



COURSE SYLLABUS

PSYC 322: Psychology and Culture

Term: Spring Semester 2023-24 – Section 01 (Stevens Point Campus)
Meetings: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:45 am, D224 Science

Instructor: Craig A. Wendorf, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology
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Open Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 am – 12:00 noon
Additional Office and Zoom hours available upon request

Course Overview

Prerequisites

This course expects that you have already accrued a basic understanding of the field of psychology. *As such, it requires that you have completed PSYC 110 (Introduction to Psychology) or its equivalent.* It is strongly recommended that you have also completed PSYC 200 (Research Methods in Psychology).

Course Objectives

This course serves as an introduction to the theoretical and methodological approaches to studying the relationship between psychology and culture. The psychological foundations of culture are addressed as are cross-cultural psychological comparisons. Examples examine both minorities within the US and members of non-Western societies. Therefore, while completing this course, you will:

- Course Learning Outcome 1: Explain the key psychological mechanisms that create cultural groups and identities along with the psychological processes that result from those groups and identities.
- Course Learning Outcome 2: Describe applications of cultural psychology to personal and societal issues including (but not limited to) prejudice, discrimination, inequality, and acculturation.
- Course Learning Outcome 3: Examine the role that cultural factors play in the creation, implementation, and interpretation of empirical psychological research.
- Course Learning Outcome 4: Demonstrate understanding of and empathetic insight about diverse cultural groups at the local, national, and global levels.
- Course Learning Outcome 5: Demonstrate effective scientific writing that communicates the understanding, application, and interpretation of cultural psychology principles and research.

Teaching Philosophy

My job is to facilitate your achievement of these objectives. Thus, I am going to do what my professional training and experience suggest helps your long-term learning of important and relevant content and skills. To

that end, I emphasize timely reading of course materials, in-class participation, out-of-class activities and homework, and thorough examinations. Overall, you should not think of professors as lecturers or information deliverers, but rather as discussants, consultants, and guides in your education.

Additional descriptions of the learning outcomes, along with my beliefs about how they are best accomplished, are available online. These are recommended readings for students who wish to know more about why the course is conducted the way it is.

Course Materials

There is one required textbook for this course, and it is available at text rental. If you decide to purchase or borrow the book through another source, please be sure to get the correct edition [Heine, S. J. (2020). *Cultural psychology* (4th ed.). W. W. Norton.]

A significant portion of this course will be delivered through the course management system Canvas (<https://www.uwsp.edu/canvas/>). At various points throughout the course, you will use Canvas to view additional readings, download and upload documents, read documents online, and view online videos. Failure to report a problem in obtaining the course materials will be treated as a failure to complete the requirement.

Course Grading Policies

Assignments and Exams

Evaluation of student performance will be based on the course assessments listed below. No extra credit or other points are available for the course.

ASSESSMENTS OF OBJECTIVES	POINTS EARNED
Part I: Theories and Functions of Culture	
Assignments: Topics 1-4 (4 assignments @ 4 points each)	16 points
Exam: Topics 1-4 (1 exam @ 44 points)	44 points
Part 2: Construction and Transmission of Culture	
Assignments: Topics 6-10 (4 assignments @ 4 points each)	16 points
Exam: Topics 6-9 (1 exam @ 44 points)	44 points
Part 3: Manifestations and Changes of Culture	
Assignments: Topics 11-15 (4 assignments @ 4 points each)	16 points
Exam: Topics 11-15 (1 exam @ 44 points)	44 points
TOTAL:	180 points

The course assignments are designed to provide you with opportunities to explore the main concepts, to apply the material, and to describe the research underlying the concepts. *You may confer with other students and the instructor if you have questions, but you must submit work that is your own.* These materials must be submitted via the Canvas dropbox and will be automatically checked by Turnitin.com for their originality. Feedback will be given online as well.

The in-class exams are a combination of multiple-choice questions and short essay questions. *Though you will be expected to take these exams individually, you will be able to access a bank of essay questions before the exams and you will be permitted to use a single sheet of notes during the exam.*

The grading rubric used for all materials is available on Canvas and on the instructor web site. Students are strongly encouraged to review the rubric and the examples before doing the work.

Late Work and Absence Policies

Each due date is clearly marked on this syllabus and on the Canvas dropbox. If you know ahead of time that you will miss a due date for an assignment, you should submit the assignment before the due date. Late submissions will be accepted within 48 hours of the due date without penalty. After 48 hours, no late submissions are accepted.

Similarly, each exam will start promptly at the beginning of class on the scheduled exam day. Students who arrive late for an exam will only be allowed to take it if they arrive before the first student leaves the room. Exams must be completed and handed in at the end of the official exam period.

For all missed assignments and exams, I require notice no later than the morning of the due date or exam. Only students with instructor-validated documentation for the absence will be given an extension or a make-up exam; failure to follow this policy will result in an automatic zero for the assessment in question.

Unless you are taking an exam through the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, all make-up exams will be proctored through the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences during one of the official make-up times. I will notify you of available times and you will be expected to schedule during one of these times. Under most conditions, make-up exams should be completed within one week of the original exam date.

Final Course Grades

Final course grades are determined by the percentage of possible points that you earn. The grades will be determined as follows:

COURSE GRADE	PERCENT OF TOTAL	POINTS EARNED
A	93% - 100%	166 – 180
A-	90% - 92%	161 – 165
B+	87% - 89%	155 – 160
B	83% - 86%	148 – 154
B-	80% - 82%	143 – 147
C+	77% - 79%	137 – 142
C	73% - 76%	130 – 136
C-	70% - 72%	125 – 129
D+	67% - 69%	119 – 124
D	60% - 66%	107 – 118
F	0% - 59%	000 - 106

Final grades of “Incomplete” will be given only under extreme circumstances. An Incomplete is not an option for students who feel overwhelmed by academics, work schedules, or extracurricular Assignments. Typically, an Incomplete must be completed within one semester otherwise an “F” will result.

Conduct and Accommodations

Personal Conduct

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment and has developed guidelines to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed. *All students are expected to be familiar with and to abide by the university's Community Rights and Responsibilities document* (see <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>).

Under federal and state laws, and university guidelines, I am required to report acts of a criminal or offensive nature that occur both within and outside of class. This includes acts of sexual harassment and assault, bias and hate crimes, illicit drug use, and acts of violence. Any disclosure or description of these incidents – both current and in the past – may be reported to the Dean of Students office (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos>) or the local authorities.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct (i.e., cheating) will result in an automatic zero on that exam or assignment for all people involved. I will follow up on all cases in the manner described in the Community Rights and Responsibilities document.

Representation of another person's work as your own (i.e., plagiarism) will result in an immediate rejection of the work. Any student who engages in plagiarism will be given the opportunity to repeat the work and have it graded appropriately. Consistent with university policy, a written reprimand will be placed in the student's disciplinary file. "Accidental plagiarism" – naiveté about what constitutes plagiarism – will not be accepted as a legitimate excuse.

Accommodations and Disabilities

If there are factors creating difficulties for you in this course that are recognized disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please provide me with appropriate notification from the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (103 Student Services Center, 715-346-3365, or at <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability>). *I will follow all recommendations made by the Disability and Assistive Technology Center.*

If you are having difficulties of a personal (not academic) nature, I will refer you to the UWSP Counseling Center (Third Floor Delzell Hall, 715-346-3553, or at counsel@uwsp.edu). *Appropriate accommodations may be made for due dates, testing procedures, etc. at the instructor's discretion.*

Extra Assistance and Tutoring

If you would like extra assistance related to course materials or have any questions related to your performance in the course, please contact me as soon as possible. This should always be your first step in getting assistance, as most questions and concerns can be best addressed this way.

However, if you would prefer help from a student beyond your instructor or colleagues in this class, you should contact the UWSP Tutoring-Learning Center (<http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc>, 018 LRC, 715-346-3568).

Course Schedule

General Structure

The goal is to spend class time on material not available elsewhere and to promote interaction among students, and then to use non-class time for activities that do not necessarily involve interaction. In the face-to-face class periods, we will discuss the main concepts and research findings associated with the topic for the week. On your own time, you will be expected to read material, watch short online videos, and complete outside assignments.

Topics and Due Dates

Below is a tentative schedule for the semester. *This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change.* It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement or through email.

DATE	THEME AND TOPIC	PRE-CLASS READING	ASSESSMENT (DUE)
Part I: Theories and Functions of Culture			
Topic 1	Introduction to Psychology and Culture: What is this Course All About?		
1-23	T01A: Introduction to the Course		
1-25	T01B: Describing Psychology and Culture	Heine (2020, Ch. 1)	Assign T01 (1-31)
Topic 2	A Framework for Culture: What Features of Culture are Relevant to Psychology?		
1-30	T02A: Aspects of Culture	Triandis (2002)	
2-1	T02B: Cultural Differences		Assign T02 (2-7)
Topic 3	Foundations of Culture: Why Does Culture Exist?		
2-6	T03A: Evolutionary Foundations	Heine (2020, Ch. 2)	
2-8	T03B: Social Foundations	Harton & Bourgeois (2004)	Assign T03 (2-14)
Topic 4	Prejudice: How is Culture Distinct from Stereotypic Notions of Differences?		
2-13	T04A: Bias and Stereotypes		
2-15	T04B: Breaking the Habit	Forscher & Devine (2014)	Assign T04 (2-21)
Topic 5	First Exam: How Well Can You Demonstrate What You Know?		
2-20	T05A: Reviewing Part 1		
2-22	T05B: Exam 1		Exam T05 (In-Class)

Part II: Construction and Transmission of Culture

Topic 6	Cultural Methodology: How Do We Study Culture?		
2-27	T06A: Global Approaches	Heine (2020, Ch. 4)	
2-29	T06B: Focal Approaches		Assign T06 (3-6)
Topic 7	Cultural Variation: How Do We Describe Cultural Differences?		
3-5	T07A: Cultural Dimensions	Matsumoto & Yoo (2006)	
3-7	T07B: Cultural Products and Narratives	Triandis (1996)	Assign T07 (3-13)
Topic 8	Cultural Evolution: How Do Cultures Develop and Evolve?		
3-12	T08A: Emergence of Culture	Heine (2020, Ch. 3)	
3-14	T08B: Sources of Variation		Assign T08 (3-27)
Topic 9	Cultural Transmission: How Does Cultural Information Get Transmitted?		
3-26	T09A: Models of Transmission	Heine (2020, Ch. 5)	
3-28	T09B: Socialization via Organizations		Assign T09 (4-3)
Topic 10	Second Exam: How Well Can You Demonstrate What You Know?		
4-2	T10A: Reviewing Part 2		
4-4	T10B: Exam 2		Exam T10 (In-Class)

Part III: Manifestations and Changes of Culture

Topic 11	Psychological Differences: What Psychological Differences are Associated with Culture?		
4-9	T11A: Culture and Mental Habits	Heine (2020, Ch. 9)	
4-11	T11B: Event and Norm Knowledge	Heine (2020, Ch. 10)	Assign T11 (4-17)
Topic 12	Self-Representation: How Do Cultures Differ in Their Concept of Self?		
4-16	T12A: Construal of the Self	Heine (2020, Ch. 6)	
4-18	T12B: Self-Construal and Behavior	Heine (2020, Ch. 8)	Assign T12 (4-24)
Topic 13	Cultural Identity: Why Do People Come to Identify with Their Cultures?		
4-23	T13A: Group Identity	TBA	
4-25	T13B: Ethnic Identity		Assign T13 (5-1)
Topic 14	Acculturation: What Happens to Individuals as a Result of Intercultural Contact?		
4-30	T14A: Process of Acculturative	Heine (2020, Ch. 7)	
5-2	T14B: Acculturation in Minorities		Assign T14 (5-8)
Topic 15	Future Directions: What Do We Still Need to Know?		
5-7	T15A: Intercultural Competence		
5-9	T15B: The Unfinished Agenda	Smith et al. (2013, Ch. 15)	Assign T15 (12-15)
Topic 16	Third Exam: How Well Can You Demonstrate What You Know?		
5-15	T16B: Exam 3 (8:00-10:00)		Exam T16 (In-Class)
