



PSY 351 Course Syllabus

TERM, Online Course
XX.XX.XX – XX.XX.XX



Instructor: Anna Pruitt, Ph.D.

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Office hours: MWF 10am—12pm and by appointment

About the Course

This course will provide an introduction to the central concepts and issues related to cross-cultural psychology, particularly related to defining and measuring cultural impacts on psychology. At the end of this course, students will know to define culture, how it interacts with the major research concentrations in the field of psychology, and the various ways in which culture is studied and measured. Students will be familiar with the role culture has played in the history of modern psychological research. Finally, students will be able to think critically about the role of culture in psychology, research, and in their own lives.

Class Requirements

Each week, students will be expected to complete the readings, review presentations/videos posted on Lulima, and post a comment on the Lulima forum by Sunday at 11:59pm. Additionally, students will submit two reflection papers which will be due by Sunday at 11:59pm on the week they are assigned. Finally, students will take three online exams.



Required Book:

Heine, S. J. (2016). *Culture and Psychology, 3rd Edition*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0-393-28913-8

Publisher's Website: <https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393263985>



Discussion Posts (50 points total): Each week, students will be required to respond to a prompt posted by the instructor on the Lulima forum. The purpose of discussion posts is to provide a space for students to think critically about class material and to ask questions of the instructor and their peers. These posts (worth 5 points each) will be graded for participation and not accuracy. The lowest grade will be dropped.



Reflection Papers (150 points total): Students will be required to complete two 1000-word reflection papers (worth 75 points each) in response to assigned films. The purpose of these papers is to apply course material by connecting it to the film and real life experiences. The instructor will post assignment sheets for each paper.



Exams (300 points each): Three exams, each worth 100 points, will be administered online during the course. The exams will include multiple choice, true or false, definitions, and/or short essays. Students will have 90 minutes to complete each exam once you begin. Exams will be available beginning Monday at 8:00AM HST and must be completed by 11:59PM HST on the following Sunday. Since exam time is already, **no make-ups** will be permitted.



Exam Alternative: In lieu of an exam, students may choose to demonstrate their knowledge of course material through an alternative method that aligns with their culture and/or learning style. Two weeks before the exam is due, the instructor will post a prompt that asks students to demonstrate their grasp of the material. Students may choose to respond in any way they like (write an essay, record a presentation, create artwork) as long as they **respond fully to the prompt using course material**. The instructor will discuss this option in more detail later in the semester and will post a grading rubric. Example prompts:

- discuss the ways in which your culture views cognition, sense of self, and personality differently from or similar to “mainstream” culture
- explain which research methods would work best to examine specific psychological phenomena in your culture
- discuss the ways in which enculturation works to prepare people to be successful adults in their culture and compare this process to enculturation in another culture.

Grading Policy

Assignments	Points	Perc.	Grading Breakdown:		
Discussion posts (5pts/ea.)	50	10%	A+ 485-500	A 465-484	A- 450-464
Reflection Paper 1	75	15%	B+ 435-449	B 415- 434	B- 400-414
Reflection Paper 2	75	15%	C+ 385-399	C 365-384	C- 350-364
Exam 1	100	20%	D+ 335-349	D 315-334	D- 300-314
Exam 2	100	20%	F <300		
Exam 3	100	20%			
Total:	500	100%			

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

By the end of the semester, students will have gained important knowledge and skills. Specific outcomes include increased:

- 1) **Psychological Knowledge: Synthesis and Application-** This class will address how culture relates to the major domains of psychology. Students will be able to describe how culture interacts with the key concepts and theories typically addressed in developmental, cognitive, social, and clinical domains of psychology.
- 2) **Scientific inquiry and critical thinking:** Students will be encouraged to think critically about culture and psychology. In doing so they will be asked to examine past and present psychological theories in light of research findings in the field of cross-cultural psychology that stress the importance of sociocultural factors on human psychology.

- 3) **Ethical and social responsibility in a diverse world:** Students will be encouraged to apply ethical standards to evaluate issues of culture in psychological science and practice. In particular, they will be encouraged to engage with psychology in a way that stresses respect for cultural diversity.
- 4) **Communication:** Through class discussion forums and writing assignments, students will have the opportunity to practice effectively communicating on topics related to cross-cultural psychology and research.
- 5) **Professional development:** Students will have the opportunity to learn about how culture interacts with a broad range of fields in psychology. Students will be encouraged through the discussion forums to consider how to apply course content to their own lives as well as to their home fields of study.

Frequently Asked Questions

Below are some questions students frequently ask. If you have additional questions, please contact the instructor.



What if I miss an assignment?

Contact me immediately and submit the assignment as soon as possible. Occasionally, students may have personal crises that affect their ability to participate in the course. In these situations, students should contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements.



Why don't you assign extra credit?

I prefer students concentrate their efforts on completing regular course credit, ensuring it is completed well and on time.



What if I'm going to be off island?

If you will not have internet access for a period of time, you should make arrangements beforehand to submit any assignments **before you leave**. You will be responsible for any readings and lectures assigned during this time.



Do we ever have to "attend" lectures at a certain time?

No, you can watch the lectures and do the readings at your leisure. As long as you meet deadlines listed on the course schedule, you may "attend" lectures at any time.



Will there be a study guide?

Yes, I try to post a study guide the week before the exam.

Reasonable Accommodations for students with disabilities

Please contact the KOKUA Program at (808) 956-7511 located at the Student Services Center on the ground floor, Room 013 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

“There are no occasions when people step outside of their cultural meaning systems and start to think instead like the universal human; our thoughts are forever bound up in our own cultural meanings systems.” – Heine, 2012