



Cross-Cultural Psychology

SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychology as an academic discipline must be a study of *all* thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Despite this simple truth, Western perspectives continue to be prevalent in the field of psychology. Therefore, it is important for psychology students to recognize the Western biases in psychological theories, research, and practice, and to learn about the major cross-cultural theories and research in the field of psychology. The rapid globalization of our world only strengthens the argument that it is imperative for psychology students to gain an understanding of cross-cultural research and theories, so that they can become more culturally competent individuals. Thus, this course examines the influence of culture on a variety of psychological topics. An emphasis is placed on answering the question: What is universal, and what is culture-specific?

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand major cultural constructs, theories, and methods in cross-cultural psychology;
2. Apply these concepts to everyday life;
3. Increase knowledge of psychology in non-Western cultures;
4. Develop greater appreciation of cultural values and worldviews;
5. Engage in meaningful self-reflections on what it means to live in a multicultural world.

READING MATERIALS

Most assigned readings will be from this open access textbook:

Worthy, L. D., Lavigne, T., & Romero, F. (2020). *Culture and Psychology*.

[https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Psychology/Culture_and_Psychology_\(Worthy_Lavigne_and_Romero\)](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Psychology/Culture_and_Psychology_(Worthy_Lavigne_and_Romero))

TBA readings will be announced and uploaded/linked well in advance of due date.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments

1. **Exams** (40 points each x 2 exams = 80 points; 80% of total grade): There will be two exams given covering lecture and assigned reading materials. The final exam is not cumulative. The exams will include mostly multiple choice and some short answer questions.
2. **In-Class reflections** (1.5 x 10 = 15 points; 15 percent of total grade): During class, you will have opportunities to write about your personal response to the course material through written reflections. These reflections should be brief (on average, 1 paragraph). The purpose of these exercises is to encourage critical thinking and practical application of course content. Detailed questions/prompts will be given in class. There will be 10 reflections assigned.
3. **Cultural show & tell** (5 points; 5 percent of total grade): You are required to do a brief “show and tell” during class highlighting something that illustrates a difference and/or similarity

between your cultural background and South Korean culture. The presentation must highlight a key cultural variable (e.g., race/ethnicity/nationality, gender, ability, religion, sexual orientation, SES) pertaining to your own background. The presentation must also integrate a psychological theory/concept that we cover in class.

Course Policies

1. **Grading policy:** All ISS classes are pass/fail based on the student academic achievement evaluated by grades on a scale of 100 points (grade of 60 or above is Pass).
2. **Attendance:** SKKU regulations require students to attend at least 80% of all classes. Therefore, if you miss 3 or more classes, you will receive a failing grade. You must be present for at least 2 hours of the class session in order for it to count as a full class day. Anything less than that will be considered an absence.
3. **Academic integrity:** Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade in the class.
4. **Use of wireless devices:** Laptops/tablets are allowed only for taking notes. Please do not use laptops/tablets for any other purposes during class such as emailing, chatting, shopping, Facebooking, gaming, etc. Please keep your phone on silent during class time and refrain from using it.
5. **Respect:** It is critical for all class members to treat each other with mutual respect, so that a safe and rigorous learning environment is created. You do not have to always agree with the opinions of your classmates (or me), but you will be asked to demonstrate respect for what others have to say.

COURSE SCHEDULE

*Lecture topics are subject to change based on progress or instructor discretion.
Chapter numbers are from Worthy et al. (2020) textbook.*

– WEEK I –

Monday (27 June)

Lecture Topic: What is cultural psychology?
Reading: Chapter 1

Tuesday (28 June)

Lecture Topic: Cross-cultural communication
Reading: To be announced (TBA)

Wednesday (29 June)

Lecture Topic: Research methods and culture
Reading: Chapter 3

Thursday (30 June)

Lecture Topic: View of the self
Reading: Chapter 8

– WEEK II –

Monday (4 July)

Lecture Topic: Cultural identities

Reading: TBA

Tuesday (5 July)

Lecture Topic: Culture and sexuality

Reading: Chapter 6

Wednesday (6 July)

Lecture Topic: Culture and emotion

Reading: Chapter 7

Thursday (7 July)

Midterm exam

– WEEK III –

Monday (11 July)

Lecture Topic: Stereotyping, discrimination, and racism, part I

Reading: Chapter 11

Tuesday (12 July)

Lecture Topic: Stereotyping, discrimination, and racism, part II

Reading: TBA

Wednesday (13 July)

Lecture Topic: Acculturation and enculturation

Reading: Chapter 13

Thursday (14 July)

Lecture Topic: Mental illnesses across cultures

Reading: Chapter 10

Friday (15 July)

Lecture Topic: Counseling across cultures

Reading: Chapter 10

– WEEK IV –

Monday (18 July)

Lecture Topic: Stigma of mental health

Reading: TBA

Tuesday (19 July)

Final Exam