Email: Please use our CourseDen site for all email correspondence.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The central premise of our text, and of this class, is that we cannot understand any one person’s experience without understanding the way in which culture has impacted his/her development. In other words, human beings are inherently cultural beings. The goal of this course is to examine the sociocultural and historical foundations of psychological experience in any given setting and to gain a greater understanding of how each one of us, and the people around us, are shaped by culture. Culture is not something that happens to “other” people, but something that impacts who each person is.

COURSE THEMES

Diversity in Psychological Functioning: Most studies in psychology are based on a limited range of the world’s people: typically young, middle-class, college students of European descent living in Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic settings. One theme of the course is to consider what happens when the same studies are conducted with more representative samples.

The Cultural Foundations of Psychological Experience: This theme refers to the extent to which patterns of psychological experience—like the fundamental attribution error, teenage rebellion, or romantic love—are not "just natural", but instead are products of particular constructions of reality. A major goal of the course is to make visible this cultural context of experience, not just for patterns of people in "other cultures", but also for the familiar patterns observed in North American settings and routinely reported in Psych textbooks.

The Cultural Foundations of Psychological Science: To what extent is Psychological Science, itself, a cultural product? Although scientists often imagine themselves to be detached, neutral observers of a universal, objective reality, the third theme of the course concerns the extent to which theory and practice in Psychology (and other social sciences) reflect particular—and potentially variable—constructions of reality (e.g., concepts like person, child, and relationship).
ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

Required Reading

Heine, S. (2016). Cultural Psychology (3rd edition). New York: Norton. If you choose to use a different edition of this textbook, you are responsible for any differences between your version and the 2011 edition. In addition to the textbook, required supplemental reading assignments will be available to you via the course website.


Quizzes

There are 3 quizzes spread throughout our semester. Each quiz covers 3 to 4 chapters of the text. The quizzes are multiple choice and contain about 100 questions. The quizzes are not easy and required that you have read each chapter, at the least once, have reviewed the corresponding powerpoints, and have also completed the questions at the end of each chapter.

Make up quizzes. The quiz dates are firm and I expect everyone will take the quizzes as they are scheduled. In rare circumstances and with appropriate documentation, you may be permitted to take a make-up quiz. It is your responsibility to contact me in timely fashion to make an alternative arrangement.

Essays

There are four essays due throughout the semester – the first three based on material in the text and the final one based on the novel “The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down”. I will post the guiding questions for each essay and additional information on our Course Den Site.

GRADING

3 Quizzes: 50% of your overall grade
4 essays 50% of your overall grade

COURSE POLICIES

Accessibility. Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. To make an appointment, please contact Counseling & Career Services in 123 Row Hall, or call 678-839-6428. For additional information, visit the following website: http://www.westga.edu/counseling/index_8884.php. Any student in this course who has a disability that prevents the fullest expression of abilities should also contact me as soon as possible to discuss appropriate accommodations.
**Academic and Personal Integrity:** Make sure to read the university policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty in your student handbook. Plagiarism involves the use of others' words’ and/or ideas without giving them proper credit, which includes passing another person’s paper off as your own and failing to cite a source. If you copy a student’s paper, a paper off the internet or a paper you submitted for another class, you will get caught. Plagiarism software can detect copied papers and copied text. Avoid any form of plagiarism, including self-plagiarism. Do not copy or use another person’s words or ideas when constructing your critical reflection. Do not turn in a paper you wrote for another class. If you include quotations or ideas from other sources, make sure to cite your sources using proper APA style citation. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic failure of the assignment.

Communication Policy. Please use our course den site for all email correspondence. I will check emails daily and will respond to you the same day, as much as possible. If you wish to speak by phone, please just let me know and we can set up a time. DO NOT email me at my westga account as it difficult for me to keep track of our communication outside of Course Den. Thank you.

Please review the following information about university policies:
http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf
WEEKLY READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: January 6 - 17: Course Orientation
Due: Personal Introductions. As soon as possible and not later than January 10.

Week 2: January 13-17: Course Introduction (Heine, Chapter 1)

Week 3: January 20-24: Key Concepts (Heine, Chapters 2 and 3)

Week 4: January 27-31: Methods in Cultural Psychology (Heine, Chapter 4)
January 31 Quiz 1 on Chapters 1-4 (available from 6am to midnight)

Week 5: February 3-7: Development and Socialization, (Heine, Chapter 5)
February 7: Essay 1. Due by midnight (via dropbox)

Week 6: February 10-14: Self and Personality (Heine, Chapter 6)

Week 7: February 17-21: Living in Multicultural Worlds (Heine, Chapter 7)

Week 8: February 24 – 28: Motivation (Heine, Chapter 8)
February 28 Quiz 2 on chapters 5 through 8 (available 6am to midnight)

Week 9: March 2 - 6: Cognition and Perception (Heine, Chapter 9)
March 6 Essay 2 due by midnight (via dropbox)

Week 10: March 9-13: Emotions (Heine, Chapter 10)
Attraction and Relationships (Heine, Chapter 11)

Week 11: March 16-20: Spring Break

Week 12: March 23-27: Morality, Religion and Justice (Heine, Chapter 12)

Week 13: March 30 – April 3: Physical Health (Heine, Chapter 13)
April 3 Quiz 3 on Chapters 9-13 (available 6am through midnight)

Week 14: April 6 - 10: Mental Health (Heine, Chapter 14)
April 10 Essay 3 due by midnight via dropbox

Week 15: April 13 - 17: The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down

Week 16: April 20 - 24: The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down

Week 17: April 27 – May 5 Finals Week
April 30 Essay 4 due by Midnight via Course Den