

## Psyc 332

### CULTURE and BEHAVIOR

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Cigdem Kagitcibasi

#### **Required Reading:**

Textbook: Kagitcibasi (1996), Family and Human Development Across Cultures (K).

Photocopied readings from other books: Smith & Bond, Social Psychology Across Cultures (S & B); Segall, Dasen, Berry & Poortinga, Human Behavior in Global Perspective (SDBP); Berry, Poortinga, Segall & Dasen, Cross-Cultural Psychology (BPSD) and an article.

#### **Course Description:**

This course studies psychological processes and behavior from a cultural and cross-cultural perspective, focusing on both theory and applications. It spans wide ground, covering several areas of psychology and examines these within the cultural context. The course consists of both basic areas of cross-cultural psychology and topical issues. It includes a selected survey of some basic psychological phenomena as they interact with culture. It also focuses on human development, the self, and the family, as well as organizations with special reference to comparisons between Western, mainly American, patterns and societies in the non-western world, undergoing social change, such as those in the Pacific Rim and Turkey,

#### **Course Outline:**

##### ***A. Orientation to the Study of Culture and Behavior: Social Interaction***

1. What is Cross-Cultural Psychology? [Oct 2 – Oct 12]  
(K) Ch. 1: Introduction (1-16)  
(S & B) Ch. 1: Introduction (1-8)  
“ Ch. 2: The World of Social Psychology (9-33)

##### ***B. Psychological Processes and Behavior in Cultural Context***

2. Perception and Cognition [Oct 17 – Oct 26]  
(BPSD) Ch. 6: Perception (131-143)  
(SDBP) Ch. 8: Cognitive Processes (160-185)
3. Human Competence [Oct 31 – Nov 7]  
(SDBP) Ch. 5: Alternative Views on Human Competence (93-112)  
(K) Ch. 2: Development in Context (19-34)  
(K) Ch. 3: Socialization for Competence (35-51)
4. The Self in Socio-Cultural Context [Nov 19 – Nov 16]  
(K) Ch. 4: Culture and Self (52- 71)  
Kagitcibasi “The Autonomous-Relational Self: A New Synthesis”, European Psychologist, 1996 (180-186)
5. The Family in Socio-Cultural Context [Nov 21 – Nov 28]  
(K) Ch.5: Family and Family Change (72-97)

**Midterm:** Dec 5

### **C. Applications and Policy**

6. Organizational Behavior [Nov 30 – Dec 12]  
(BPSD) Ch. 13: Organizations and Work (315-338)

7. Health Behavior [Dec 14 – Dec 26]  
(BPSD) Ch. 15: Health Behavior (356-377)

8. Education [Jan 2 – Jan 4]  
(K) Ch. 8: The Turkish Early Enrichment Project (139-169)

9. Psychology and Policy [Jan 9 – Jan 11]  
(K) Ch. 6: Induced Change: The Role of Psychology (Partial: 106-123)

### **Course Requirements:**

There will be one midterm (30%) and one final examination (40%) in this course. There will also be a homework+paper combination (25%).

Class attendance and discussion is of great importance and contributes to the course grade 5% or more at the discretion of the instructor. Each topic will be covered in class through a combination of lectures and discussions. Students will be responsible for guiding the class discussion through leading questions. It is, therefore, of crucial importance to have read the material before coming to class.

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### **Information about the Instructor:**

Students are entitled to know who their instructors are. This information is provided for this purpose. Prof. Kagitcibasi is a social and cultural psychologist. She is one of the six full professors in the College of Arts and Sciences at Koç University. She is the Dean of the College. She received her university degree from Wellesley College in Massachusetts, USA, and her Ph.D. degree from the University of California at Berkeley, California, USA. She has authored or edited 9 books and 111 articles or chapters in books in English; and 12 books and 44 articles or chapters in books in Turkish. She holds many national and international scientific awards.

Dr. Kagitcibasi is a founding member of the Turkish Academy of Sciences. She has served as the President of the Turkish Psychological Association. She taught at Middle East Technical University and at Bogaziçi University before joining Koç University in 1995.

Dr. Kagitcibasi was elected the President of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, and the Vice-President of the International Union of Psychological Science. In both cases she was the first woman to be elected to office.