



## KIIS Austria Program, Summer 2020

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### PSY 355 Cross-Cultural Psychology

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**Instructor's office hours:** on site and by appointment

*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.

### Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

#### KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS creates and offers high-quality education abroad programs for students from diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help transform students into global citizens who have personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizing headlines and outdated cultural clichés to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

#### Students participating in KIIS Study Abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Articulate the relationship between ideas, experiences, and place;
- 2) Develop tools to engage with diverse people in the local cultures; and,
- 3) Explore other peoples' values and clarify their own.

#### In the equivalent of one, single-spaced typed page, reflect on:

*How has this experience made you think – or act – differently about the world around you? Please consider the 3 SLOs discussed. Please don't consider course content in your response; instead, think beyond it, and be as specific as possible.*

### 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...

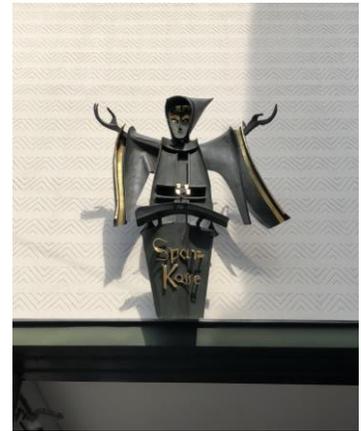
1. Increase their sensitivity and awareness of the differences and similarities of people from different cultures.
2. Improve their understanding of the idiosyncrasies of their own culture.

### **Major topics covered in the course**

Research methods, ethnocentrism, gender/sexuality, personality, individual differences, developmental psychology, abnormal psychology, and social psychology.

### **Required Readings and Materials**

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.



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### **Attendance**

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

### **Graded Assignments**

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 papers
- Most Important Concepts reflections
- 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.



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### Reading Anticipation Guides (RAG)

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.

### Most Important Concepts (MICs)

I will be asking you what you think the most important concept was for each day we have a class discussion about cross cultural psychology. More on these in class.

### Short papers

The short papers will follow up on class discussions. These are typically 1 or 2 pages long and are meant as reflections rather than research or investigation. I don't want you spending lots of time in your rooms writing papers.

### Presentation

You will make a video presentation that ties your experiences while abroad to the course materials. I'll explain more about the content of the presentations, and how to create them (it's easy), in class.

### Grading

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

| Source of points                          | % of the final grade |
|---|----------------------|
| 8 RAGs – 2 points each, 16 points total   | 20%                  |
| 10 MICs – 2 points each, 20 points total  | 25%                  |
| 5 short papers – 5 points each, 25 points | 30%                  |
| 1 presentation – 20 points                | 25%                  |
| <b>81 points total</b>                    | <b>100%</b>          |

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 (can be electronic version).
2. Your completed RAG for that reading (can be electronic version).
3. Laptop, tablet, or any device that can access the web.

### **Disability Accommodation:**

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Office Manager, Haley McTaggart, [haley.mctaggart@wku.edu](mailto:haley.mctaggart@wku.edu), to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Office Manager, Haley McTaggart, [haley.mctaggart@wku.edu](mailto:haley.mctaggart@wku.edu), if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program. If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Office Manager, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will contact your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter. In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

### **Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:**

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson (270-745-5398 / [andrea.anderson@wku.edu](mailto:andrea.anderson@wku.edu)) or WKU's Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe (270-

745-5429 / [michael.crowe@wku.edu](mailto:michael.crowe@wku.edu)) or Joshua Hayes (270-745-5121 / [joshua.hayes@wku.edu](mailto:joshua.hayes@wku.edu)). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/titleixbrochure.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.



*from Google Maps*

| <b>Psychology 355</b>                           |                                      |   |                                    |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Topic, Reading, and Assignment Schedule*</b> |                                      |   |                                    |
| <b>Date</b>                                     | <b>In Class</b>                      | <b>Read and complete RAG before coming to class</b>   | <b>Assignment Due</b>              |
| 24-May  | Syllabus/class overview              |   |                                    |
| 25-May  | Cultural Psychology                  | The German Way – Dining; Time and Punctuality; Privacy<br>[One RAG for all three]                                   |                                    |
| 27-May  | Ethnocentrism                        | Miner (1956)  | Biases in real life paper          |
| 28-May  | Cultural Dimensions                  | Hofstede (2011)   | IAT paper                          |
| 1-June  | Homestay discussion                  | [no reading or RAG]   |                                    |
| 2- June   | Culture and gender/sexuality         | Wade & Tavris<br>Buss (1994)  |                                    |
| 3-June  | Culture and personality              | Triandis (2001)<br>[Read through p. 917]  |                                    |
| 8-June  | Culture and Individual differences   | Schmitt, Allik, McCrae, & Benet-Martinez (2007)<br>[Focus on p. 173-179, Tables 3 & 5, Figures 1-5, and p. 196-212] |                                    |
| 10-June   | Catch-up day                         |   | Your worst experience so far paper |
| 15-June   | Culture and Developmental psychology | [no reading or RAG]   |                                    |
| 16-June   | Culture and Psychological Disorders  | Arkowitz & Lilienfeld (2009)  |                                    |
| 17-June   | Culture and Social psychology        | Myers (2016)<br>Drew, Slek & Mikulak (2016)   | Austrian cultural disorders paper  |
| 18-June   | Finals                               |   | Final Presentations                |

**\*The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the course.**