

Psychology 942: (Cross-) Cultural Psychology (2024F)

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This course is intended to introduce research on (cross-)cultural psychology, as broadly defined. We will examine a wide range of social cognitive topics (e.g., self, cognition, language, emotion, motivation, religion, learning and development, etc.) from a cultural perspective by drawing on a wide range of cross-cultural (and within-cultural) studies.

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Explain and evaluate primary sources to gain conceptual knowledge of theory and experimental methodology in the field of cultural and cross-cultural psychology
- Review and synthesize relevant literature to address specific questions in the field of culture and cross-cultural psychology
- Combine conceptual knowledge of theory and methodology to propose novel research in the field of culture and cross-cultural psychology
- Adopt professional conventions of communication to convey arguments/proposals to a variety of audiences

Readings

Readings from original sources are available on Queen's library site and are to be read before each class. Class time will be spent in discussion of the readings led by discussion leaders. Your questions and contributions are crucial.

Thought questions

You are required to turn in 4 reaction questions for every week's readings (except during the week when you are leading discussions). The length should be within 1 page in total (single spaced). You should email them to the discussion leader and submit a word copy to the OnQ assignment folder by **Thursday night** (so that the discussion leaders can have time to incorporate your questions in their plans). The questions should go beyond the material presented in the readings. For example, you may apply the findings to other topics/fields, discuss future directions for research, connect the material with other topics you have read, critique the methods or arguments in the readings (and suggest solutions), and suggest mediating processes. Your questions should be in some way an extension of the reading. Critically analyze the reading. Take issue with the theory, the generalizations, or the way the idea was tested. Avoid quotes, especially long ones.

In your thought questions, you need to cover all the assigned readings for the week. E.g., you can write one question for each paper you read, or you can comment on multiple papers within the same questions.

For any questions you ask, try to answer them yourself first – so that I can see how you think about this. The thoughts you put into every question will show themselves.

Participation

You are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Be prepared with questions and comments before coming to class. Regular attendance, keeping up with the readings, and participating in class discussions and evaluations are all important.

Leading Discussions

You will be required to lead the weekly discussions. For each discussion, you may spend 2-3 minutes to summarize the major points of ALL the readings (**no more than 1 min** for each paper) to quickly refresh everyone's memory about the key issues, before starting the discussions. When leading discussions, you should incorporate some of the reaction questions from the class, in addition to some of your own questions and additional readings you do. **You should email the class in advance (on Sunday) the list of questions you will focus on.**

Feel free to leave 5-10 minutes in the end to let the class discuss anything else they are fascinated about on the topic. The class will evaluate the leader immediately after the discussion, and your grade will be based primarily on these ratings and my own.

Additional tips:

1. Do research on some of the questions (if not all) raised by the class, and feel free to introduce research that we are not reading in this class, esp. if it's highly relevant and addresses students' questions. Additional background research will allow you to back up the discussion with some empirical evidence.
2. It will be nice to have a summary in the end of the presentation.

Blog

Communicating research findings with others in lay language is an important skill to develop. In this assignment, you will write a blog post within 600-800 words to describe an assigned research paper. See more details in a separate post.

Final research proposal paper and presentation

The final paper is a 10-15 page research proposal (including 2 inter-related studies: at least one of them should be an experiment). It should reflect research you might want to pursue that relates to cultural psychology. The proposal can cover any aspect of the course and may be tied to your own line of research. The paper should include the following sections: literature review, research questions and hypotheses, research design (Methods), projected results (with graphs if applicable), and references. The proposal format should conform to APA style. You will need to submit both a hard copy and an e-copy by 4 pm of Dec 9th, 2022. You will also present your final proposal in class on Nov 30th.

Grading:
Class Participation (20%)
Leading discussion (20%)
Thought Questions (24%: 3% each week x 8 wks, drop 1 lowest mark)
Blog article (6%)
Final paper (30%)

Late policies:

No late assignment is accepted for thought questions. For the final paper, you will get a 1-point deduction, out of 30, for each day that your paper is late.

Tentative schedule:

Week	Date	Topic	Leader(s)
1	Sept 9	Introduction	
2	Sept 16	Self	

3	Sept 23	Motivation	
4	Sept 30	Class canceled (the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation)	Blog article due on Sept 30.
5	Oct 7	Cognition	
6	Oct 14	Thanksgiving. No Class	
7	Oct 21	Time	
8	Oct 28	Emotion and Affect	
9	Nov 4	Relationships	
10	Nov 11	Learning and development	
11	Nov 18	Religion	
12	Nov 25	Language	
13	Dec 2	Multicultural Minds and Social Changes	
	Dec 11	Final paper due by 11:59pm	