

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
State University of New York

INSTITUTIONAL COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: Cross-Cultural Psychology

Course Abbreviation and Number: PSY 2590

Credit Hours: 3

Course Type: Lecture

Course Description: Students will survey psychological issues and phenomena across a variety of cultures. In particular, this course will focus on the cultural influences that shape the perceptions, development, personality, cognition, emotion, mental health, and treatment of people from different cultures, and how these concepts shape culture in return. Furthermore, the course will explore cross-cultural research methodologies appropriate for cross-cultural psychological studies. This course is designed to provide students with the context to develop cultural humility and a foundation for understanding a diversity of cultural perspectives within the field of psychology.

Prerequisite: ENG 1510.

General Education Requirements Met

SUNY

Social Sciences

DEISJ

JCC

Cultural Understanding

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1. Describe major concepts and theories of at least one discipline in the social sciences. [SUNY Gen Ed – Social Sciences].
 2. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena. [SUNY Gen Ed – Social Sciences]
 3. Describe the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the development of diverse individual and group identities, including but not limited to race, class and gender. [SUNY Gen Ed – DEISJ]
 4. Analyze the role that social structures and systems play in the creation and perpetuation of power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity. [SUNY Gen Ed – DEISJ]
 5. Demonstrate understanding of cultural similarities and differences and how cultural norms shape each person's experience of the world. [JCC Gen Ed – Cultural Understanding]
 6. Demonstrate an understanding of how the principles of rights, access, equity, and autonomy apply to social justice action, past, current, or future. [SUNY Gen Ed – DEISJ]
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Topics Covered:

1. Understanding Cultural Psychology
 - a. Culture, society, race, and ethnicity
 - b. Theoretical perspectives in cultural psychology
 - c. Indigenous Psychology
 - d. Ethnocentrism and Multiculturalism
2. Critical Thinking in Cultural Psychology
3. Research methodologies in cultural psychology
4. Cognition, sensation, perception, and states of consciousness across cultures
5. Intelligence
 - a. Ethnic and gender differences in IQ Scores
 - b. Cultural bias and intelligence test incompatibilities
 - c. Environmental and socioeconomic factors of intelligence
 - d. IQ, Culture, and Social Justice
 - e. Moral Values
6. Emotion
 - a. Universality of emotions
 - b. Experiences of pain
 - c. Physiological arousal
 - d. Emotional expression
 - e. Cultural studies of happiness
7. Motivation
 - a. Drive and arousal

- b. Learning and motivation
- c. Hunger and food preference
- d. Aggression and violence
- e. Culture and sexuality
- 8. Human Development and socialization
 - a. Quality of life
 - b. Norms, customs, and child care
 - c. Parental values and expectations
 - d. Cross-cultural overview of the human life span from prenatal development to death
- 9. Psychological disorders
 - a. The DSM-5 across cultures
 - b. Cultural differences concerning psychopathology
 - c. Culture-bound syndromes
 - d. Psychodiagnostic biases in mental health treatment across cultures
- 10. Social Perception, cognition, and interaction
 - a. Western and non-western value systems
 - b. Psychological dogmatism
 - c. Duty and fairness in individualist and collectivist cultures
 - d. Stereotypes and the power of generalizations
 - e. conformity and social influence
- 11. Personality and self-concept
 - a. Locus of control
 - b. Gender as a social construct
 - c. Gender roles
 - d. sexual orientation
 - e. religious identity
 - f. Body Image
- 12. Applications
 - a. Health and wellness
 - b. Spirituality and science
 - c. Human rights
 - d. Education

Information for Students

- Expectations of Students
 - [Civility Statement](#)
 - [Student Responsibility Statement](#)
 - [Academic Integrity Statement](#)
- [Accessibility Services](#)
Students who require accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability must make their accommodation requests to the Accessibility Services Coordinator.
- [Get Help: JCC & Community Resources](#)
- [Emergency Closing Procedures](#)
- Course grade is determined by the instructor based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and participation. Final course grade can be translated into a grade point value according to the following:

A=4.0	B+=3.5	B=3	C+=2.5	C=2	D+=1.5	D=1	F=0
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- Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, VA appointments) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these to the instructor.
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Effective Date: Fall 2024