

Psychology 459: Culture

10:00 - 11:20 pm TR, 112 Lillis Spring 2012 CRN: 35569

Instructor: Amber Gayle Thalmayer, 309 Straub, athalmay@uoregon.edu

Office Hours: TR 11:20- 11:50 (after class in 112 Lillis) or by appointment

TEXT: Heine, S. J. (2012). **Cultural Psychology (2nd edition)** New York: Norton

Additional readings posted to Blackboard.

Course Objectives

The study of cultural psychology addresses how culture has shaped our psychological experience, including our behavior, and our ways of thinking, feeling, and interacting with others. This will mean looking at how the human experience has changed over time, and how it varies across cultural contexts. I intend for you to come away with (1) specific knowledge about variations in some psychological phenomena across cultures, (2) an increased interest in and sensitivity to the role of culture in the human experience, and (3) ideas for how to approach and answer future questions about the role of the culture in psychology. Knowledge of cultural psychology should be useful to you in any future endeavor that involves interacting with or understanding people from different backgrounds. I hope you will ask questions and communicate your interests so that the material can be made as relevant to your current experiences and future goals as possible.

Grading

To earn a B– or better grade

Reading responses – 8 sets of Questions posted, 5 points possible each	40
Participation in class, including class activities	20
Paper Proposal	10
Midterm Exam <i>30 multiple choice items, 1 pt. each + 2 essay questions, 5 pts each</i>	40
Final research paper	40
Presentation of research	10
Final exam <i>likely same format as midterm</i>	40
TOTAL	200

A = 90+% of total points; **B** = 80 – 89%, **C** = 70 – 79%, **D** = 60 – 69%, **F** = > 60%

+/- added to grades in top or bottom third. A+ grades are assigned at instructors' discretion.

If you want to earn a Pass or C grade only

If you desire to receive only a “C” or “Pass” in this course, the final paper (+ proposal and presentation) are not required. Instead, you are only required to keep up with the course (participation and reading responses), and to demonstrate your understanding of the course content on the examinations. You must earn at least 70% of the 140 possible points.

Reading responses – <i>8 sets of questions posted, 5 points possible each</i>	40
Participation in class – <i>including class activities, prep. of class discussion questions</i>	20
Midterm Exam	40
Final exam	40
TOTAL	140

Graded Components

Reading Responses

These are intended to help you develop a connection to the subject matter by applying course concepts to your experience. Due the day before the lecture with which they are associated so that I can view your comments and questions prior to lecture.

Questions for reading responses will be posted on the ‘Journal’ section of Bb. These will start out asking you to draw on your experience and the course reading. However, some may require additional research and require you to go beyond the reading. This will be stated clearly in the assignment.

Each response should be about one page (single-spaced) of text with complete sentences, good grammar, and reasonable organization. Responses should be spell checked and carefully proofread. They should show thought and familiarity with the reading, Submit as a journal entry on Bb (under “Tools”). May not be turned in late unless with prior arrangement.

Participation

Points are based on attendance and participation in class discussions and activities.

Exams

Exams will mostly be multiple choices. Short answer and mini-essay questions may also be included. Essay questions will be drawn from the study guide available on blackboard. No dictionaries, thesauruses, calculators, or electronic devices can be used during exams, except translating dictionaries for those with English fluency issues, with permission.

Research Paper

Content

The research paper should deepen your understanding of cultural psychology by allowing you to explore a question of interest. You must cite at least four peer-reviewed journal articles that address your question (one book chapter is ok; no dissertation abstracts or popular press articles).

An A paper will:

- effectively identify the topic and why it is of interest.
- appropriately describe information relevant to the question from the sources.
- conclude with something along the lines of an answer to the question (a synthesis of the material).
- not just state that more research is needed, but will identify what additional research would best shed light on the question.

Style may be less formal than a 303 paper, but this will be graded for writing quality (grammar, sentence construction, coherence).

Format

No more than 5 pages (references can be on page 6).

Title page not needed -- put title, followed by your name, on first page at top.

Header, page #s, references, citations, page layout (double spacing, times new roman 12-point font, 1 inch margins) should all be APA format.

Basic outline

- I. The question or topic, why it is interesting and relevant, why we would want to know the answer.
- II. Perspective #1 – how one researcher approached the question, and what they found.
- III. Perspective #2 – how another group approached it or built on the first group, what they found.
- IV. Perspective #3 . . . (etc.)
- V. Summary and synthesis: compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of the different approaches and how they fit together. Do they build on each other or contradict each other? What was most compelling.
What you have taken away from your reading as an answer to your question, what you might still like to know, and how this addresses the need/relevance identified at beginning.

Timeline

Week 4 (Thursday 4/26 before class): Propose topic by writing a clearly stated question on “Journal” in Blackboard. Consider noting an alternate idea. Proposals are subject to approval.

Week 6 (hard copy due in class Thursday 5/10). Paper Proposal.

- Write about half a page (double spaced) describing your question and why it is of interest to you and why it might be of interest to psychologists and/or the public.
- Identify at least four articles you plan to use. List them in APA reference format, and paste in abstracts.

Instructor may make alterations to your topic, or recommend different readings.

Week 10: Final Paper due 10 a.m. Tues., 6/5. *Paper components lose 10% of points each day late.*

Week 10: Presentation in class. Explain what you learned while writing your paper (5-10 minutes). State the question you sought to answer, what you learned about the topic, and something about the conclusion you came to. You may use Powerpoint slides if you wish – if so, email to instructor at least 12 hours prior to presentation.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity will be taken seriously. Insuring the validity of grades requires that they reflect honest work and learning. **Cheating** is defined as providing or accepting information to or from another student on an exam or copying anyone's written work. Students caught cheating will be given an **F** for the course, and the student conduct coordinator will be informed. **Plagiarism** is putting your name on work or even ideas that are in any part not your own, where you have not fully identified the source from which you borrowed. In writing, always distinguish between your own ideas and those you have from others, and be sure to appropriately cite and credit.

Important course information may sometimes be communicated by email through Blackboard. You are responsible for checking your UO email and making sure you receive emails sent via Blackboard.

COURSE SCHEDULE¹

Week	Day/Date	Topic	Read (before class)	Due
1	1 T 4/3	Syllabus & Introduction	-	-
	2 R 4/5	Culture and Human Universals	Heine ch. 1	
2	3 T 4/10	Is culture unique to humans? <i>Discuss paper assignment</i>	Heine ch. 2 (+ start 3)	RR #1 due M 4/9 3 p.m. ²
	4 R 4/12	Cultural Evolution	Heine ch. 3 see Guns, germs, & steel ³	Discussion Qs in class
3	5 T 4/17	Methods in Cultural Psychology	Heine ch. 4	RR# 2
	6 R 4/19	Development and Socialization	Heine ch. 5	
4	7 T 4/24	Motivation	Heine ch. 7	RR #3
	8 R 4/26	Self and Personality Personality structure across cultures	Heine ch. 6	Paper topic sign up on Bb
5	9 T 5/1	Self & Personality continued	Bb: Kondo	RR #4
	10 R 5/3	MIDTERM EXAM	-	-
6	11 T 5/8	Cognition and Perception	Heine ch. 8	RR #5
	12 R 5/10	Interpersonal behavior	Heine ch. 9	Paper Proposal
7	13 T 5/15	Multicultural worlds	Heine ch. 10	RR #6
	14 R 5/17	Physical health	Heine ch. 11	
8	15 T 5/22	Mental Health	Heine ch. 12	RR#7
	10 R 5/24	“	Bb: Drinking games	Discussion Qs in class
9	10T 5/29	Morality, Religion, Justice	Heine ch. 13	RR# 8
	10 R 5/31	Emotions	Heine ch. 14	
10	10T 6/5	Paper presentations		PAPER
	10R 6/7	Paper presentations	-	-
11	M 6/11	8 am! FINAL EXAM	-	-

¹ SUBJECT TO CHANGE! You will be notified by email via Blackboard in case of changes.

² **Reading responses are due the day before the lecture** with which they are associated so that I can view comments/questions prior to lecture. Questions for responses detailed in ‘journal’ on Bb.

³ Links for watching videos online are posted to Bb