

53304
Cross-Cultural
Psychology
Course Profile

Autumn Term 2001

Produced by the
School of Psychology & Sociology
Central Queensland University
Rockhampton, Queensland.

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Introduction to the course

Welcome to this course in Cross-Cultural Psychology. I hope you will find it challenging and enjoyable. One of the reasons why such a course is challenging is because cross-cultural psychology, as a sub-discipline of psychology, addresses problems in most major subject areas of psychology.

Ideally, as a good preparation for studying cross-cultural psychology, you should have knowledge of all of the core areas of psychology, including social psychology, personality, human development, physiological psychology, cognitive psychology, abnormal psychology, and psychometric psychology. Ideally, also, a course in cross-culturally psychology should pay some attention to all of these areas of psychology.

However, to teach or study in a course with such breadth in the space of a semester is somewhat impractical. Therefore, to help you come to grips with the important, core issues that are involved in doing cross-cultural psychological research without having to survey all fields of psychological research exhaustively, our programme of study this year will focus on the topics of research issues, culture and thinking, culture and self, social behaviour, communication across cultures, and mental health.

Nevertheless, I encourage you to read broadly in other areas that have interested cross-cultural researchers, like culture and language, personality and psychopathology. I also encourage you to take time to review those core areas of psychology that you have already completed, and to look for synergies between your existing knowledge of psychology and cross-cultural research findings that we will consider as part of our studies in this course.

By the end of the programme I hope that you will have a good knowledge of the problems that are associated with cross-cultural research and of the major contributions that cross-cultural psychology has made to our understanding of human behaviour. My role as lecturer is to help you achieve both these aims. I invite you to [contact me](#) about any problems that you might be having either with the unit or with your study generally so that I can help you work them through. I hope you find this unit of study interesting and enjoyable.

Course details

Faculty	Arts, Health & Sciences	
School	Psychology & Sociology	
Course code	53304	
Course name	Cross-Cultural Psychology	
Credit points	6 credit points	
Pass/Fail, Grading only	NA	
Level	Level 3	
Suggested study commitment	A minimum of 2 hours of on-line or face-to-face contact plus 8 hours of individual study and/or assignment preparation per week	
Term	Autumn	
Prerequisite	30 credit points of Level 2 Psychology	
Lecturer	Professor Graham Davidson	
Assessment – all students	Final Term Test	40%
	Essay	30%
	Annotated Bibliography	30%

Course summary

Cross-Cultural Psychology aims to explore relationships between cultural variables and human behaviour. We will look at the development of cross-cultural psychology as a distinctive area of psychology and at the recent attempts by cross-cultural psychologists to devise theories that reflect the cultural, social and developmental, perspectives on behaviour. We will also look at a range of research methodologies used by cross-cultural psychologists.

Study resources

Set textbook/s

Matsumoto, D. (2000). *Culture and psychology*. (2nd edn.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
 American Psychological Association. (1994). *Publication manual*. (4th edn.)
 Washington, DC: Author.

Set reading

Theme 1: Core issues

Berry, J. (1969). On cross-cultural comparability. *International Journal of Psychology*, 4, 119-138.

Jahoda, G. (1977). In pursuit of the emic-etic distinction: Can we ever capture it. In Y.H. Poortinga (Ed.), *Basic problems in cross-cultural psychology*. Amsterdam: Swets and Zeitlinger.

Theme 2: Culture and thinking

Kearins, J. (1988). Cultural elements in testing: The test, the tester and the tested. In G. Davidson (Ed.), *Ethnicity and cognitive assessment: Australian perspectives*. Darwin: DIT Press.

Davidson, G.R. (1995). Cognitive assessment of indigenous Australians. *Australian Psychologist*, 30, 30-34.

Davidson, G.R. (1996). Fairness in a multicultural society: A reply to Dyck (1996). *Australian Psychologist*, 31, 70-72.

Theme 3: Culture, self and emotion

Markus, H.R., & Kitayama, S. (1991). Culture and the self: Implications for cognition, emotion and motivation. *Psychological Review*, 98, 224-253.

Matsumoto, D. (1989). Cultural influences on the perception of emotion. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 20, 92-105.

Theme 4: Social behaviour

Augoustinos, M., Tuffin, K., & Sale, L. (1999). Race talk. *Australian Journal of Psychology*, 51, 90-97.

Gomersall, A., Davidson, G. R., & Ho, R. (2000). Factors affecting acceptance of Aboriginal reconciliation amongst non-Indigenous Australians. *Australian Psychologist*, 35, 118-127.

Theme 5: Cross-Cultural communication

Bochner, S. (1994). Culture shock. In W. Lonner & R. Malpas, *Psychology and culture*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Davidson, G. (1999). Culture competence as an ethical precept in psychology. In P. R. Martin & W. Noble (Eds.), *Psychology and society*. Brisbane: Australian Academic Press.

Theme 6: Culture and health

American Psychological Association (1993). Guidelines for providers of psychological

services to ethnic, linguistic and culturally diverse populations. *American Psychologist*, 48, 45-48.

[Australian Psychological Society. \(1996\). Guidelines for the provision of psychological services for and the conduct of psychological research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia. Melbourne: Author.](#)

Beardsley, L. M. (1994). Medical diagnosis and treatment across cultures. In W. Lonner & R. Malpas, *Psychology and culture*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Course website

<http://www.cqu.edu.au/53304>

CQU Library

Electronic access to information resources

A range of additional resources to help you with your studies is available through the CQU Library.

If you can access the Internet, you can connect to the CQU 24-hour Electronic Library at:

<http://www.library.cqu.edu.au>

From the Library web page, you will find the Library Catalogue, Subject Guides (which are faculty and school-based guides which list and link to a wide range of resources), Course Resources Online (which is full text information by course code), Tutorials, and Databases and Indexes. Databases give access to the journal literature providing citations, often an abstract, and with some databases, access to full text journal articles. You will need passwords to use the databases.

Off-campus students

For passwords and more information about using Library resources—books, photocopies, or online information—contact the Library by e-mail cqulibrary@cqu.edu.au, by freecall telephone 1300 369 038 or by fax 07 4930 9972. An outline of the Library's off-campus service is in your current *Distance Education Information Guide* or visit the 'Services for Off-Campus Students' section on the CQU Library web page.

If you need help with searching library databases, need subject searches done on your behalf or would like assistance with information resources, ask to speak to your Faculty Liaison Librarian.

Loans

Off-campus students living more than 50 km from Rockhampton Campus, who have access to the WWW, can request loans of items held in the CQU Library using the electronic Book Request Form on the Library web page (please check that the items are in the Library Catalogue before sending requests). If you don't have Internet access, contact the Library for loans.

Journals held in the CQU Library are not available for loan. Photocopies can be requested of specific articles within the provision of the Copyright Act.

General assignment information

Assignment preparation

Follow these guidelines when you prepare assignments:

- Word-process your assignment clearly and neatly.
- Label Tables and Figures in accordance with APA style.
- Use size A4 paper and leave at least a 3 cm margin.
- Make a duplicate or electronic copy of each assignment. This overcomes any problems should your assignments ever be lost in transit, even though this rarely happens.
- Number each page of the assignment.
- Do not forget to sign the plagiarism statement on the cover sheet of your assignment or make a similar declaration on electronic lodgements.

CQU Plagiarism Policy

The University views the process of attempting to circumvent, or circumventing assessment requirements very seriously. Consequently conduct of that sort may result in the suspension or exclusion of the student. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not.

Full details of this policy can be found in the 'General Information' section of the CQU Handbook.

<http://www.cqu.edu.au/cquhandbook/pdf/common/general.pdf>

Assessment Information – General

All assessments must be completed and submitted for a passing grade to be awarded.

You must achieve a mark of 50% in order to obtain a Grade of PASS.

All written assessments must be submitted by the set date unless an extension has been awarded.

Extensions may be granted for reasons of illness or personal hardship. Evidence of illness or hardship must be produced prior to confirmation of the extension. Unless exceptional circumstances pertain, extensions must be sought prior to the date set for submission. Extensions will not normally be granted after that date.

If you are absent for reasons of illness or personal hardship for the period of the Term test, you may apply for a deferred test to be taken at a time to be arranged with the lecturer. Evidence of illness or hardship must be submitted prior to the award of a supplementary test.

Extensions will **not** be granted for reasons of normal pressure of work or study.

THE FINAL DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL WORK IS **Monday 4 June**. NO WORK WILL BE RECEIVED OR MARKED AFTER THAT DATE UNLESS AN EXTENSION HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED.

All assignments, excluding class tests, must be in the style required for publication in APA and APS journals. For assignments (excluding class tests) marks will be allotted for style and written presentation.

Assignments and class tests should **normally** be submitted by email to the course coordinator. They should be submitted preferably as Word attachments that retain formatting for the assignments. However, assignments may also be submitted to the School of Psychology and Sociology General Office, Building 32 Room 2.36. The assignment box is cleared 8.00am and 4.00pm each weekday. Assignments should be submitted before 4.00pm on the due date, or they will be dated and time stamped the following day.

If you are a distance education student, assignments may also be submitted through the Distance and Flexible Learning Centre.

You should retain a duplicate copy as your proof of submission, in the (unlikely) event that the original goes missing.

Whatever method of submission you choose, it is **your responsibility** to ensure that your assignments are submitted **on time**.

The use of non-sexist language is University policy. You should ensure that assignments are free of gender bias and discriminatory language.

You should familiarise yourself with the University policy on plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined and explained in the University Handbook. It is essential that you know your obligations in relation to presenting well-documented and original work.

All assignments submitted through the School Office must be accompanied by a Faculty Assignment Cover Sheet. This cover sheet will have a Student's Declaration on originality that must be signed by the student. Cover sheets are available from the School office.

Course presentation

Computer requirements – On-campus and Off-campus students

I will be staffing the Discussion Board on regular basis each Tuesday of Term from 6.00 – 8.00 pm. All students are invited and encouraged to contribute to discussions during that weekly time slot. You can also contribute to the Discussion Board at other times, and I will be checking it on a daily basis. All students can contact me at any time by email.

Residential school

NIL

Class Contact Times – On-campus students only

I will be conducting a 2-hour Tutorial/Laboratory for on-campus students each week of Term on Tuesdays from 4.00 – 6.00 pm. I will not be lecturing during this session because my detailed lecture notes are available on the course web site. The Tut/Lab will focus on learning exercises contained on the web site, and will facilitate general class discussion of those exercises.

Assessment – All Students

Assessment for this course will be on the basis of:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| (a) Term Test | 40% |
| (b) Essay | 30% |
| (c) Annotated Bibliography | 30% |

Term Test

Date due: The term test made up of short-answer and multiple choice questions will be posted on the course web site at 5.00 pm on Wednesday 30 May and test papers will be due with the course coordinator on Friday 1 June at 5.00 pm. The term test will cover all 6 themes. Questions will be drawn from the textbook, the set readings, and the lecture notes.

Assignments

There are 2 assignments:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Assignment 1 | Essay |
| Due date: | Friday 12 April |
| Weighting: | 30% |
| Assignment 2 | Annotated Bibliography |
| Due date: | Friday 18 May |
| Weighting: | 30% |

Assignment 1: Essay

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Due date: | Friday 12 April |
| Weighting: | 30% |
| Length: | 12 x A4 double-spaced 12-pitch Times or Times New Roman pages of text plus a title page, abstract of 150 words, and references. |

Topic: "Far too much human psychology is based on studies of White Male Middle-Class Anglo-Saxon Protestant undergraduates for us to attach much confidence to the claim that the models it generates describe general characteristics of human beings." (Serpell, R. (1976). *Culture's influence on behaviour*. London: Methuen, p. 10.) Critically evaluate Serpell's claim from the point of view of cross-cultural research into cultural differences in memory and cognition.

Assignment 2: Annotated Bibliography

Suggested study schedule

<i>Weeks</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Matsumoto (2000)</i>
1 - 2	Core issues in cross-cultural psychology: - The scope of cross-cultural psychology - Concepts and problems in cross-cultural research	1,2,5
3 - 4	Culture and thinking: - Intelligence and intelligence testing - Studies of memory - Visual perceptual skills - Formal and informal education - Schooling effects on thinking - Cognitive style	6,7
5 - 6	Culture, self and emotion	3,8,11
7 - 8	Social behaviour in cultural perspective	4,16,17
9 - 10	Communication across cultures	12,13,14
11-12	Culture and health : - Physical health - Mental Health - Practising across cultures	9,10,15

Note: A recess is held during term. Please consult the CQU Handbook for specific dates.

Directory of assistance

Central Queensland University (07) 4930 9777

Nightline (after hours answering service) (07) 4930 9713

NATURE OF QUERY	CONTACT	ADDRESS/NUMBER	
Study enquiries	Lecturer	Telephone:	(07) 4930 9404
	Professor Graham Davidson	Fax:	(07) 4930 6460
		E-mail:	g.davidson@cqu.edu.au
	School Reception	Telephone:	(07) 4930 9234
		Fax:	(07) 4930 6460
Choosing electives Changes to program of study	Course Advisor	Telephone	(07) 4930 9661
Study materials despatch Residential schools	Communication & Support Section, DFCLC	Telephone:	(07) 4930 9442
		Fax:	(07) 4930 9722
Change of personal details Enrolment issues Exclusion procedures Examination timetables Deferred examinations Examination results	Student Administration	Telephone:	(07) 4930 9450
			(07) 4930 9427
			(07) 4930 9396
			(07) 4930 9440
			(07) 4930 9377
			(07) 4930 9727
Remedial assistance with mathematics	Mathematics Learning Centre	Telephone:	(07) 4930 9883
		Fax:	(07) 4930 6306
Personal, educational or vocational problems	Counselling, Careers and Health	Telephone:	(07) 4930 9456
		Fax:	(07) 4930 9366
Library services	CQU Library	Telephone:	Toll Free 1 300 369038
		Fax:	(07) 4930 9972
		E-mail:	cqulibrary@cqu.edu.au
		Internet:	http://www.library.cqu.edu.au
Purchasing books	CQU Bookshop	Telephone:	(07) 4930 9609
		E-mail:	bookenq@cqu.edu.au