 4:00 pm on Thursday until 10 pm on Saturday. You can start at any time within this period, but you have 30 minutes and one attempt only. No retries. Your score will appear automatically in Grades. The feedback is released after 10 pm.

**November 4, class time. Exam 3 (20 questions, 10% of the final grade) will cover the materials from Quizzes 6-7. Online.**

**Quiz 8, assigned on November 11. Chapter 9. Psychological Disorders.** American background: DSM-5. Two views on culture and psychopathology. Cultural Syndromes. Central and peripheral symptoms. Anxiety disorders across cultures. Schizophrenia across cultures. Culture and Depressive Disorders. Culture and suicide. Personality Disorders across cultures. Culture and substance abuse. Psychodiagnostic biases. Cultural and cross-cultural aspects of psychotherapy. Culture match in therapy. Other topics discussed in class. Video and electronic materials.

The quiz contains 10 questions (5% of the final grade) and will be available from 4:00 pm on Thursday until 10 pm on Saturday. You can start at any time within this period, but you have 30 minutes and one attempt only. No retries. Your score will appear automatically in Grades. The feedback is released after 10 pm.

**Quiz 9, assigned on November 18. Chapter 10. Social Perception, Social Cognition, and Social Interaction.** Attitudes andValues. Western and non-Western values. Striving for consistency: The Cognitive Balance theory. Avoiding inconsistency: Cognitive dissonance. Prejudice: Is it inevitable? Stereotypes in daily life Psychological Dogmatism. Social Attribution. Attribution as locus of control. Explaining the behavior of others. Attribution of success and failure. Self-Perception. Seeing own body weight. Duty and fairness in individualist and collectivist cultures. Stereotypes and the power of generalizations. Other topics discussed in class. Video materials shown in class. Universal interaction: roles, norms, and territorial behavior. Direct contacts and communication. Conformity. Is conformity universal across cultures? Following orders: Obedience. Social Influence. Compliance. Feeling good about some views. Groupthink. Is social loafing universal? Cooperation and Competition. Other topics discussed in class. Video materials shown in class. The quiz contains 10 questions (5% of the final grade) and will be available from 4:00 pm on Thursday until 10 pm on Saturday. You can start at any time within this period, but you have 30 minutes and one attempt only. No retries. Your score will appear automatically in Grades. The feedback is released after 10 pm.

**Quiz 10, assigned on November 23 (Tuesday) to cover Chapters 11 and 12. Chapter 11.** **Personality and the Self.** What Is Personality? Locus of Control. The Autotelic Personality. On National Character. The Self. The Self and Sex-Related Categories. The Sexes and the Intersex. Traditional Cultural Views of the Sexes. Evolving Views of the Sexes. Gender as a Social Construct. Gender Roles. Traditional Views of Gender. Evolving Views of Gender. Sexual Orientation: Evolving Perceptions. Religious Identity.

**Chapter 12. Applied Cross-Cultural Psychology: Some Highlights**. Medical decisions and counseling decisions. Cross-cultural psychology and business decisions. Working with immigrants. Acculturative stress. Education. Culture, behavior, and the law. Working and serving abroad. Multiculturalism and religion: A campus context. Video and electronic materials. Conclusion. The quiz contains 10 questions (5% of the final grade) and will be available from 4:00 pm on Tuesday until—extended!—10 pm on Monday (11/29). You can start at any time within this period, but you have 30 minutes and one attempt only. No retries. Your score will appear automatically in Grades. The feedback is released after 10 pm.

**December 2, class time. Exam 4 (20 questions, 10% of the final grade) will cover the materials from Quizzes 8-10. Online.**

This is your last exam. Quiz 10 was your last quiz. The paper is due at 10 pm.