

Bluffton College

**CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
**PSY 262**

Syllabus: Spring, 2001

Instructor: Dr. Phil Kingsley  
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Office Hours: 3:00-4:00 p.m. M, T, W, R, F; 4:00-5:00 p.m. T, W, R

Class Meeting Times: 2:00-2:50 a.m., Mon., Wed., Fri. (College Hall, Room 305)

Catalog Course Description: A study of the psychological importance of cultural differences, this course examines some of the ways in which human perceiving, thinking, feeling, striving and relating to others are conditioned by cultural membership. Included is a consideration of the contributions of work in cross-cultural psychology in such areas as education, training for cultural awareness, definition and assessment of intelligence and other human characteristics, understanding and treatment of psychopathology. Prerequisite: PSY 110 or permission of instructor.

Texts: Lonner, W.J., & Malpass, R.S. (1994). Psychology and Culture. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Stewart, E.C., & Bennett, M.J. (1991). American Cultural Patterns: A Cross-Cultural Perspective. Yarmouth, Maine: Intercultural Press.

Purpose: The goals of this course include the following:

1. to increase our understanding and appreciation for the culture-related diversity in ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving that is found among humans;
2. to examine the extent to which the theories, principles, and knowledge of the modern discipline of psychology are universally applicable to humans;
3. to examine some of the psychological implications of cultural differences and of contact among members of different cultures, and to consider the role which psychological research and theory can play in advancing intercultural understanding.

**Course Work and Evaluation:** Attendance at all classes is important and expected; it may affect the final course grade. Readings in the textbooks will be assigned and students will be expected to have read them and be prepared to discuss them on the assigned dates (see Schedule Handout and Reading Guide/Discussion Questions Handout)

**Exams (40%):** A mid-term and a final exam will be given covering assigned reading material and material presented during class periods.

**Research Project (20%):** Working alone or in pairs, students will propose a topic and research method, will carry out the research when approved, and will present a report of their findings or results (see Projects Handout for guidelines and suggestions).

**Culture and Religion Field Experience (15%):** Each student will submit journal-type reports of two separate attendances at religious services of another cultural tradition than the student's own (see Field Experience Handout).

**Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology Presentation (15%):** Each student will present orally to the class a summary of a research report which appeared in the Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology (or other journal with approval from instructor).

**Other Assignments and Class Participation (10%):** Additional homework and in- or out-of-class exercises may be assigned from time to time. Students are asked to be on the lookout for web sites and newspaper/magazine articles in which psychological aspects of cultural differences feature prominently, and to share any of these with the instructor and class.

Students are encouraged to work cooperatively and learn from each other in this course. The Bluffton College Honor System applies to all the graded work submitted by individuals.

<b><u>Grading Scale:</u></b>	93%+    A	77-79%    C+
	90-92%    A-	73-76%    C
	87-89%    B+	70-72%    C-
	83-86%    B	67-69%    D+
	80-82%    B-	63-66%    D
		60-62%    D-

[The instructor reserves the right to make alterations in this syllabus if he deems it necessary. Student comments and suggestions for course improvements are welcomed.]