

**TITLE: CROSS CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD
DEVELOPMENT - PSYC 400**

LANGUAGE: English

TOTAL HOURS: 45 hours

CREDITS: 3 credits

DESCRIPTION

Psychology has conventionally situated itself as universally applicable science, however, it can be described as a “modernist” and European-American phenomenon. This course explores the cultural aspects of psychology, examining how biology, psychology, and culture interact in the context of contemporary Spanish and North American societies. One of the key contributions of cultural psychology is thematizing the different filters that moderate how psychological phenomena are understood. These filters, which operate at both conceptual and epistemological levels in large part circumscribe how psychology is studied and applied. This course will provide a conceptual foundation for the understanding of psychology and culture, with a focus on human development, the self, intergroup relations, and cross-cultural communication. The study abroad experience will be used to experientially examine and apply the material covered in class. Finally, wider application of the material in the context of mental health and its care will be explored.

On a Jacksonville University transcript this course will appear as **PSYC 400 Special Topics: Cross Cultural Approach to Psychology - PSYC 400*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will gain knowledge of:

- The concepts of culture, race, and ethnicity.
- The concepts of absolutism, universalism and relativism, and relate them to the emic-etic differentiation in the context of cross-cultural psychology.
- A bio-psycho-sociocultural approach to human development and mental health.
- Problems and compensating strategies in cross-cultural research
- The relationship between culture, race, and immigration on mental health
- Pitfalls and optimizing strategies related to the study abroad experience, drawing from the cross-cultural psychology literature
- Cultural competence and intercultural communication

METHODOLOGY

The course will use a combination of guided lectures, classroom interaction, student presentations and tours of the city as well as emphasis on class debates to integrate and reflect on theories and experiences.

EVALUATION

Attendance to classes and field trips is mandatory; poor attendance will affect the final grade of the student as well as the everyday participation grade.

The final grade consists of six different parts: class participation, class presentation, photo project, a midterm written exam, a final written exam, and a final paper.

The breakdown of grades is made up as follows:

Class participation	15%
Class presentation	15%
Journal/forum/Photo Project	10%
Midterm written exam	20%
Final written exam	20%
Final paper	20%

Class participation: Active class participation includes coming to class prepared and on time, having read the material for that day and show active reflection on that material, answering questions from the professor, generating questions and engaging in group activities using required reading for that day. Students are encouraged to express their opinions in class with the professor and the other students.

Exams: Both the midterm and the final exams may contain a mix of short answer and essay questions aimed to test the students' full comprehension of facts and the ability to argue his/her opinions based on class material.

The guidelines for exams are as follows-

- Any student found cheating will automatically fail this examination. Additional sanctions may be imposed.
- Talking or communicating with other students during the examination is forbidden.
- Desks must be cleared of all books, notes and papers. All unauthorized materials must be put away and remain out of sight throughout the examination.
- All telephones and electronic devices must be turned completely off during the exam.
- Students arriving later than 15 minutes will not be allowed into the classroom to take the examination, subject to the decision of the instructor.
- At the end of the examination students will remain seated until their papers are collected. No one may leave the room until excused.
- Should assistance be required, students will attract the attention of the instructor.
- Failure to follow these rules will automatically lead to failure of this examination.

Presentation: Students will be required to "co-teach" a portion of one class along with the professor, in which the student will present the reading in question, note the key concepts or ideas presented, generate questions for class discussion, and provide a brief critical response to the reading.

Students will **keep a weekly journal** in which they will apply the class materials to their personal experience. Those informal reflections may serve as a foundation for the Photo-project, as well as the Final paper.

Photo-Project in pairs: Students will choose **10 photos** to present their personal evolution and experiences during their study-abroad-journey. They are required to connect them to and illustrate cross-cultural concepts of their choice seen in class, take perspective from their initial reactions and

show critical thinking about themselves. Presentations will take place at the end of the sojourn during the two last classes.

Final paper: Students will write a paper about either the “cross-cultural experience of study abroad” applying class material, or about a topic of their interest relevant to cross-cultural psychology. Whereas the journals can function as “field notes” for the paper, however, the paper is a formal academic endeavour. Students are expected to demonstrate original and critical thinking as well as analytical reflection from scholarly research cited properly. By the middle of the sojourn students are required to submit a brief proposal in which they describe what they will write their paper on along with an “action plan”.

FIELD STUDIES

Each course will include a minimum of 2 field studies. These field studies will be directly related to the course work, and may include visits to monuments, companies, government buildings, or museums. A potential field study is a tour of the Raval neighborhood.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

SIS programs foster critical thinking and intellectual development of its students. In doing so, SIS requires that students introduce their original thoughts, opinions, and ideas in all of their assignments with the support of cited sources. Any violations of academic integrity, such as cheating, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, academic misconduct, fabrication, misuse or misrepresentation of research, and noncompliance, may result in an automatic *F* or immediate dismissal from the program if the student falls below the minimum number of credits required for the term; 12 credits during the semester, or 3 hours during the summer.

Cheating: Any action that violates the rules and guidelines given by the instructor for submitting assignments or exams.

Plagiarism: Any action that presents the ideas, opinions, research, etc. of another as your own.

- Directly copying another’s work without citing sources
- Submitting another person’s work into your own without properly citing the source(s) used.
- Paraphrasing another person’s work without providing appropriate citations

Self-plagiarism: Submitting a piece of one’s own work to receive credit for multiple assignments in one or more class.

Academic Misconduct: Any act that impedes or threatens the open exchange, expression, or flow of information or fair evaluation of students. This includes intimidation and complicity in any acts or attempts to interfere with the ethical and fair submission and evaluation of student work.

Fabrication: Providing inaccurate or false information, including research findings, quotes, and cited sources, etc.

Non-compliance: Failure to comply with the values, objectives, and procedures contained in this policy.

As SIS is accredited by Jacksonville University, students are held accountable to JU's [Academic Integrity and Code of Conduct](#). You are expected to read and understand the JU terms and regulations of Academic Misconduct.

(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PyZmNOEAH1o4bKVZdZXVYKw-wdiwXewx/view>)

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Semester: Students are allowed THREE absences throughout the semester without penalty. Starting with the fourth absence, the student's FINAL GRADE will be lowered by a fraction of a letter (1/3 of a letter grade). For example, if a student has 4 absences and a final grade of B+, the grade will be lowered to a B, if 5 absences the grade is lowered to B-.

Summer: Students are allowed TWO absences throughout the summer without penalty. Starting with the third absence, the student's FINAL GRADE will be lowered by a fraction of a letter (1/3 of a letter grade). For example, if a student has 4 absences and a final grade of B+, the grade will be lowered to a B, if 5 absences the grade is lowered to B-.

**January Term students are allowed TWO absences as well.*

There are NO excused absences. If a student misses class because s/he is sick, that counts as one of the allowed absences. No excused absences and no excuses.

Quizzes, exams and participation points that are missed because of an absence cannot be recuperated.

Students that arrive late 5 minutes or more will receive a 0 for participation for the day.

COURSE CONTENT

Session	Content
1	Introduction to the Course expectations
2	When cultures collide: Shakespeare in the bush
3	What is cross-cultural psychology? Overview of the interaction of culture and psychology
4	Basic Concepts I: Culture and Race Explore the meaning and relevance of race, culture, and ethnicity in the U.S. and Spain
5	Epistemological Perspectives: Emic-etic and cultural values
6	Research in cross-cultural psychology
7	Intercultural Competence
8	Human development and culture Bio-psycho-social model of human development
9	Family relations across cultures
10	Study Abroad Discussion of study abroad experience in context of class concepts and readings

11	MIDTERM REVIEW
12	MIDTERM
13	Identity and the Self Across Cultures I: Ethnic and Bicultural Identity Personal ethnic identity measurement and analyzation
14	Identity and the Self Across Cultures II: Racial Identity Personal racial identity measurement and analyzation
15	Adolescence Across Cultures
16	Culture and Mental Health The “4 Exes” of culture and mental health (experience; expression; explanation; expectations)
17	Immigration and Mental Health I: Acculturation
18	Immigration and Mental Health II: Acculturative Stress and Coping
19	Minorities and Mental Health I: Racism Implicit association test on skin color/racism Analyzation of the “reality” and racism in the U.S. and Spain
20	Sojourners & Study Abroad II: How Goes?
21	Intercultural Interactions I: Intercultural Communication
22	Intercultural Interactions 2: Psychotherapy
23	PRESENTATIONS
24	Re-entry: Strategies to Optimize Re-entry
25	MIDTERM REVIEW

***Number of sessions vary depending on term.**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required readings:

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