CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY 1999

Prof. Shalom Schwartz   Office 3503a, Tel 5882964; 5817892 (h)
Tuesday 6:30-8pm Room 1711   Office Hours: Tuesday 4-5

This course examines a selection of the theoretical, empirical, and applied issues in the cross-cultural study of human social behavior. We discuss some aspects of human behavior that are universal and some that are culture-specific. We consider how and why behavior differs across cultures and what this implies for psychological theory and application. We cover only a small proportion of the topics of cross-cultural psychology. At the end of the syllabus, I list other topics you may want to pursue.

The course will combine lectures, discussions, exercises and research experience. We will discuss questions related to reading assignment in each session. Students are expected to attend all sessions and to be prepared to discuss the readings for that date in the syllabus. Eat something or drink some coffee before coming to class, so you can be alert and active during the class session! Grades will be based on project report described in a separate handout (30%) and on a final examination (70%)

Reading assignments are listed by date and topic below. The library has only one or two copies of the various readings. It is therefore desirable to copy as many as you can afford. Please bring copies of readings to the class session in which they are discussed.

Date
Introduction
23/3   **Research exercise, issues, definitions, topics**—No reading

30/3   **Why a cross-cultural psychology?**
                Smith, P. B. & Bond, M. H. (1998). Social Psychology Across Cultures. London:
                        Prentice Hall. (pp. 1-37)

Basic dimensions of cultural variation

13/4   **I. Ecological approaches and the Hofstede dimensions**
                Smith, P. B. & Bond, M. H. (1998). Social Psychology Across Cultures. London:
                        Prentice Hall. (pp. 38-52)

27/4   **II. Cultural as an explanatory variable and the Schwartz dimensions**
                Smith, P. B. & Bond, M. H. (1998). Social Psychology Across Cultures. London:
                        Prentice Hall. (pp. 52-69)
                Schwartz, S. H. (1999). A theory of cultural values and some implications for
                work.
                        Applied Psychology: An International Review, 48, 23-47.

4/5   **III. Individualism and collectivism: The Triandis vertical and horizontal
dimensions**
                Triandis, H. C. (1996). The psychological measurement of cultural syndromes.
                        American Psychologist, 51, 407-415.

11/5   **IV. The independent and interdependent selves of Markus & Kitayama**
                Markus, H. R. & Kitayama, S. (1991). Culture and the self: Implications for
                        cognition, emotion, and motivation. Psychological Review, 98, 224-253.

Cultural influences on basic psychological processes

18/5   **Social perception and attribution**

Morris, M. W. & Peng, K. (1994). Culture and cause: American and Chinese attributions for social and physical events. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 67, 949-971.

25/5   **Systems of morality and conceptions of duty**
Miller, J. G. (1997). Cultural conceptions of duty: Implications for motivation
and
morality. In D. Munro, J. E. Schumaker, & S. C. Carr (Eds.), Motivation and culture. New York: Routledge. (pp. 178-192).
Haidt, J., Koller, S. H., & Dias, M.G. (1993). Affect, culture, and morality, or Is it wrong to eat your dog? Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 65, 613-628.

1/6   **Emotions: Their nature and social construction**
N. H. Frijda & B. Mesquita (1992). The social roles and functions of emotions. In
S.
Kitayama & H. R. Markus (Eds.), Emotion and culture. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. (pp.51-87)

Illuminating societal issues

8/6   **Aggression and violence**
Segall, M.H., Dasen, P. R., Berry, J. W., Poortinga, Y. H. (1992). Human behavior in
global perspective. New York: Pergamon. Ch. 12. Culture and aggression. (pp. 262-275).
Cohen, D. (1998). Culture, social organization, and patterns of violence. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 75, 408-419.

15/6   **Religiosity: Culture specifics and universals**
Schumaker, J. F. (1997). Religious motivation across cultures. In D. Munro, J. E. Shumaker, & S. C. Carr (Eds.), Motivation and culture. New York: Routledge. (pp.193-208)
Roccas, S. & Schwartz, S. H. (1997). Church-state relations and the association of religiosity with values: A study of Catholics in six countries. Cross-cultural research, 31, 356-375.

22/6   **Acculturation and adaptation**
Berry, J.W., Poortinga, Y.H., Segall, M.H., & Dasen, P.R. (1992). Cross-Cultural Psychology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 11. Acculturation and culture contact. Ch. 12. Ethnic groups and minorities. (pp. 271-314). RR GN502.C76 (1127455)

29/6   **Looking ahead and looking back**
Smith, P. B. & Bond, M. H. (1998). Social Psychology Across Cultures. London: Prentice Hall. (pp. 306-323)

Some other topics researched in cross-cultural psychology that might interest you:

Cognition	Language and bilingualism	Immigration
Personality	Moral development	Indigenous psychologies
Conformity	Parenting and attachment	Child development
Individual values	Gender and mate preferences	Perception and aesthetics

Intelligence and competence	Happiness/subjective well-being	Psychopathology and therapy
Attraction and love	Environmental psychology	Ethnic and racial identity
Locus of control	Mental health services	Political psychology
Organizations and leadership	Intergroup communication	Socioeconomic development
Time orientations	Multicultural training and education	

Course project: Select one ethnic group in Israel that interests you (e.g., Kurds, Russians, Moroccans, Germans, Ethiopians, Christian Arabs, etc.). Learn about the history, practices and customs, demographics, location in the social structure, etc. of this group from readings you find and from observation and discussion with its members. Based on what you learn, select five variables from the material covered in this course on which you think this group may differ from other groups in Israel. Include some "basic dimensions of cultural variation" and other variables like aspects of social perception, attribution patterns, self-conceptions, emotions, morality, aggression, acculturation attitudes, etc). For each variable, propose a hypothesis about how this group differs from others. Explain the bases of your hypotheses by relating information from interviews with members of the group and/or other knowledge you have about them to research and theory on the topic from the course. Cite the sources from readings that you are using to ground your hypotheses. Design a study that might be carried out to test one of the hypotheses you propose.

This project is to be done in pairs and submitted on 29/6 as a typed report of up to 10 pages (3000 words). About two pages should be devoted to describing the group itself, six pages to presenting and justifying your hypotheses, and two pages to presenting the study design for testing one hypothesis. The study design should specify the nature of the sample, the instruments and/or experimental manipulations to be used, and the ways you will operationalize the variables.