

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



MASTER SYLLABUS

PSYC 300 – Cultural Psychology

Created by: Barat Wolfe, Ph.D.

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
SPRING 2019**

- A. **TITLE:** Cultural Psychology
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** PSYC 300
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 lecture hour(s) per week for 15 weeks
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** None
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall or Spring

G. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, students will examine psychological concepts, theory, and research on variations and commonalities in human behavior, both within and across cultures. As a means of exploring the extent to which culture influences psychological phenomena, students will examine their own and different cultural practices and behaviors from around the world, and critically evaluate psychological topics from a cross-cultural perspective. Topics may include, but are not limited to: individualism and collectivism, perspectives on the self, culture and development, acculturation, among others.

- H. PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:** None Yes If yes, list below:
Introductory Psychology (PSYC 101) AND 45 credits.

I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

<i>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</i>	<i>PSLO</i>	<i>ISLO</i>
A. Demonstrate understanding of key concepts, principles, theories of cultural psychology, and cross-cultural methods	1. Knowledge Base in Psychology	5
B. Interpret, analyze, and synthesize cross-cultural research	2. Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking	2 [IA]
C. Apply ethical thinking and cultural sensitivity to evaluate and assess their own cultural practices and those of others	3. Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World	4 [ER, GL, IK]
D. Demonstrate effective and culturally competent written and oral presentation skills to make evaluative and persuasive arguments	4. Communication	1 [O,W]
E. Apply cultural theory and skills to complete course tasks using APA guidelines	5. Professional Development	5

KEY	<u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</u>
ISLO #	ISLO & Subset
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking <i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	Foundational Skills <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	Social Responsibility <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i>
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:** Yes No

K. **TEXTS:**

Suggested text:

Heine, S. J. (2016). *Cultural Psychology* (3rd ed). New York: Norton.

L. **REFERENCES:**

Henrich, J., Heine, S.J., & Norenzayan, A. (2010). The weirdest people in the world?
Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 33, 61-135.

Others to be determined by the instructor

M. **EQUIPMENT:** None Needed: Technology enhanced classroom

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

O. **SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

Exams, quizzes, essays, student presentations, writing assignments, and discussion

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

I. What is Cultural Psychology?

- A. What is culture
- B. Variance across cultures
- C. Why we should study cultural psychology

II. Culture and Human Nature

- A. The difference between humans and animals
- B. Cultural learning as human nature

III. Cultural Evolution

- A. Cultural variation
- B. Biological and cultural evolution
- C. Spreading of ideas
- D. Culture change
- E. Culture persistence

IV. Methods for Studying Culture and Psychology

- A. Cross-cultural methods
- B. Other methods (situation sampling, cultural priming, culture-level measures)
- C. Case study

V. Development and Socialization

- A. Universality of brains
- B. Sensitive periods
- C. Cultural differences across age
- D. Early childhood across different cultures
- E. Developmental transitions across cultures
- F. Education

VI. Self and personality

- A. Independent vs. interdependent views of self
- B. Ingroups and outgroups
- C. Individualism and collectivism
- D. Heterogeneity

- E. Gender
- F. Self-concept
- G. Personality
- VII. Living in Multicultural Worlds
 - A. Acculturation
 - B. Multiculturalism
- VIII. Motivation
 - A. Self-enhancement and self-esteem
 - B. Religion
 - C. Achievement motivation
 - D. Control and agency
 - E. Fitting in vs. sticking out
- IX. Cognition and Perception
 - A. Analytic and holistic thinking
 - B. Attention
 - C. Fundamental attribution error
 - D. Reasoning
 - E. Creative thinking
 - F. Linguistic relativity
- X. Emotions
 - A. What are emotions
 - B. Emotions across culture
 - C. Language
 - D. Cultural variation in emotional experiences (e.g., happiness)
- XI. Interpersonal Attraction and Close Relationships
 - A. Attractiveness
 - B. Similarity-attraction effect
 - C. Elementary forms of relationships
 - D. Friends and enemies
 - E. Love

- XII. Morality, Religion, and Justice
 - A. Ethnocentrism and interpreting variability
 - B. Kohlberg and moral development
 - C. Autonomy, community, and divinity
 - D. Culture wars
 - E. Morality of thoughts
 - F. Culture and fairness
- XIII. Physical Health
 - A. Biological variability
 - B. Culture and sleep
 - C. Culture and health
 - D. Medicine and culture
- XIV. Mental Health
 - A. What is a psychological disorder
 - B. Culture-bound syndromes
 - C. Universal syndromes

D. Mental health treatment

Q. **LABORATORY OUTLINE:** N/A