

Psychology 459/559
Cultural Psychology

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Office hours: Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am or by appointment

Course Content

People of color constitute over one-third of the U.S. population and census projections are that people of color will become the majority in just over 30 years. Thus, for those who intend to live and work in North America, an understanding of diverse groups is critical. This course will focus on the central role of culture, race, and ethnicity in psychological functioning. Psychological theory and research will provide the context for the course. The social and psychological impact of ethnic/cultural minority status will also be examined.

In the first half of the course, we will consider multicultural issues in the context of psychology and in the second half we will consider psychology in the context of multicultural issues. The course will begin with an overview of models of racial/ethnic identity and acculturation, and an examination of multicultural research methods. Multicultural research in biological, developmental, and social psychology will then be reviewed. The second half of the course goes into greater depth on the experiences of African Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, Latino/a Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, and multiracial Americans. For each group, we will review its history, cultural values and identity, family issues, mental health, academic achievement, and career development.

Text

Hall, G. C. N. (2010). *Multicultural psychology*, 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

The textbook is intended to provide a context for the class sessions. The class sessions will cover material presented in the text, as well as material that is not.

Class Sessions

Class sessions will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and periodic student debates. Throughout this course, we will be discussing a variety of socially sensitive and controversial issues, some about which you may have strong feelings and attitudes. Thus, it will be extremely important to keep an open mind, to listen to others' viewpoints, and to appreciate a different opinion than your own. In order to get the most out of this course and to make this class a rich experience for all of us, it is essential that you treat your

classmates with respect. Participation in class discussion is encouraged, as is participation in student debates.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating of information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Examinations

There will be two examinations: a midterm and a final. Both will be multiple choice and will cover material from the text and from class sessions. The midterm will be based on the first portion of the course. The final will be based on the second portion of the course and will not be cumulative. Each examination will count for 30% of your final grade.

Term paper

A 5-page term paper in American Psychological Association (APA) style on a topic that involves one or more American ethnic groups of color is required. The APA (2010) Publication Manual, 6th Edition, which covers APA style, is available in the library and in the bookstore. The purpose of the term paper is for you to review and synthesize the literature on a topic involving North American people of color. People of color should be the participants in the studies are reviewed. Although participants who are not people of color may be included in the studies, the focus of the studies should be on people of color. Thus, studies involving attitudes toward people of color or exclusively involving persons from countries other than those in North America would not be appropriate.

Because WR 121 and 122 or 123, and PSY 303 are prerequisites for this course, I will assume that you are able to: (1) write clearly; and (2) write a psychology paper. Your paper grade will be based on these assumptions.

I expect you to review current literature on your topic that you will find referenced in the PsycInfo database. Because psychology is a constantly changing field, "current" means literature published within the past 6 years. A minimum of 6 empirical studies should be reviewed. Simply rehashing the material from the textbook and lectures is not adequate. If there are not at least 4 empirical studies on a particular topic, you should choose another topic. It is permissible to review nonempirical studies (e.g., theoretical articles or literature reviews) in addition to the 4 empirical studies.

You should assume that the reader of your paper is not familiar with every study and you should provide sufficient details on each study. These may include, but are not limited to, descriptions of the sample, the measures and methods, and in some cases the statistical analyses. Strengths and limitations of studies should be discussed.

Statements in your paper should not simply be your own opinion, but should be supported by data. The paper should be focused on the results of the studies that you review and should not include “filler” material (e.g., long statements of your own opinion, long quotes from articles, statements that are tangential to the purpose of your paper, redundant information that reiterates the same point). You should begin your paper by discussing the significance of your topic. Your literature review should be organized around major issues relevant to your topic. The conclusions of your paper should be supported by the evidence from the literature that you have reviewed.

You will receive written feedback on an advanced draft of the paper before you submit the final draft. The purpose of feedback on the advanced draft is to specifically communicate my expectations for the final draft. On the final draft, you should: (1) write a memo detailing the revisions you have made in response to my feedback; and (2) indicate in the text of the paper (e.g., italics) the specific revisions that you have made to the advanced draft.

The advanced draft will be worth 25% of your grade and the final draft will be worth 15% of your grade. For the final draft, 5% of your grade will be based on the memo explaining your revisions and 10% on the actual revisions.

I am available to help you with the paper during my office hours. In addition, you may seek assistance from Academic Learning Services.

Both drafts of the term papers should be e-mailed to me (gnhall@uoregon.edu). Students should not assume that a paper is received until they receive an e-mail confirming that the paper has been received.

Although you should not restrict your consideration of paper topics to the following list, here are some paper topics of previous students:

- Eating disorders in ethnic minority groups
- Culturally competent intervention programs
- Attachment styles in ethnic minority groups
- Acculturation and mental health
- Asian American sexuality
- Ethnic identity and academic achievement
- Stereotype threat in multiple ethnic groups

Grading

Midterm examination (April 28)	30%
Advanced draft of term paper (due May 5)	25%
Final draft of term paper (due May 28)	15%
Final examination (June 9)	30%

Deadlines

Late work will not be accepted except for compelling reasons. Drafts of the term paper may be submitted before the deadlines, but additional feedback will not be provided on work submitted before the deadlines.

Additional Requirements for Graduate Students

Graduate student term papers should be 10 pages. All graduate students will also make a 10-minute presentation of their paper in class during a week of the course that is relevant to their topic.

Course Outline

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
March 29, 31	What is Multicultural Psychology?	Hall, Chapter 1
April 5	Multicultural Research Methods	Chapter 2
April 7, 12	Biological Psychology	Chapter 3
April 14, 19	Developmental Psychology	Chapter 4
April 21, 26	Social Psychology	Chapter 5
April 28	Midterm	
May 3, 5	African Americans	Chapter 6
May 5	Advanced Draft of Term Paper Due by 5PM (e-mail the paper to gnhall@uoregon.edu)	
May 10, 12	Asian Pacific Americans	Chapter 7
May 17, 19	Latino/a Americans	Chapter 8
May 24, 26	American Indians	Chapter 9
May 28	Final Draft of Term Paper Due by 5PM (e-mail the paper to gnhall@uoregon.edu)	
June 2	Multiracial Americans	Chapter 10
June 9	Final Exam, 10:15AM	