

Psychology 321 Spring 2000

Cross-Cultural Human Development

Dr. Harry Gardiner

This course brings a cross-cultural dimension to the study of human development across the lifespan. The focus is on major developmental topics that provide a global and multicultural perspective by introducing contemporary as well as classical research. Basic principles and research findings are connected to practical everyday situations in order to foster an understanding of, and appreciation for, development as it takes place in diverse cultures throughout the world.

Topics receiving special attention include the family, socialization, personality, issues of sex and gender, social behavior, schooling, health, and marriage.

Content will be centered around a series of questions focusing on important concepts and ideas in the developmental area. Opportunities to explore these questions and the implications of answers to them will be provided through reading, writing, and discussion exercises. These are designed to develop skills in interviewing, comparing and contrasting ideas, summarizing, and critiquing cross-cultural materials, integrating a diversity of views, and developing individual positions on global issues related to human development.

Course Goals

The major objectives of this course are to:

- increase cultural awareness and understanding
- identify and reduce ethnocentrism
- examine the role of culture in development
- develop analytic and reasoning skills

Basic Information

Time: Wednesdays 5:30 - 8:20 pm
Place: Rochester campus
Phone: 507-457-5435 (Psychology Dept)
507-452-3618 (Home)
E-mail: gardiner.harr@uwlax.edu or
gardiner@vax2.winona.msus.edu
Home page: <http://cslab.uwlax.edu/~gardiner>

Course Structure

Course material will be presented in a lecture-discussion format. Students should come to class prepared to discuss specific topics. Active participation is expected.

A variety of activities are planned for this course. Readings and lectures will be organized around central themes and questions about how cultures influence human development. There will be writing in and outside of class. Discussions may involve the entire class or small groups in which different cultural perspectives are presented.

Computer Component

This course will make use of a variety of computer techniques including searches of the World Wide Web, remote databases, and libraries.

Examinations and Grading System

There will be two take home exams consisting of essay questions. The focus of these exams will be on interpreting, analyzing, integrating, and evaluating materials presented in class and in your readings. There will also be two short exams consisting of multiple choice items.

Grades will be assigned according to the total number of points earned by satisfactory completion of each of the activities that make up the course. Final grades will be based upon points accumulated according to the following system:

A	= 400 - 430
A/B	= 387 - 399
B	= 367 - 386
B/C	= 344 - 366
C	= 301 - 348
D	= 258 - 300
F	= > 257

Activities

	points
Take home exams	
2 @ 100 each	200
Multiple choice exams	
2 @ 40 each	80
Video reaction papers	
4 @ 10 each	40

Computer assignments

3 @ 20 each 60

Exercises

2 @ 25 each 50

Total 430

Textbook



Gardiner, H. W., Mutter, J. D., & Kosmitzki, C. (1998). *Lives Across Cultures: Cross-Cultural Human Development*. Allyn & Bacon. (Available at textbook rental).

Psychology 321 Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment
W	Jan 12	Introduction
	What is Cross-Cultural Human Development?	Gardinerpp IX-XXI GardinerCh 1
W	Jan 19	VT: <i>Great Expectations</i> Discussion and Special Topic
W	Jan 26	Culture and Physical Growth
	VT: <i>Louder than Words</i> Group Discussion	GardinerCh 3 Computer Assignment 1
W	Feb 2	Socialization
		GardinerCh 2

W	Feb 9	VT: <i>Love's Labors</i> Discussion	Unit Exam 1
W	Feb 16	Culture and Preschools VT: <i>Preschools in Three Cultures</i> Discussion	Cultural Exercise 1
W	Feb 23	NO CLASS	
W	Mar 1	Culture, Self, and Personality	GardinerCh 5
<i>SPRING BREAK -- March 3 - 20</i>			
W	Mar 22	Issues of Sex and Gender Discussion	GardinerCh 6 Computer Exercise 2
W	Mar 29	Culture and Social Behavior VT: <i>Among Equals</i>	GardinerCh 7
W	Apr 5	Special Topic	Unit Exam 2
W	Apr 12	Family in Cultural Context VT: <i>In the Land of Giants</i>	GardinerCh 8
W	Apr 19	Bicultural Families VT: <i>Doubles</i>	
W	Apr 26	Culture and Health Discussion	GardinerCh 9 Cultural Exercise 2

W May 3 Future of Cross-Cultural Human Development GardinerCh 10

VT: *The House of Tomorrow*

W May 10 Special Topic -- China

Unit Exam 3

W May 17 **CROSS-CULTURAL FOOD DAY!**