

PSY 132 - PSYCHOLOGY AND CULTURE

Spring 2005

Section: 4424	Professor: Dr. B. A. Gray
Class Times: TR 10:30-11:45 am	Phone: 423-6777
Room: SB 144	E-mail: dr.gray@sccmail.maricopa.edu
	Office: SB 146
	Office Hours:
	MWF: 8:00-8:30 am & 10:20-10:50 am
	TR: 8:00-9:00 am
	Other times by appointment

OPTIONAL TEXT:

Shiraev, E. & Levy, D. (2001). Introduction to Cross-Cultural Psychology: Critical Thinking and Contemporary Applications. Needham Heights, Massachusetts: Allyn & Bacon.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Presents current knowledge about human diversity in behavior and culture using examples from a variety of contexts and nations. Highlights topics in cross-cultural psychology, such as intergroup relations, ethnocentrism, gender, personality, emotion, language, communication, work and health. Emphasis on applications of behavioral and cognitive principles to enhance interactions in a multicultural world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce the student to the science and the practice of cross-cultural psychology, with an emphasis on comparing cultures in the United States.
2. To introduce the students to major theories, research, methods, terminology, concepts, and principles within cross-cultural psychology.
3. To help the students gain a better awareness and understanding of, and sensitivity to, human diversity in behavior and culture.
4. To foster critical thinking skills and interpersonal skills when learning about or interacting with individuals of diverse cultures.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will be taken each class meeting and will be considered in determining final course grades, especially borderline grades. Students are responsible for attending class. Class lectures and activities are an important part of the learning process and it is expected that students will make every reasonable effort to attend all lectures. If for some reason it is necessary for you to miss a class, I suggest you obtain lecture notes from another student.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

This structure of this course is in a seminar style, where students along with the professor will engage in shared learning experiences through a variety of discussions. Readings and activities will be used to enhance discussions. Student participation, both in completing the required readings and participating in class discussions, is essential for you to get the most out of this course, and to be successful in the course. This course provides students an opportunity to be involved in an exciting, dynamic and interactive learning experience.

PARTICIPATION:

Students are encouraged to become actively involved in the course to maximize the educational opportunities that can be obtained as well as to enhance the enjoyment of the course. There will be many opportunities for students to participate in class and points will be given for this participation. Each student will have ample opportunity to obtain participation points so there is no need to monopolize class time; rather, courteous behavior will be observed to allow everyone a chance to provide their opinions, ideas, and comments. Students can earn up to 50 participation points during the course of the semester. This represents approximately 17% of your course grade.

ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS:

Class activities, reading assignments, and/or course assignments / projects will be given each week. Some of these activities and assignments carry point values and some do not, but ALL are important to the learning process and for success in the class. See the handout on assignments for details and due dates. The assignments and projects that carry point values are together worth approximately 33% of your grade.

COURSE PORTFOLIO:

A project has been developed to help you learn more about diversity and to enhance your appreciation and sensitivity to individuals of diverse backgrounds and diverse cultures. This project entails creating a course portfolio, the details of which are provided in a separate handout. The portfolio includes opportunities for you to research information, and for dynamic interpersonal interactions with diverse individuals, as part of the learning process. This portfolio is worth a maximum of 150 points, which is approximately 50% of your course grade. The quality of work done in your portfolio determines your grade for this project.

FORMAT:

All work that is turned in must be **typed, double-spaced** on 8.5"x 11" paper. Place your name in the upper right-hand corner of your paper. If there are multiple pages, then the pages must be **stapled** in the upper left-hand corner. Plagiarism (copying from another source) is grounds for a paper to be rejected. **Papers that do not follow these format criteria will not be accepted.**

GUEST SPEAKERS:

During the course of the semester, we may have the opportunity to have guest speakers come to class to speak about their culture. These are excellent opportunities to learn about a culture and to be able to ask someone questions which you may have regarding his/her culture. If guest speakers are brought to class, students are expected to attend and to be respectful. **Five (5) points will be deducted** from your semester grade for each class you miss when we are having a guest speaker, unless you have an acceptable excuse.

EXAMS:

- * There are no exams in this course.

PAPERS:

- * **No papers will be accepted after Thursday, April 28th, 2005.**

GRADES:

- * Grades are obtained and raised by participating in class activities, completing course readings, turning in course assignments and projects, and turning in a quality course portfolio. There is a total of 300 points possible for the course.
- * Your course grade is based on the total number of points you obtain during the entire semester. Your grade is calculated as a percentage of the points you obtained out of the total points possible according to the following scale:

A = 90% and above	=	270 - 300 points
B = 80 - 89%	=	240 - 269 points
C = 70 - 79%	=	210 - 239 points
D = 60 - 69%	=	180 - 209 points
F = 59% and below	=	0 - 179 points

COURSE WITHDRAWAL:

The instructor has the option of withdrawing a student who has accumulated unofficial absences in excess of the number of times a class meets per week. For example, if the course meets three (3) times a week, the instructor can withdraw a student if he/she has more than three (3) unexcused absences.

Although students may be withdrawn at the discretion of the instructor, it is not the responsibility of the instructor to withdraw any student for nonattendance. If you decide to drop the course, you must withdraw from the course administratively. Students who quit attending class but do not drop the course administratively may receive a failing grade.

HELP:

If you have any questions, difficulties, and/or would like help learning to study, please contact me at my office. I am willing to make any reasonable and appropriate accommodations for limitations due to any disability, including learning disabilities. If you have a special need, please come by my office so we can discuss the situation.

PROFESSOR'S STATEMENT:

As a tenured faculty member of the Department of Behavioral Science, I place a high priority on providing for students an academic environment that is rich in intellectual stimulation and that is conducive for learning to occur. Within this environment I am here in a facilitative role, to provide opportunities for learning and to be a resource for you to draw upon. While I strive to create a learner-centered environment, the ultimate responsibility for the acquisition of knowledge rests with you. I encourage you to take out of this class the most you possibly can.

This syllabus may be modified by the professor at any time! Modifications to the course syllabus and exact exam dates will be announced in class. It is the student's responsibility to keep abreast of modifications made in the course syllabus as well as to be informed of exact exam dates!