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| <p style="text-align: center;">Course Syllabus, Winter 2015 Psychology 459: Monday and Wednesday 4 :00 – 5 :20 McKenzie Hall 229</p> |
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Instructor: Jordan Pennefather, Ph.D.
Office: Straub 423
Email: Pennefat@UOregon.edu
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3-3:50, or by appointment.

GTF: Ekaterina Vasileva
Office: Straub 003
Email: evasilev@uoregon.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30

Course Description: In the field of cultural psychology, we study the ways that humans form cultures and the ways in which those cultures shape behavior, thinking, and feeling. General psychology tends to focus on universals or similarities between all people often ignoring the impact that differences in culture have on psychological phenomena. At the end of this class, it is my hope that you will be able to apply the lessons you have learned in this class to increase your awareness of the impact that culture has had on your own experiences as well as to understand the complexity that other cultures have added to our social world.

Research about learning has shown that students learn and retain material better in a situation in which learning is active rather than passive, and cooperative rather than individual. I have incorporated some of the principles of active and cooperative learning into my class, and try to be sensitive to the various types of learning styles that might exist among my students. To this end, we will do active learning exercises in this class that involve your participation. We will also do some group work. Oftentimes these in-class active learning and group exercises will have associated class credit. You must be in class to receive this credit.

Course Objectives: Cultural psychology is the scientific study of the ways in which people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by their culture, traditions, and social practices. The aims of this course are:

- To familiarize you with the concepts and theories of cultural psychology.
- Help you recognize the influence of culture on behavior, thoughts, and feelings.
- Give you the capacity to interpret research findings.

Required Readings: Weekly readings from the textbook will be required for all students. Additionally, students will be required to read supplemental journal articles for some of the sections. The supplemental readings will be made available online.

Text: Heine, S. J. (2012). *Cultural Psychology* (2nd Edition) NY: Norton.

Course Requirements: Your grade for this class will be based on 4 things:

1. **Exams:** There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. The exams will include questions taken from the text, lecture, and the supplemental readings. There is no way to cover all of the information contained in the textbook during lecture, so doing well on the exams will require that you learn from the textbook, supplemental readings, and the lecture. Exams will mostly be multiple choice, though short answer and mini-essay questions may also be included. The final exam will NOT be cumulative. Each exam will be worth 20% of the final grade.

Makeup Exams: It is important to be prepared and present for all scheduled exams. However, I recognize that there are some situations in which you simply cannot make it to an exam. In the case of a serious illness, emergency, religious observance, or university sponsored event, make up exams will be allowed. If you have a scheduled university sponsored event or religious observance, you must let me know well in advance of the listed exam date (at least 1 week) and we will arrange for you to take an exam before you leave. If you have a serious illness or an emergency, you must let me know prior to the exam (before 9:00am) and we will make arrangements for a make-up. Documentation that verifies the event (e.g., a note from a physician) will be required upon request. If you have questions about what type of documentation is required for a specific situation, contact me.

2. **Papers:**

Short Paper: For this paper you should consider the interface at the border of cultural psychology and your discipline (i.e. Marketing, Clinical, and Sociology). You may either translate a cultural psychological theory to your discipline or translate a theory or idea from your discipline to cultural psychology. For example, you could propose a cultural psychological study based on marketing principles, or use a cultural psychological theory or research finding to discuss Clinical psychology. In both cases you must discuss cultural psychological research! This paper should be 3-5 pages long and is due on February 16th.

Final Paper: This paper is intended to help you develop a more personal connection to the subject matter, by choosing course concepts that you find interesting to research more extensively. You can either write a proposal for a new study (supported by a literature review of background research) or an applied paper in which you use results of past studies to solve some world problem or improve some institution. Regardless of which paper choice you choose, you should show both your knowledge and integration of past research AND your ability to go beyond previous work by creating something new (e.g., a new study or an application). Please note that the new study or application you propose should be something that is realistic (or doable, in theory). If you propose a new study you can assume you have access to a wide variety of materials (e.g., money, confederates, fMRI or EEG), but make sure you are clear what the expected results are (it is fine to have competing hypotheses). If you propose an application, or a way to improve an institution or problem, please make sure your solutions are possible. However, you can assume that you have resources and power (i.e., you are a hot shot policy creator) and thus, you could propose some kind of reform (e.g., a system-wide educational program). The paper should have complete sentences, good grammar, reasonable organization, and at least 10 complete double-spaced pages of text. APA style should be used for citations and you should include an APA style reference section at the end. The final paper is due March 9th by 5 p.m. via email. Papers turned in late lose 10% of their points for each weekday they are not turned in (starting with the due date).

3. **Reading Responses:** You are required to read the chapter and supplemental reading for each section. To help you make a personal connection to the reading matter you will complete weekly reading responses on Blackboard. These questions will be graded out of 10 points, and each response should be about a half page single spaced. Completed responses will be submitted via Blackboard.

4. **In-Class Activities:** Attendance is not required but is strongly recommended. We will cover some material in class that is not in the textbook. Additionally, there will be in-class activities that will be awarded points, if you are not in class you will not receive the points, there will be no make-ups for in-class activities.

Grading: Your final grade in the course is based on your total points accumulated on the two tests, your paper, attendance, and in-class assignments, as described above. To summarize:

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|----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Exams (100 points each) | = 200 points |
| Short Paper | = 80 points |
| Final Paper | = 100 points |
| In-class Activities | = 40 points |
| Reading Responses (8 at 10 point each) | = 80 points |
| Total | = 500 points |

The following grid provides the letter grade associated with each percent.

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|----|----------|----|----------|----|----------|----|----------------|
| A | 93-100% | B | 83-86.9% | C | 73-76.9% | D | 63-66.9% |
| A- | 90-92.9% | B- | 80-82.9% | C- | 70-72.9% | D- | 60-62.9% |
| B+ | 87-89.9% | C+ | 77-79.9% | D+ | 67-69.9% | F | 59.9% or below |

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me during the first week of classes. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability. Students without a documented disability who are experiencing learning difficulties are encouraged to consult Disabilities Services (164 Oregon Hall; 346-1155; disabsrv@uoregon.edu; <http://ds.uoregon.edu/>). If you have a non-documented disability, I encourage you to contact Disabilities Services.

Cheating/plagiarism: Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams, copying answers off of other students during exams, having other students help you falsify your attendance, and plagiarizing of any kind will absolutely not be tolerated in this class. At the very least, you will receive a zero on the assignment. I encourage you to review the University policy on academic dishonesty; you are responsible for behaving in accordance with this policy and continued enrollment in this class will be considered implicit agreement that you have read and accepted the terms of that policy.

Class Etiquette & Norms:

- Arrive on time and stay for the entire class.
- Treat your fellow students and your instructors with respect.
 - Turn the ringer off on your cell phone during class.
- If you attend class, please be attentive (no texting, reading novels, web-surfing, etc).
 - Ask questions and speak up during class.
 - Stop by and see Jordan and Ekaterina during office hours.
- Attendance is not required; do not attend class at all if you cannot meet these norms.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Reading is to be completed **before** the first class for which it is listed

Note: Last date to drop courses without receiving a "W": January 12th

Last date to drop courses with "W" or change to pass/no pass: February 22nd

| Week | Topic | Chapter Reading |
|------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Syllabus and Introduction | |
| | What is Cultural Psychology? | Heine ch. 1 |
| 2 | Culture and Human Nature | Heine ch. 2 |
| | Cultural Evolution | Heine ch. 3 |
| 3 | Martin Luther King Jr Day | |
| | Methodology | Heine ch. 4 |
| 4 | Development and Socialization | Heine ch. 5 |
| | Self and Personality | Heine ch. 6 |
| 5 | Motivation | Heine ch. 7 |
| | Wrap-up | |
| 6 | MIDTERM EXAM (Chapters 1-7) | |
| | Cognition and Perception | Heine ch. 8 |
| 7 | Interpersonal Relationships | Heine ch. 9 |
| | Multicultural World | Heine ch. 10 |
| 8 | Physical Health | Heine ch. 11 |
| | Mental Health | Heine ch. 12 |
| 9 | Morality, Religion, and Justice | Heine ch. 13 |
| | Emotions | Heine ch. 14 |
| 10 | Wrap-up | |
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FINALS WEEK

Monday March 16th, 2:45 p.m. FINAL EXAM (Chapters 8-14).

Paper Due Dates:

Short Paper Due: Monday February 16th in class.

Final Paper Due: Monday March 9th in class.