

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

PSYCHOLOGY 125 – CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Introduction to theories and research findings regarding cultural influences on human behavior and cognitive processes (lifespan development, abnormal behavior and mental health, drug use, self-concept, emotion, gender schemas and gender roles, social behavior, perception, learning, intelligence and memory). By providing students with a non-judgmental understanding of how culture influences human behavior, they will be more equipped to interact in a world where there is increasing contact among different cultures.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Race, nationality, culture, ethnicity, acculturation, biculturalism, assimilation and marginalization
- 2) Group differences rather than deficiencies or deviance
- 3) Culture and self
- 4) Cultural influences on perception
- 5) Cultural influences on cognition
- 6) Cultural influences on social, moral, verbal and cognitive development
- 7) Cultural influences on emotion, including nonverbal communication.
- 8) Cultural variations in abnormal behavior
- 9) Cultural variations in social behavior
- 10) Privilege, prejudices, stereotypes, ethnocentrism, cultural relativism, and white supremacy
- 11) Intersectionality (race, gender, religion, and sexual orientation) and cultural identity.
- 12) Cultural variations in gender schemas, gender roles, gender identity and male-female relationships
- 13) Cultural variations in the conceptualization of mental health and illness, and in the utilization of mental health services
- 14) Culture and the delivery of mental health services

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Examine and describe psychological commonalities and differences among cultural groups,
- 2) Assess the impact of culture on normal and abnormal human behavior.
- 3) Assess the impact of culture on human cognitive processes (perception, intelligence, memory).
- 4) Assess the impact of culture on lifespan psychological development.
- 5) Recognize and evaluate ethnocentrism in "mainstream" psychology, as well as within society at large.
- 6) Identify and describe personal stereotypic beliefs about different ethnic populations.
- 7) Identify and discuss personally relevant racial and ethnic psychological issues.
- 8) Assess the impact of discrimination and prejudices on the mental health of cultural groups,
- 9) Distinguish cultural difference as difference rather than as deficiencies or deviance.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for

evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Exams (objective, essay)
- 2) Quizzes
- 3) Group or individual project presentations

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Group discussion, cooperative learning exercises
- 3) Guest speakers
- 4) Individual and group projects, structured in-class exercises, demonstrations
- 5) Library materials and Internet exploration

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Reading assignments
- 2) Projects and reports
- 3) Naturalistic observations of a specific culture

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Palmer, Mia (2019). *Introduction to Cross-Cultural Psychology: Why Culture Matters*. Cognella Publishing ISBN: 978-1-5165-1553-0.
 - b. Grissett, Judy and Baykina, Marianna, "Cross-Cultural Psychology (GSW)" (2018). *Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work Grants Collections*. 27. <https://oer.galileo.usg.edu/psychology-collections/27>
 - c. Keith, K. D. (Ed.). (2019). *Cross-cultural psychology: Contemporary themes and perspectives*. John Wiley & Sons.
- 2) Supplemental material:
 - a. Watters, Ethan (2010). *Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche*

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completions of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Critically evaluate how terms like ethnicity, culture, nationality, and race are used in real-world scenarios.
- 2) Compare and contrast individualism and collectivism and how differences in ideologies shape attitudes and behavior towards out-group members, including prejudice and discrimination.
- 3) Evaluate how culture shapes individual's personality and perception of psychological disorders
- 4) Analyze how intersectionality--including gender identity, cultural identity, sexual orientation, and race--impacts stigma, prejudice, and discrimination.
- 5) Develop your own understanding of the role culture plays in individual and group processes by applying the major theories, concepts, and empirical findings of cross-cultural psychology.