

**Psychology 344**  
**Psychology and Culture**  
**Fall 2010**

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***Course Description and Learning Objectives***

This course will explore how culture influences fundamental aspects of human psychology. We will address basic questions about the nature of culture—and more far-reaching questions about the profoundly cultural nature of human behavior—by drawing from the most up-to-date and scientifically sound research in cultural psychology.

You will learn what cross-cultural research has said about what we traditionally know to be truth in psychology in a wide variety of topic areas. You also will learn about the meaning of cross-cultural psychology in the larger picture of psychology as a discipline. And, as a major goal of this course, you will gain a better at understanding of intercultural differences and similarities that will become more and more relevant to your personal and professional lives in our increasingly multicultural world.

***Meetings and Format***

We will meet on Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:10 p.m. in the Student Services building, Room 1500. Course meetings consist of lecture, in-class demonstrations and exercises, and guided discussion relevant to course content.

Lectures and the textbook are intended to supplement each other: Material will be presented and discussed in class that is not contained in the textbook, and some topics will be covered in the text that we will not have an opportunity to discuss in class. All will be considered fair game for the exams. In order to perform well, it will be necessary to do all of the readings, attend all lectures, and take thorough notes to aid in your studying.

***Required Reading***

Heine, S.J. (2007). *Cultural psychology*. New York: Norton.

***Prerequisite***

Introductory Psychology (PSY 101) is a required prerequisite for this course.

## ***Class Requirements and Grading***

The final grade in this course will be based on three in-class exams (30% each), an optional final exam (30%), and a number of in-class exercises (10%). All exams will be multiple choice.

1. *In-class exams (90% of final grade)*. Each of the three in-class exams will focus on material from just one third of the class (see schedule). Each of these exams is worth 30% of your final grade.
2. *Optional final exam (may count for 30% of final grade)*. The final exam is optional, but your score on the final exam can be used to replace your lowest exam score. The final exam will be cumulative, covering the entire content of the course (all chapters and all lectures), and is scheduled for exam week (Thursday, December 16).
3. *In-class exercises (10% of final grade)*. Each week, you will have an opportunity to complete an in-class exercise that has been designed to illustrate course concepts. These exercises will allow you to see how *you* would respond to the kinds of questions that often get asked in cross cultural research studies. Completion of these exercises will contribute to your final grade (think of this as a participation score), but will also present an opportunity for *extra credit*. There will be 12 of these exercises, and you must complete at least 8 of them to receive full credit. Each additional exercise you complete will count as 1 point of extra credit toward your final grade. All exercises must be completed in class at the time they are assigned (no make-ups).

## ***Exam Procedures***

***Schedule.*** Please note the following: **(1)** All exams (including the optional final) will begin at 3:30pm and must be completed by 4:45pm. **(2)** Do not be late: No student will be allowed to start an exam after the first student has finished (usually after 20 to 30 minutes). **(3)** At 5:00 (i.e., after the exam) there will be a brief lecture and an in-class exercise that will serve as a basis for discussion the following week. **(4)** Exam dates are non-negotiable. Because of the drop-one policy, there will be *no make-up exams*.

***Materials.*** You will need to purchase the red ParSCORE test form in order to answer multiple choice questions on exams. Please also remember to bring a sharp #2 pencil.

***Use of notes.*** Exams will be closed-book and closed-notes for their duration. Laptops, cell phones, and electronic devices must be off and stowed during the exam. If you need to ask a clarification question during the exam, please stay in your seat, raise your hand, and I will come to your seat to assist you.

***Plagiarism / cheating.*** Plagiarism is defined at SDSU as “the act of incorporating ideas, words, or specific substance of another, whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained, and submitting same to the University as one’s own work to fulfill academic requirements without giving credit to the appropriate source.” Cheating on an exam “counts” as plagiarism. If you cheat on an exam, you will receive zero points for that exam. The SDSU Office of Judicial Affairs will be consulted in cases of cheating, and disciplinary action may be taken that may result in failure of this course and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

***Challenges to exam grades.*** If you believe there was a clerical error in scoring your exam, you must report this problem within two weeks of the exam in order to request a rescoring. Similarly, if you believe the stated answer to an exam question is incorrect, you must register a challenge to this question within two weeks, and you must provide evidence in support of your challenge. Acceptable evidence includes citation from the textbook (with page and paragraph number) or data from a published empirical article in a peer-reviewed psychology journal. Note that I may disagree with your interpretation of the evidence.

### *Course Schedule and Reading Assignments*

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
<b>Unit 1: An Introduction to Cross-Cultural Psychology</b>			
1	9/2	Introduction	
2	9/9	Culture & Human Nature	Chapter 1
3	9/16	Cultural Evolution: Continuity & Change in Cultural Systems	Chapter 2
4	9/23	Research Methods; Development & Socialization	Chapters 3 & 4
5	9/30	EXAM 1	Chapters 1 to 4
<b>Unit 2: Personal Experiences in Cultural Contexts</b>			
6	10/7	The Self	Chapters 5 & 6
7	10/14	Motivation & Emotion	Chapters 6 & 8
8	10/21	Cognition	Chapter 9
9	10/28	EXAM 2	Chapters 5, 6, 8, & 9
<b>Unit 3: Interpersonal Experiences in Cultural Contexts</b>			
10	11/4	Interpersonal Attraction, Relationships, & Groups	Chapter 11
11	11/11	<i>Veterans' Day: Class will not meet.</i>	
12	11/18	Morality, Religion, & Justice; Physical & Mental Health	Chapters 7 & 10
13	11/25	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday: Class will not meet.</i>	---
14	12/2	Living in Multicultural Worlds	Chapter 12
15	12/9	EXAM 3	Chapters 11, 10, 7 & 12
16	12/16	FINAL EXAM (3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.)	Chapters 1 to 12