Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU) International Summer Semester (ISS) 2026

Cross Cultural Psychology

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SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION

Culture is one of the most powerful forces in the world, including religion, food, family structure, social norms, approach to illness and death, sense of growth and development, and what to do when we are in trouble. It shapes how we make sense of our world, how we express ourselves and how we understand and relate to others, which is mostly what psychology study and explain.

Most knowledge of psychology has been developed by Westerners, who might not know much about what non-Westerners experience, feel, and live. As a result, it may not well represent a variety of cultural perspectives, leading to potentially harmful misinformation and misguided advice for a diverse group of people (that's us!).

In this course you are introduced to cultural universals (what is common among all of us?) and culturally specific constructs (what is different across culture?). You will learn how culture interacts with various subfields of psychology, such as sensation and perception, emotion, memory, personality, learning, and social behaviors.

This course will be fun-filled class activities rather than "boring" lectures. No previous knowledge of psychology is needed. Just come curious to explore together and celebrate our culture and mutual understanding.

READING MATERIALS

The textbook for this course is called Culture and Psychology. This book is part of an open access textbook initiative, dedicated to providing quality textbooks and resources for students for little to no cost. The textbook is entirely online but you can download the book as a pdf, if you prefer. The online resource and pdf are completely free to you. The website for the book is here: https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Psychology/Culture_and_Psychology_(Worthy_Lavigne_and_Romero)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Class meetings include discussion of the readings, some brief lectures, workgroups, and student presentations and/or facilitation of discussions and activities. They are interactive, and participation in class is an essential part of the learning process. Active engagement and open communication about ideas are critical for growth and development in this course!

Evaluation

In-Class Quizzes	20 points
Exam 1 (in-class exam)	30 points
Exam 2 (presentation)	30 points
Class attendance/participation	20 points

Grading

60-100%	Pass
Less than 60%	Fail

- There will be more than 10 quizzes taken in class across the course, each worth 2 points. Ten highest quizzes will be used for the final grade, totaling 20 points.
- Exam 1 will consist of definitions, short answer questions, and psychological case study. Detailed

instructions will be provided in class.

- Each of you will be randomly assigned to a small group. In the final week, each group will discuss/present the key ideas from their group projects. Detailed instructions will be provided in class.
- ***Students must attend at least 80% of all classes to pass***. Arriving late or leaving early will be considered missing. Each class missed with non-emergency will result in a two point reduction per each from the final grade. It is expected that students will notify the instructor in advance or after when and why they miss a class. The instructor will decide whether any missing is an emergency.
- ***Academic honesty is required at all times.*** Plagiarism is unacceptable. Plagiarism is using another person's ideas or creative work without giving credit to that person. It includes 1) paraphrasing information from a source without referencing the source, 2) copying and pasting Internet information, graphics or media into your work without citing the source, 3) using someone else's homework, papers you or someone else has written for another class, or buying papers or research you did not do and turning it in as if you had done the work yourself, and 4) not putting quote marks around parts of sources you copy exactly. If your instructor believes you have committed an act of academic misconduct, s/he may give you a penalty grade, which is defined as any grade based on a charge of academic misconduct. A penalty grade may include, but is not limited to, a failing grade on an assignment or in the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

– WEEK I –

Monday (29 June)

1. Course introduction
   - Reading: Ch 1 – Culture and psychology

Tuesday (30 June)

2. Culture and learning
   - Reading: Ch 2 – Cultural learning

Wednesday (1 July)

3. Research method
   - Reading: Ch 3 – Research method and culture

Thursday (2 July)

4. Culture and human development
   - Reading: Ch 4 – Culture and development

– WEEK II –

Monday (6 July)

5. Culture and cognition
   - Reading: Ch 5 – Culture and cognition

Tuesday (7 July)

6. Culture and sexuality
   - Reading: Ch 6 – Culture and sexuality

Wednesday (8 July)

7. Culture and emotion

- Reading: Ch 7 – Culture and emotion

Thursday (9 July)

Mid-term in class exam

– WEEK III –

Monday (13 July)

8. Culture and personality
- Reading: Ch 8 – Culture of self and personality

Tuesday (14 July)

9. Culture and physical health
- Reading: Ch 9 – Culture and physical health

Wednesday (15 July)

10. Culture and mental health
- Reading: Ch 10 – Culture and mental health

Thursday (16 July)

11. Culture and social behavior
- Reading: Ch 11 – Culture and social behavior

– WEEK IV–

Monday (20 July)

12. Culture and morality
- Reading: Ch 12 – Culture and morality

Tuesday (21 July)

13. Multicultural perspectives

Final exam – In class presentations – Groups 1

- Reading: Ch 13 – Living in a multicultural world

Wednesday (22 July)

Final exam – In class presentations – Groups 2

Course wrap-up; Celebrations of your achievement!!!