Course Time and Locations
Thursdays, 11:45 am-2:25 pm, JDP Training Facility

Instructor
Veronica Cardenas, Ph.D.
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Course Description and Goals
Cultural psychology is the view that all psychological processes (e.g., perception, cognition, emotion, normal and abnormal behavior) “are not just influenced by culture but are thoroughly culturally constituted” (Markus & Kitayama, 1998, p. 66). It is the view that “the psychological-individual level cannot be separated from the cultural level” (Markus & Kitayama, 1998, p. 66-67). Psychology 820 is intended to provide students with additional knowledge with which to enhance both the internal and external validity of their research, to promote the proposal of culturally-sensitive research, to enhance the interpretation of research from a culturally-sensitive framework, and to increase the cultural sensitivity of their clinical work. The focus of the course will be upon examining constructs that have been studied from a cultural framework across major domains of psychology as a whole, with a specific emphasis upon how the topics under study can be applied to both research and practice in the field of clinical psychology.

The specific goals of this course are to: 1) Provide an overview of the study of cultural influences across major areas of psychology; 2) Examine whether psychological principles and major findings (basic data) in each of these areas are or are not culturally universal; 3) Discuss ways in which the principles, findings, theories, and research methods from the course material can influence and improve research and practice in the field of clinical psychology.


Course Requirements
Course requirements are as follows: Class attendance; Thought questions on the required readings; A class presentation; and Two examinations.

(A) Thought Questions (11 points):
By Wednesday, 9am, before each class, you are asked to send me via e-mail (1) one question for discussion that is based upon the required readings for that day and (2) a brief rationale for why the question is of interest/is being asked. The preparation of this question (& the rationale) is meant to
encourage students to prepare the assigned readings and to promote discussion of issues that would be of interest and relevance to the class. Questions must reflect thoughtful consideration of the readings to receive points. Meaningful comments about the readings (or clearly related to the readings) that may stimulate discussion are also welcomed in lieu of the question and should be accompanied by a rationale for the comment. One point will be awarded per class period for which questions are submitted, up to a maximum of 11 points. One point will be given for the first day of class as a freebie. (Note: This means that you do not have to submit a Thought Question every week to get the maximum number of points.)

**Required Readings**
You will be required to obtain/borrow the book, “The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down,” by Anne Fadiman, which should be available at most libraries and is sold by Amazon.com for about $9. All other readings will be available through Blackboard.

Read * documents below before class and be prepared to discuss the material. Other readings are not required prior to class, but students will be responsible for the information in the presented readings for examinations.

**(B) Presentations (25 points)**

All students will be asked to make a 20-30 minute presentation, using the literature from one of the topics below. There will be 1-2 presentations on each topic, starting in week 3. Each student will be responsible for presenting one of the non-asterisked articles to the class.

Presentations should consist of:

1. A summary of the article that details the major points of the paper;
2. Comments that the student has about the article, including the relevance that the article may have to clinical psychology (either research or practice). If the article is directly relevant to the required reading, this should also be discussed;
3. 2 discussion questions for the class about interesting issues/questions raised by the article and the article’s application to clinical psychology research/practice;
4. Leading a discussion based on the prepared questions;
5. Handouts of the presentation that include components 1-3 described above.

Presentations will be graded upon both the verbally-presented and written materials provided to the class. Please also provide a copy of your presentation to me. Presentations will be worth 25 points.

**(C) Two Examinations (50 points each for a total of 100 points)**

There will be 2 examinations, each worth 50 points. The examinations will be in essay format, and students will be asked to complete 2 essays within a set period of time.

The 1st examination will cover material covered during the first 7 weeks of the course. The 2nd examination will be cumulative. Examinations will cover all lecture, presentation, and reading material from the course and will include all * readings as well as all presented readings. (Please note that if a reading was covered incompletely by a presenter, students are still responsible for the material in the entire article.) Students are not responsible for articles that were not required, not presented, or otherwise not mentioned in the class. Examinations will be graded upon the breadth and depth of
understanding of class material as well as the ability to apply this knowledge to research and/or practice situations.

**Course Grades by Total Points**

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<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>128 - 136</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>122 - 127</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>117 - 121</td>
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<td>112 - 116</td>
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<tr>
<td>108 - 111</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>104 - 107</td>
<td>C+</td>
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**CLASS SCHEDULE & READINGS**
*readings are required prior to class

**Week 1/September 1: Intro to the Course & Cultural Psychology**
No assigned readings prior to class.

**Week 2/September 8: Individualism-Collectivism & The Self**

**Week 3/September 15: Development & Emotion**

**Week 4/September 22: Control, Attributions, & Coping**

**Week 5/September 29: Cognition**
**Guest Lecture: Dr. Sara Unsworth**
Week 6/October 6: Clinical Psychology: The Clinical Encounter


Week 7/October 13: Health Psychology


Week 8/October 20: Exam #1

Week 9/October 27: Distress, Help-Seeking, Access to Care

Week 10/November 3: Influences Upon Risk for Health Disparities: Racism, Acculturative Stress, & Exposure to Trauma
Week 11/November 10: Diagnosis & Culture-Bound Syndromes

Week 12/November 17: Culture and Neuropsychological Assessment

Week 13/November 24: Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class

Week 14/December 1: Treatment and Mental Health Research
*Executive Summary: Mental Health: Culture, Race, Ethnicity: Supplement to Mental Health: Report of the Surgeon General.

Week 15/December 8: Exam #2