CULTURE AND PSYCHOLOGY – PSYC 4350 (04)
Fall 2019

**Attendance:** There are no attendance requirements. YOU DO NOT NEED TO EMAIL ME ABOUT WHY YOU WERE ABSENT IN CLASS.

**Instructor:** Dr. Ayurdhi Dhar

**Email:** adhar@westga.edu

**Office Hours:** Melson Hall, Front campus drive: Room: 209
T/R: 9.30 AM-12.30 PM; 2 PM-3.30 PM; 4.45 PM-5.15 PM

While these are the office hours, please schedule appointments with me individually. I reserve the right to change these hours.

**Text:**
*Cultural Psychology, 3rd Ed.* By Steven J. Heine

Some material, including research papers, academic articles, videos, and chapters will be provided via Courseden. Accustom yourself with Courseden and if confused, seek help.

**Course Description and Objectives:** Psychology is undergoing a replication crisis, and faulty research methodology is only partially responsible for this. This course is designed to introduce you to a cultural perspective in psychology. Most of what you have learned up until now is based on research and academic work done in a few Western countries. This course will help you realize that as our culture changes, so does the way we think, feel, and behave. It is essential to understand these differences if you want to operate as a psychologist in a world that is increasingly inter-connected. Plus, once you see how things are done, thought about, and felt differently across the world, you will be able to constructively critique your own way of doing things in order provide better theories and interventions at home!

**Course Requirements:**

**Exams**

- **Exam 1:** 9th September. Chapters to be announced in class. **20 points**; 5 questions of short-answer type (5-8 sentences each)
- **Exam 2:** November 4th. Chapters to be announced in class. **20 points**; 5 questions of short-answer type (5-8 sentences each)

**Reflection paper 1:** Oct 7th: 2 pages reflecting on what you have studied up until now – must be based in evidence and thinking should be academic. Not simply about opinion and feeling. **20 points**

**Reflection paper 2:** Nov 18th: 2 pages reflecting on what you have studied up until now – must be based in evidence and thinking should be academic. Not simply about opinion and feeling. **20 points**
Final Paper: This is the big one. Due December 6th. 40 points. A final paper on the topic of your choice. More about the paper on the “Final Paper” file.

THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP FOR ANY ASSIGNMENTS OR EXAMS. Deadlines are final. Sorry.

Extra Credit: In the event that you miss an exam or an assignment, you can do the extra credit worth 20 points to make up for your grade. I would advise against it because the extra-credit is more difficult than most original assignments. The extra-credit is an essay length exam on 4 chapters of my choice from the book, where each question requires at least a page of in-depth answers. Each question is worth 4 points. It will be conducted either in-class or in my office in the last week of November (this way you will know if you need extra-credit or not).

THINGS I REALLY CARE ABOUT:

Professionalism:
I do not require attendance which means that you are welcome to not show up and you do not have to give me an explanation. But this also means that if you are there and, on your phone, I will get distracted, annoyed, and bitter. You will lose 5 points each time for unprofessional behavior.

Before you send me an email, double-check to make sure that your concern has not been addressed in the syllabus. Otherwise you will merely receive an automatic reply from me asking you to consult the syllabus.

If you have made an appointment and you don’t show up without cancelling first, I will deduct 5 points for unprofessional behavior. It’s totally OK if you cannot make it (we all oversleep), just email me and let me know.

If you miss a class, please ask a classmate for their notes. Do not email me asking what was done in the class. That’s highly unprofessional. It is your responsibility to catch up if you miss a class. That said, if you don’t understand a concept or are having difficulty with the content, PLEASE COME AND MEET ME DURING OFFICE HOURS and I will personally help you with it.

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Additional Information

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in
writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact Accessibility Services.

Center for Academic Success: The Center for Academic Success provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu

ONLINE COURSES

UWG takes students’ privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the UWG Online site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the Online/Off-Campus Student Guide.

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the UWG Cares site. Online counseling is also available for online students.

HONOR CODE

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to
review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student’s conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student’s account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the [Student Handbook](#).

**UWG EMAIL POLICY**

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student’s responsibility to check his or her email.

**CREDIT HOUR POLICY**

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance:

[http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information](http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information)
You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance:

https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php

**Mental Health Support:**
If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the Counseling Center. Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in Health Services. To report a concern anonymously, please go to UWGcares.