



KIIS Austria Program, Summer 2018

PSY 355 Cross-Cultural Psychology

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Syllabus subject to change

Course Description

The main goals of psychology are to increase our understanding of human behavior and mental processes, and to use this information to make people's lives better. Cross-cultural psychology is the branch of psychology that studies the ways in which culture shapes human thought and behavior. This course is designed to explore the impact of culture on some of the major principles, theories, and applications of psychology.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

Students will...

1. Apply ideas from research in cross-cultural psychology to their life and experiences in Austria.
How assessed: reaction papers, mini-presentation, final presentation
2. Teach and learn from classmates the various ideas from cross-cultural psychology. How assessed: jigsaw activities

Additional hopes

Students will...

1. Increase their sensitivity and awareness of the differences and similarities of people from different cultures.
2. Improve their understanding of the idiosyncrasies of their own culture.

Required Text

There is not one single text book, but rather a series of readings that will be available online through a shared Google drive folder. You will need to complete a Reading Anticipation Guide (see below) before you come to class that will require you to complete the reading prior to the class in which we will discuss it.

Instructional Activities

The course will involve the following activities:

- Jigsaw activities (explained in class)
- Class discussions
- Field excursions and observation assignments organized for our entire travel group
- Short reaction papers
- Final presentation

Detailed instructions for all activities will be provided in class.

Field Excursions/Travel Days

When we take a travel day, you will be exploring culture related topics in the context of Bregenz's surrounding areas. To help structure this learning, when we travel, take a picture-taking device and be ready to take photos as directed for your field excursion assignments.

Attendance

You are required to attend all class meetings and excursions. Even one unexcused absence may result in failure of the course or dismissal from the program.

Reading Anticipation Guides (RAGs)

These short assignments are designed to prepare you for each reading. The idea is that you read the statements on each guide BEFORE you read the assigned reading, indicating if you agree or disagree with each. There is no right or wrong answer for these questions. Then as you read the reading you will discover if your initial answer was right or wrong. Then you should reflect on why you think you were right or wrong initially, and add any thoughts you have about the issue. You'll understand how it works once you see the RAGs.

Grading

Course grades will be based on the total number of points earned on each of the following activities:

- Reading anticipation guides (2 points each)
- Thought papers (5 points each)
- Jigsaw participation (2 points each)
- Final presentation (10 points)

Letter grades for the course will be assigned as follows:

90-100% of the total points available = A
80-89% of the total points available = B
70-79% of the total points available = C
60-69% of the total points available = D
0-59% of the total points available = F

Late Work/Make-up Work

Late work or make up work will be given at the discretion of the instructor. The validity of an excuse given as a reason for missing an exam or assignment will be determined by the instructor with consultation from the program director if needed. The instructor reserves the right to not allow late work or make-up work, or to give late or make-up work which is more difficult or in a different form than the original.

What to bring to class

1. The reading for the day.
2. Your RAG for that reading.
3. Any notetaking device you may want to use. (e.g., notebook, piece of paper, laptop, tablet etc.)

PSYCHOLOGY 355
Topic, Reading and Assignment Schedule*

| Date | Topic | Read this before coming to class | Assignment Due |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| 27-May | Syllabus/class overview | The German Way - Dining The German Way - Time and Punctuality The German Way – Privacy (One RAG for all three) | RAG |
| 28-May | Groups | | |
| 30-May | Ethnocentrism | Body Ritual Among the Nacirema | RAG, Alpha Beta Reaction |
| 31-May | Cultural Dimensions | Dimensionalizing Cultures - The Hofstede Model in Context Optional reading: The GLOBE study | RAG, IAT reaction paper |
| 4-June | Tell us about your homestay discussion | | |
| 5-June | Culture and personality | Culture and Theories of Personality Individualism v Collectivism | RAG, "Tell us about your homestay" reaction paper |
| 6-June | Culture and Individual differences | Sexual Minorities in Diverse Cultures Women Across Cultures Optional Reading: Gender and Culture | RAG, Individualism and Collectivism reaction paper |
| 11-June | Culture and Individual differences (cont.) | | Your worst experience so far paper |
| 13-June | Catch-up day Tech tutorial for presentations | | |

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| 18-June | Culture and Developmental psychology | <p>Patterns of parenting: The warmth dimension in worldwide perspective</p> <p>Where does the baby sleep?</p> <p>Emerging adulthood</p> | RAG |
| 19-June | Culture and Psychological Disorders | Somatization vs. Psychologization of Emotional Distress | RAG |
| 20-June | Culture and Social psychology | <p>Correcting Our Stereotype of Stereotypes</p> <p>When the majority becomes the minority</p> | RAG |
| 21-June | Presentations | | |