

Cross-Cultural Psychology

Course: PSY 365M, Unique: 40027

Spring 2001

W 2 - 5, UTC 4.120

Merritt

Office Hours W 12 - 2 or by appointment

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<http://homepage.psy.utexas.edu/homepage/class/Psy365M/Merritt>

This course will examine various aspects of psychology from a cross-cultural perspective. The course will be taught as a seminar with class discussion and group exercises. It will blend current psychological theory with a semester-long fieldwork project to develop an academic and personal understanding of culture and its effects on behavior. Activities will include interviews, class presentations, case studies, and in-class exercises.

Text

Hofstede, G. (1997). *Cultures and Organizations: Software of the Mind* (McGraw-Hill).

Other readings will be posted on the class homepage, or distributed in class.

Grading and Requirements:

- A. Semester long fieldwork project 40%: This project is being conducted in conjunction with GRS389T – Culture and Communication for University Teaching – which is a required course for some international students intending to become Teaching Assistants or Assistant Instructors at UT. Fieldwork will include interviewing an international student about their experiences in the US and at UT (week 5), structured feedback to the international teaching assistants (ITAs) about their teaching and communication style (week 8), and role-playing typical undergraduate interactions with the ITAs so that they can develop understanding and confidence (week 14). Reports regarding these activities will form the basis of the fieldwork report.
- B. Research-based critique of one aspect of Hofstede's contribution to the field (1500 – 2000 words) 20%
- C. Cultural analysis OR etic study (one psychological phenomenon across 3 or more countries) (1500 – 2000 words) OR self-defined project 20%
- D. Short thought pieces and class participation 20%

Note: As this course fulfills the requirement for a writing component course, students are encouraged to seek feedback on draft versions of their major assignments before submitting them for assessment. There will be penalties for work that is submitted late. There may be an opportunity to do extra work for credit.

Prerequisites: Psychology 301 with a grade of C or better; Psychology 418 or an equivalent statistics course with a grade of C or better, and upper division standing (60 hours completed).

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

Course Outline and Assignment Overview

The following is a tentative schedule for the semester. It lists the topics for each week as well as the in-class and out-of-class activities; it also shows the due dates for the various pieces of assessment.

TP = Thought Pieces; short assignments (1-2 pages)

FW= Field work; activities that contribute to the semester-long field work project

<i>Wk</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Pre-Reading</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>In-class activity</i>	<i>Out of class activity</i>	<i>Due Dates</i>
1.	1/17	-	Course outline & assignments	Course expectations	TP1: Salad dressing	-
2.	1/24	CH 1	A framework for analyzing culture; American values	Does salad dressing carry a cultural message?	-	TP1
3.	1/31	CH 9	Ethnocentrism, culture shock and adaptation	Barnja	TP2: Reaction to Barnja	-
4.	2/7	CH 2 & 3	Hofstede, Part I	Fieldwork Preparation & Interview guidelines	FW1: Interview	TP2
5.	2/14	CH 4 & 5	Hofstede, Part II	Video: Doing business in Mexico	-	-
6.	2/21	CH 7	Hofstede, Part III	Librarian assisted research at UGL	-	-
7.	2/28	Interview with Hall	Edward Hall's work	Interview Presentations	-	FW1
8.	3/7	-	Interview Presentations	& Themes	FW2: Feedback to ITAs	-
9.	3/14		SPRING	BREAK		
10.	3/21	-	Culture & Education	Video: "Preschool in three cultures"	-	FW2
11.	3/28	-	Encountering Others	Circles & Triangles	TP3: Reaction to C&T	Assign. B
12.	4/4	Aircraft Accidents	Research & methods	Design a c-c study	-	TP3
13.	4/11	-	The Bicultural experience	Video and panel discussion	-	-
14.	4/18	-	TBA	Counseling Center Panel	FW3: Role play for ITAs	-
15.	4/25	-	Organizational and professional culture	The meaning of work	-	FW report
16.	5/2	-	Fieldwork reports &	class discussions	-	Assign. C due 5/9