

PSY355 (Section 3) – Psychology and Culture Winter 2020

BASIC INFORMATION

Professor: Kristy K. Dean, Ph.D

Please call me: Dr. or Professor Dean (pronouns: she/her/hers)

Phone: 616-331-2412

Email: deankr@gvsu.edu (expect a response within 24 hours)

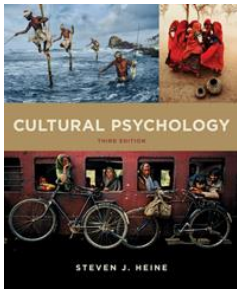
Office: 2138 AuSable Hall

Office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 11am-12pm and by appointment

Ask me about: anything related to this class, the psychology major, psychology research, education and careers in psychology, being a first-generation college student, cats, etc.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Meeting Times and Place: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, Honors College 220



Textbook: The textbook for this class will be Cultural Psychology (3rd edition) by Steven J. Heine (2016, Norton & Co.). This textbook is required and necessary if you are committed to learning the content in this course.

Note #1: Two copies are available on Course Reserve. **Note #2:** Additional readings will be posted on the course's Blackboard website.

Course Description: This course will examine a variety of topical areas in Psychology from a cultural perspective. Throughout this course, we will be identifying ways in which people's identities, thought processes, emotions, and behaviors vary across and within cultures. Moreover, and perhaps more interestingly, we will be applying the scientific method to examine when, how, and why cultural differences and similarities occur, as well as their implications for health and well-being, and intra- and intercultural relations.

Prerequisite(s): PSY101 (Introductory Psychology) OR HNR234 (Society and Self: Psychological Perspective)

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course you should have a better understanding of the psychological study of culture as well as a greater appreciation for how your culture has shaped your patterns of thinking, feeling, and behaving. More specifically, upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to...

- Describe the concept of culture as used by psychologists.
- Describe the research methodologies used by cultural and cross-cultural psychologists.
- Identify and describe the ways in which culture influences psychological phenomena.
- Explain that cultural variations and universals both characterize the human experience.
- Think critically about why cultural variations and universals exist.

Class Format: The class utilizes mixed methods mostly focused on lecture but also including small group and full class discussion, question-answer sessions, in-class activities, etc. Class sessions and the text supplement each other – both cover material that will not (and cannot) be covered in the other format. Because class sessions highlight important concepts within the text, students are strongly encouraged to complete assigned readings PRIOR to the corresponding lecture, and attend all class sessions.

Active Engagement with the Course Material: To understand the material covered in ANY course, active engagement is necessary. Obviously, this means students should **attend class regularly** and be actively thinking about and using the material as it is discussed. Additionally, strong students are thoughtful and deliberate about how they actively engage with the material outside of class. Teaching experts suggest that students devote approximately 2-3 hours a week to studying for every 1 credit of coursework. That means **you should be willing to devote at least 6-9 hours a week to this course** if you desire an “A”. **Reading the textbook** is a requirement for this course, but it is not sufficient to earn a good grade. It is unreasonable to expect to earn a grade above a C+ if the only “studying” you do is reading the textbook and taking notes on the study guide. Studying effectively for a 300-level Psychology course involves more than merely underlying sentences, memorizing definitions, etc. The Blackboard website has several resources (in External Links) that will help you **identify and implement useful study strategies**. In general, when you are reading the textbook, reviewing your notes, or studying, consider asking yourself the following questions to determine if you *really* understand the material you’ve been studying: 1) Can I (sufficiently and accurately) describe the main point of this paragraph, or the “take home message” of the study described, without looking at the book or notes?; 2) Can I apply these concepts to understand hypothetical or “real world” situations? In other words, can I generate new examples of these concepts?; 3) Can I compare/contrast these concepts with others I’ve learned in this course? 4) Do I understand why the anecdotal and research examples given illustrate this concept?

GRADING POLICY

Course grades will be based on total points earned from the following sources:

<u>COURSE ACTIVITY</u>		<u>POINT VALUE</u>
Exam #1 & #2	2 x 40 pts each	80 pts
Final Exam		55 pts
In-Class Engagement	several x 1-2 pts	21 pts
Out-of-Class Engagement	several x 2 pts	24 pts
Online Quizzes	3 x 10 pts each	30 pts
Plagiarism Assign.		10 pts
Chapter Analysis Assign.		40 pts
Group Assignment Proposal		15 pts
Group Assignment Paper		50 pts
Extra Credit	2 x 6 pts each	12 pts

*These course activities are subject to change. Total of 325 points, not including extra credit.

Exams: There will be two, non-cumulative, multiple-choice exams in this course, and a semi-cumulative final exam. Specifically, on the final exam, about 75% of the questions will come from the material covered since the last exam, and about 25% of the questions will come from prior material (this is the cumulative portion). The final exam may include both multiple-choice and short answer questions. Study guides for all exams will be posted on Blackboard a week before the exam.

Late Work/Make-up Policy: It is the student's responsibility to contact the professor in a timely manner (within a week of the exam) and make arrangements for a make-up exam. Make-up exams are negotiable if 1) you have a good reason and coordinate with the professor at least one week before the scheduled exam; or 2) you provide documented evidence of an unexpected, excused absence.

In-Class Engagement (and Attendance): To encourage attendance and active engagement in class, students will complete "pop" in-class activities throughout the semester that assess understanding and use of content covered during class sessions.

Grading: These activities are completed during the class session, and will be worth approximately 1-2 points. In-class assignments are graded on a pass/fail basis.

Late Work/Make-up Policy: Late work will be accepted if the student provides documented evidence of an excused absence within a week of the assignment's original deadline (see the Course Policy section for a description of "excused" and "unexcused" absences).

Out-of-Class Engagement/Online Summary: To encourage active engagement with the course material outside of class, students will write and post summaries of their learning on the Blackboard Discussion Forum.

Grading: Summaries are required for each topic/chapter (excluding Introduction /Chapter 1) and should include 1) a brief summary of the student's understanding of one specific concept from this chapter, and 2) a thoughtful description of how this concept manifests in everyday life. Summaries are graded on a scale from 0 (did not turn in or poor quality) to 2 (sufficiently thoughtful/detailed).

Late Work/Make-up Policy: The deadline for summaries is 4pm on the dates stated below (see Schedule of Readings and Assignments). Given students have several days to complete these summaries, late summaries are only accepted if the student provides documentation of an excused absence that prevented their participation for the duration the assignment was available. Otherwise, 1 point is deducted for each day the assignment is late.

Online Quizzes: To encourage distributed learning (i.e., studying continuously over the course of the semester, rather than only right before an exam), three quizzes are assigned, to be completed a week before each exam. These quizzes will be completed through Blackboard and will assess students' understanding of the core topics that will appear on the upcoming exam. A secondary purpose is to help students identify the concepts they know well vs. need to review in more depth in preparation for the upcoming exam. You are encouraged to use your book and notes but NOT other people when completing the online quizzes.

Late Work/Make-up Policy: The deadline for quizzes is 4pm on the due date. Given quizzes are available for a week, late quizzes are only accepted if the student provides documentation of a week-long excused absence.

Plagiarism Assignment: In preparation for the two major writing assignments in this course, this Plagiarism Assignment assesses students' ability to identify and prevent plagiarism. Instructions are provided in a separate document on Blackboard.

Grading: This assignment is graded on a pass/fail basis.

Late Work/Make-up Policy: The deadline for this assignment is 4pm on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day it is late.

Chapter Analysis Assignment: All courses at GVSU attempt to teach broad skills as well as the course's particular content. This is especially true of General Education courses. To hone your critical thinking skills, the chapter analysis assignment will involve reading and analyzing two chapters from the online readings available on the *Center for Cross-Cultural Research* website. Additionally, this assignment will also help you become more comfortable reading scientific writing and accessing original sources for useful, unbiased information. Instructions and tips are provided in a separate document on Blackboard.

Late Work/Make-up Policy: The deadline for this assignment is 4pm on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day it is late.

Comparing Cultures Group Assignment: Learning to collaborate effectively is another skill set that will benefit you now and after graduation. I know, I know...you hate group work. However, group work is an inherent part of life as a social animal living in a society; learning HOW to coordinate and collaborate more effectively will facilitate your future collaborations and may even change your mind about the pleasures and pains of group work. The major, culminating project for this course will involve groups of 3 to 4 students identifying a psychological topic of interest (e.g., attachment style, major depressive disorder, etc.), locating research from different cultures that relates to this topic, and collaboratively writing a paper that summarizes and synthesizes this research. Students will also evaluate their performance and the performance of their groupmates at the end of the semester; these evaluations will contribute to the overall grade for this assignment. Additional documents on Blackboard provide thorough instructions and tips for completing the assignment.

Late Work/Make-up Policy: The deadline for this assignment is 4pm on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day it is late.

Extra Credit Opportunities: The campus community provides a lot of programs and events to encourage GVSU students, faculty, and staff to learn about and develop an appreciation for cultural experiences and perspectives different from their own. Students interested in earning extra credit can participate in on-campus or community events that relate to culture or diversity. An additional document (on Blackboard) provides instructions for completing the extra credit write-up. Up to 12 points can be earned (6 points per assignment).

Late Work/Make-up Policy: Since extra credit assignments can be turned in at any time throughout the semester, late assignments will not be accepted.

Final grades are determined using this scale:

Grade	% Earned	Grade	% Earned
A	94 and above	C	73 - 76.9
A-	90 - 93.9	C-	70 - 72.9
B+	87 - 89.9	D+	67 - 69.9
B	83 - 86.9	D	63 - 66.9
B-	80 - 82.9	F	62.9 and below
C+	77 - 79.9		

These are firm cut-offs. I only round up if a grade is $> .95$ (e.g., 82.96% will be rounded up to an 83%, but an 82.94% would not be rounded up). It is your responsibility to ensure your grade is where you want it to be at the end of the semester. This includes reaching out to your professor to discuss strategies for improving your learning and mastery of the course material and ensuring your efforts translate into mastery.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Scheduled Topic</u>
Jan. 6 th (M), 8 th (W)	Chapter 1	Introduction to the Course
Jan. 10 th (F), 13 th (M), 15 th (W), 17 th (F)	Chapter 3	Cultural Evolution Online Summary #1 Due Jan. 17th
Jan. 17th (F)		Plagiarism Assignment Due
Jan. 20th (M)		NO CLASS - MLK DAY
Jan. 22 nd (W), 24 th (F), 27 th (M)	Chapter 4	Cultural Research Methods Online Summary #2 Due Jan. 27th
Jan. 29 th (W), 31 st (F), Feb. 3 rd (M)	Chapter 5	Development and Socialization Online Summary #3 Due Feb. 3rd
Jan. 29th (W)		Online Quiz #1 Due
Feb. 5th (W)		EXAM #1
Feb. 7 th (F), 10 th (M), 12 th (W)	Chapter 6	Self and Personality Online Summary #4 Due Feb. 12th
Feb. 12th (W)		Chapter Analysis Assignment Due
Feb. 14 th (F), 17 th (M), 19 th (W)	Chapter 8	Motivation Online Summary #5 Due Feb. 19th
Feb. 21 st (F), 24 th (M), 26 th (W), March 9 th (M)	Chapter 9	Cognition and Perception Online Summary #6 Due March 9th
Feb. 28th (F)		NO CLASS - WORK ON PROJECT PROPOSAL
March 2nd (M), 4th (W), 6th (F)		NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK
March 11 th (W), 13 th (F), 16 th (M)	Chapter 10	Emotions Online Summary #7 Due March 16th
March 11th (W)		Comparing Cultures Proposal Due Online Quiz #2 Due
March 18th (W)		EXAM #2

March 20 th (F), 23 rd (M), 25 th (W)	Chapter 11	Attraction, Relationships, Groups Online Summary #8 Due March 25th
March 27 th (F), 30 th (M), April 1 st (W)	Chapter 12	Morality, Religion & Justice Online Summary #9 Due April 1st
April 3 rd (F), 6 th (M)	Chapter 13	Physical Health Online Summary #10 Due April 6th
April 3rd (F)		Comparing Cultures Project Assignment Due
April 8 th (W), 10 th (F)	Chapter 14	Mental Health Online Summary #11 Due April 10th
April 13 th (M), 15 th (W), 17 th (F)	Chapter 7	Multiculturalism Online Summary #12 Due April 17th
April 13th (M)		All Extra Credit Due
April 15th (W)		Online Quiz #3 Due
Wednesday, April 22nd from 12-1:50pm		FINAL EXAM

*This schedule (including assigned readings) is subject to change. Students are responsible for any changes announced in class or on Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES

*This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>.

Withdrawing from a Course: The ultimate deadline for withdrawing from this course (or any course at GVSU) is Friday, March 6th at 5pm.

Attendance Policy: You are adults, so you should be able to regulate your behavior and evaluate the costs and benefits of your decisions, including whether or not you attend class sessions. Attendance is not required, but strongly recommended. If you miss class, you are strongly encouraged to download the abbreviated lecture notes from Blackboard and supplement these with notes from your classmates.

Excused vs. Unexcused Absences and Documentation: The following is an excerpt from the University Class Attendance policy:

“Absences due to the following reasons should be treated as excused: 1) absences of students who miss class due to active participation in an intercollegiate event; 2) absences due to the observance of religious holidays, see PC 9.6, Religious Inclusion Policy; 3) absences due to military duty; 4) absences due to jury duty, or appearance in court or other government hearings; 5) student medical conditions that preclude class attendance; 6) birth or adoption of child; and 7) absences due to attendance at an academic and/or professional conference.”

In this course, the list of excused absences is expanded to also include: absences due to 8) medical or professional appointments (e.g., job interviews), 9) medical conditions of a loved one; 10) funerals/memorial services; and 10) previously scheduled family celebrations (e.g., weddings, etc.). In all cases, excused absences must be documented. If you are aware of a previously scheduled excused absence - a wedding, intercollegiate event, doctor's

appointment, etc. – arrangements for your absence must be made in advance of that event. Of course, arrangements for unanticipated excused absences – illness, death of a loved one, etc. – can be made after the event. In general, excused absences are due to events that are scheduled or occur beyond the student’s control. Early weekends are unexcused absences.

General Late Work/Make-Up Policy: Written assignments completed outside the classroom should be turned in via email to your professor (deankr@gvsu.edu), unless otherwise noted. An assignment is considered late if it is turned in after 4pm on the day it is due. See the specific instructions for each assignment (above) for information about make-up/late assignments.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you need academic accommodations because of a learning, physical, or other disability, please contact Disability Support Resources (DSR) at 331-2490. Although students with disabilities are held to the same academic standards as all other students, accommodations will be provided for you, as appropriate. Please begin coordinating with your professor as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester. Furthermore, if you have a physical disability and think you will need assistance evacuating the classroom and/or building in an emergency situation, please contact me so I can develop a plan to assist you.

Technology Use: You are welcome to use computers/tablets during class for note-taking. However, the use of technology for personal reasons (e.g., checking email, using Facebook) during class is highly inappropriate and disrespectful to other students and myself. Please silence and put away all phones during class. I will use my discretion in reducing grades for those students who are using computers or other technology in a distracting or disrespectful manner when class is in session.

Classroom Conduct: We are all capable of conducting ourselves in a civil and respectable manner. It is your responsibility to limit rude and distracting behavior (e.g., excessing talking during class, eating meals, etc.). By comparison, active participation in class activities and discussions is strongly encouraged! But please be mindful of whether you are preventing your classmates from contributing. It is okay to disagree with others, and it is okay to express non-mainstream views. However, bigotry and disrespect are unacceptable. Think about what you want to say, edit if necessary, then speak. Disrespectful students will be chastised, asked to leave, and/or removed from class by campus police.

Statement on Academic Dishonesty: The following is adapted from the Student Code, Sections 223.00 and 223.01: The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. This means that all academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid of any kind.

- a. No student shall knowingly procure, provide or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment.
- b. No student shall complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.

- c. No student shall allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person.
- d. No student shall submit work that has been previously graded, or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course, without specific authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.
- e. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his/her own. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs, to entire articles copied from the internet, books, periodicals, speeches, or from the writings of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgement also is considered plagiarism. In short, any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for the ideas or materials that have been taken from another is guilty of plagiarism.

Students can (and are encouraged to) study together, but all assignments and exams should be the sole work of the individual student, unless otherwise stated. Also, students should strive to avoid the *appearance* of dishonesty; these are behaviors associated with academic dishonesty (i.e., checking phone during exam, completing quizzes together) that raise concerns that you may be potentially dishonest in your work. Any violation of academic integrity, even on a small scale, can result in a failing grade in the course.

Blackboard: The course Blackboard (BB) website will help you succeed in this course. It is the student's responsibility to visit BB and stay current of the material posted in this forum. BB will be used in the following ways:

- 1) **Grades:** All grades will be posted on BB in a timely manner. For security reasons, I only discuss grades over email if the student initiates that conversation.
- 2) **Course materials:** When possible, all course materials will be posted on BB. Review guides will be posted 1 week before the scheduled exam. Abbreviated lecture slides will be posted on BB before class. I also post links to fun and/or educational Culture & Psychology-related websites.
- 3) **Announcements:** All major announcements will be posted on BB within 24 hours.
- 4) **Out-of-Class Engagement:** Separate BB Discussion folders are available; this is where students will post summaries demonstrating their knowledge and application of key concepts for each topic/chapter.
- 4) **Quizzes:** Three quizzes will be administered via BB.

Library Resources: The library has Peer Research Consultants that can work with you one-on-one or in a small group to assist you with research. Information about Peer Research Consultants can be found on the library homepage (also linked on BB). Also, the Psychology Library Subject Guide (<https://libguides.gvsu.edu/psych>, also on BB) contains links to all of the psychology databases and other specific resources for psychology students.