

**PSY612 Professional Issues II:
Cross Cultural Issues in Psychology
(2 credit hours)
Course Syllabus**

Course Description

This course will provide a comparative overview of cultural aspects and effects and their impact on human psychology. It will examine psychological diversity and the links between cultural norms and behavior. It will also review the ways in which particular aspects of human thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by social and cultural forces. In addition, this course will focus on the cultural influences that shape the personality, identity development, mental health, wellness, and pathology, and help-seeking practices and access and barriers to treatment. Cross-cultural research practices in the field of psychology will be presented and discussed.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Explain various cultural norms and how these norms impact and are manifested in human behavior.
2. Examine cross-cultural research and how it differs from the traditional conceptualization of research and knowledge in the field of psychology.
3. Differentiate between areas of knowledge in the field of psychology that are culture specific and culture-free.
4. Analyze cultural factors and influences that shape personality development and manifestation, feelings, and behaviors.
5. Analyze the role of culture and cultural influences in mental health, wellness, and pathology.
6. Analyze the impact of culture on help-seeking practices and access and barriers to treatment.
7. Evaluate different theories and models of cultural identity development.

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

Ma-Kellams, C. (2019). Cultural Psychology: Cross-Cultural and Multicultural Perspective. The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays**.
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays**.

Learning Activities

In this course, you will engage with a range of activities designed to deepen your understanding of how culture influences human behavior. Each week, we'll focus on different aspects of cultural psychology, using case studies and real-world scenarios to explore topics like cultural norms, identity, and biases.

You'll analyze films to understand societal roles related to class, religion, and gender, and conduct interviews to examine regional cultural diversity. While there are no required discussions, there will be plenty of opportunities to share your insights and engage with your

peers' perspectives. The course also includes reflective writing assignments, allowing you to explore cultural identity and acculturation in depth. In the latter part of the course, you'll work on projects that require you to compare different approaches to diversity, like multiculturalism and culture-blindness, and develop personal action plans for cultural understanding. The course aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of cultural psychology through practical, interactive learning experiences.

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Forums Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.2 (50)	Forums Activity 2.1 (50)	Forums Activity 3.1 (50)	Forums Activity 4.1 (50)	Forums Activity 5.1 (50)	Forums Activity 6.1 (50)	Forums Activity 7.1 (50)	350
Assignments Activity 1.3 (80)	Assignments Activity 2.2 (80)	Assignments Activity 3.2 (80)	Assignments Activity 4.2 (80)	Assignments Activity 5.2 (80)	Assignments Activity 6.2 (170)	Assignments Activity 7.2 (80)	650
130	130	130	130	130	220	130	1000

Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | F: <69%

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Start Here

- MON: Activity 1.1: Introduction Forum - Introductory Post

Week 1 – Introduction to Cultural Psychology and Cultural Norms

- WED: Activity 1.1: Introduction Forum – Secondary Post
- WED: Activity 1.2: Understanding and Comparing Cultural Norms
- SUN: Activity 1.3: Decision-making in a Cultural Context

Week 2 – Social Class, Religion, and Gender

- WED: Activity 2.1: Cultural Themes in Film
- SUN: Activity 2.2: Analyzing Culture in Media

Week 3 – Regional Differences and Human Universals

- WED: Activity 3.1: Regional Influences and Human Universals

- SUN: Activity 3.2: Reflection on Regionalism and Human Universals

Week 4 – Intergroup Conflict and Stereotyping

- WED: Activity 4.1: Stereotyping, Prejudice, Discrimination
- SUN: Activity 4.2: Personal Reflection and Action Plan

Week 5 – Ingroup Derogation, Identity, and Acculturation

- WED: Activity 5.1: Ingroup Derogation and Acculturation Experiences
- SUN: Activity 5.2: Strategies for Embracing Identity

Week 6 – Multiculturalism and Culture-Blindness

- WED: Activity 6.1: Compare Approaches – Culture-Blind vs. Multicultural
- SUN: Activity 6.2: Developing Culturally Competent Solutions

Week 7 – The Future of Culture and Course Conclusion

- WED: Activity 7.1: Culture, Brian, and Future
- SUN: Activity 7.2: Analysis and Speculation Essay

Tips for Success

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

For More Information:

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.