**PSYC 379 DL1: Applied Cross-Cultural Psychology (3 credits)**

**Spring 2022**

***Instructor:*** Victor Ortiz Cortes

***Office:*** Zoom Link

***Email:*** vortizco@gmu.edu

***Office hours:*** Fridays 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm EST Also by appointments

**Required textbook:**

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

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

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.

**Use of Office Hours:** Students can and should use office hours to discuss assignments, grades, and other concerns or questions they have about the course. Office hours are from 1 - 2:30 pm EST every Friday and students can join at any time within that time frame.

| **Modules/Assignments** | **Additional assigned reading** | **Assessment** | **Date Available:** | **Must complete by:** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Understanding Cross-Cultural Psychology | Chapter 1 | Chapter 1 Quiz | 01/24 (12:00) | 01/30 (11:59 pm) |
| Critical Thinking in Cross-Cultural Psychology | Chapter 2 | Chapter 2 Quiz | 01/31 (12:00) | 02/06 (11:59 pm) |
| **Cultural Self-Reflection**  **Critical Thinking Exercises** |  |  | 01/24 (12:00) | 02/06 (11:59 pm) |
| Methodology of Cross-Cultural Research | Chapter 3 | Chapter 3 Quiz | 02/07 (12:00) | 02/13 (11:59 pm) |
| Cognition: Sensation, Perception, & Consciousness | Chapter 4 | Chapter 4 Quiz | 02/14 (12:00) | 02/20 (11:59 pm) |
| **Comparing Personal Ads** |  |  | 02/14 (12:00) | 02/20 (11:59 pm) |
| Intelligence | Chapter 5 | Chapter 5 Quiz | 02/21 (12:00) | 02/27 (11:59 pm) |
| Emotion | Chapter 6 | Chapter 6 Quiz | 02/28 (12:00) | 03/06 (11:59 pm) |
| **EXAM 1** |  | Exam 1 | 03/07 (12:00) | 03/13 (11:59 pm) |
| **SPRING BREAK 03/14-03/20** | | | | |
| Motivation and Behavior | Chapter 7 | Chapter 7 Quiz | 03/21 (12:00) | 03/27 (11:59 pm) |
| Human Development and Socialization | Chapter 8 | Chapter 8 Quiz | 03/28 (12:00) | 04/03 (11:59 pm) |
| Psychological Disorders | Chapter 9 | Chapter 9 Quiz | 04/04 (12:00) | 04/10 (11:59 pm) |
| **Current Event Analysis** |  |  | 04/04 (12:00) | 04/10 (11:59 pm) |
| Social Perception, Cognition, & Interaction | Chapter 10 | Chapter 10 Quiz | 04/11 (12:00) | 04/17 (11:59 pm) |
| Personality and the Self | Chapter 11 | Chapter 11 Quiz | 04/18 (12:00) | 04/24 (11:59 pm) |
| Applied Cross-Cultural Psychology: Highlights | Chapter 12 | Chapter 12 Quiz | 04/25 (12:00) | 05/01 (11:59 pm) |
| Cross-Cultural Experiences (finish work on assignment) |  |  | 05/02 (12:00) | 05/11 (11:59 pm) |
| **EXAM 2** |  | Exam 2 | 03/07 (12:00) | 05/11 (11:59 pm) |

**Criteria for evaluation:**

**Quizzes:** 5-10 item quiz for each of the twelve chapters. 10 points per quiz. **TWO** quiz grades will be dropped (TOTAL = 100 pts.)

**Exams:** Two exams: one at the midterm and one at the end of the course (50 points each). Material on the exams will come from modules and assigned readings. No exam grades will be dropped. (TOTAL = 100 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. One original post (4 pts.) and a minimum of one response post (4 pts.) is required for each topic. (TOTAL = 40pts.)

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

| **Writing Assignment Descriptions:** |
| --- |
| **Cultural Self-Reflection** (10 points): Guided self-reflection on cultural identity. |
| **Critical Thinking Exercises** (20 points): Specific exercises from within the textbook chapter will be assigned. |
| **Comparing Personal Ads** (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? |
| **Current Events Analysis** (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. |
| **Cross-Cultural Experiences** (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. |

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

| **Final Grade Breakdown (450 pts):** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EXAM 1 | 50 pts | WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (6) | 150 pts |
| EXAM 2 | 50 pts | DISCUSSIONS (5) | 40 pts |
| CHAPTER QUIZZES (12) | 100 pts | BLOG ENTRIES (2) | 10 pts |

| **Final Grades will be assigned as follows:** | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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***. The answers are available after the deadline has passed, so **late submissions are not accepted**.

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). The earlier you can complete the assignment the better. 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 will be timed. This means that you will need to prepare for quizzes 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.

**Exams will not be timed and are open note/book.** Exams will be available The Monday of the week it was assigned and will close the Sunday of the week it was assigned. No late submissions will be accepted. If there are extenuating circumstances preventing you from completing an exam, please let me know **before** the deadline.

**Communication:**

Please communicate with me via your Mason email. I check my email regularly throughout the week and at least once on weekends. I will try to respond to emails within 48 hours, so please do not send multiple emails within this timeframe. 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.

**Name and pronoun use:** If you wish, please share your name and pronouns with me and how best to address you in class and via email. I use he/him for myself, and you may address me as Victor in email and verbally.

**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, there are still deadlines in place for the assessments and assignments that you still must work according to. You can do the work on a beach at sunrise, on top of a mountain, or in your room, 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 cannot 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. All writing assignments are checked for plagiarism via Safe Assign.

**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](mailto:ods@gmu.edu) | Phone: (703) 993-2474

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 31. Last Day to Drop without tuition penalty: February 7. Drop period with 50% tuition refund: February 14. Drop period with no refund: February 15-March 1. Selective withdrawal period: March 2-April 11. 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. Please see the following webpage for more details about the new Add/Drop policy: <https://registrar.gmu.edu/drop-withdrawal-deadlines-faqs/> .

DIVERSITY/INCLUSION STATEMENT [Statement created by the School of Integrative Studies faculty.]

The George Mason Psychology Department, an intentionally inclusive community, promotes and maintains an equitable and just work and learning environment. We welcome and value individuals and their differences including race, economic status, gender expression and identity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin, first language, religion, age, and ability status.

* We value our diverse student body and desire to increase the diversity of our faculty and staff.
* We commit to supporting students, faculty and staff who have been the victims of bias and discrimination.
* We promote continuous learning and improvement to create an environment that values diverse points of view and life experiences.
* We believe that faculty, staff and students play a role in creating an environment that engages diverse points of view.
* We believe that by fostering their willingness to hear and learn from a variety of sources and viewpoints, our students will gain competence in communication, critical thinking and global understanding, and become aware of their biases and how they affect their interactions with others and the world.

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](mailto:cde@gmu.edu).

**Religious Holidays:** A list of religious holidays is available on the University Life Calendar page. See the [Religious Holiday Calendar](http://ulife.gmu.edu/calendar/religious-holiday-calendar/). Any student whose religious observance conflicts with a scheduled course activity must contact the Instructor at least 2 weeks in advance of the conflict date in order to make alternative arrangements.