

Term-specific Syllabus

Program: CET Prague

Course Code / Title: (PR/PSYC 252) Cross-Cultural Psychology

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Psychology / Sociology

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description

Psychology is the study of the mind, behaviour and affect. It is the study of what makes us human. Its aim is to increase knowledge about why we feel and behave the way we do. Our state of consciousness is in constant evolution and change; one of the main aspects of our understanding of the world we experience is the culture that our parents and ancestors come from and have raised us in. This fascinating factor will make up a fundamental part of the course, and we will explore it at length with particular emphasis on the Czech and European culture. Cross-cultural psychology describes how cultural differences in developmental, social and educational areas affect our individual psyche. The course will critically compare psychological and social research from different countries and introduce basic concepts from cultural psychology.

The course will introduce the field and sketch new frontiers in cross-cultural research.

Cross-cultural psychology touches upon a wide range of topics to allow students to find a deeper interest in the field and look into their own psyche with an open mind.

Objectives

During this course, students:

- gain an overview of the field as well as the various areas and schools of thought within the field

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- develop understanding of contemporary theories and research in cross-cultural psychology
- acquire tools for critical thinking in cross-cultural psychology
- get equipped to understand and critically assess how psychological processes differ among cultures
- learn to identify psychological processes that arise from cultural differences, explore cultural self-awareness as well as awareness of other cultures and the various aspects to compare
- increase their level of intercultural competence for positive interactions in culturally diverse environments.

Course Requirements

- Participation: Participation extends beyond mere attendance. It involves active contribution to role plays, cultural activities, and discussions;
- Four written reflections for a class portfolio on personal encounters during the study abroad and the application of the concepts of psychology discussed in class;
- Power Point presentation: 10-15 minutes oral presentation on a chosen topic, using scholarly literature, and leading a follow-up discussion with the classmates;
- Peer reviews of four student presentations, and a self-reflective assessment of one's own presentation;
- Final Essay is based on themes from the class and aims at a student's synthesis of the newly acquired knowledge on a subtheme chosen and approved by the professor

Attendance requirements are outlined in the CET Attendance Policy.

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

Active class participation	20%
Written reflections for a class portfolio, 4@5%	20%
Presentation	20%
Peer review of presentations, 4@2%	8%
Self-assessment of one's presentation	2%
Final essay	30%

Readings

Shiraev, E. B., Levy, D. A. (2013). Cross-cultural Psychology: Critical Thinking and Contemporary Applications. Fifth Edition. Pearson Education, Inc., USA.

Abu-Raiya, H., Pargament, K. I., & Krause, N. (2016). Religion as problem, religion as solution: Religious buffers of the links between religious/spiritual struggles and well-being/mental health. *Quality Of*

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- Gefland, MJ. (2017). The strength of social norms across human groups. *Perspectives in Psychological Science*.
- Genkova, P., Herbst, J., Schreiber, H., Rasticova, M., Poor, J., Veresne, K. V., Suhajda, C. Vizsetenvelt, A., Bjekic, J. (2022). A comparative study on culture-specific and cross-cultural aspects of intercultural relations in Hungary, Serbia, Czech Republic, and Germany. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13, DOI 10.3389/fpsyg.2022.886100
- Gerlach, P. & Eriksson, K. (2021). Measuring Cultural Dimensions: External Validity and Internal Consistency of Hofstede's VSM 2013 Scales. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12: 662604.doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2021.662604
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- Nielsen, M., Haun, D. (2016). Why developmental psychology is incomplete without comparative and cross-cultural perspectives. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B 371*: 20150071. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2015.0071>
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Outline of Course Content

Topic 1 – Understanding cross-cultural psychology

Topic 2 – Concepts of cross-cultural psychology, theoretical base, applied areas; theory and methodology

Topic 3 – Cultural biases and research ethics

Topic 4 – Similarities and differences in behaviour across cultures

Topic 5 – Hofstede's Models of Culture

Topic 6 – Ontogeny (from infancy to adulthood)

Topic 7 – Cognition and Perception throughout cultures

Topic 8 – Belief in cross-cultural psychology

Topic 9 – Emotions and emotional expressions throughout cultures

Topic 10 – Language and communication

Topic 11 – Intercultural view of the Holocaust and modern day atrocities

Topic 12 – Intercultural relations; Intercultural communication and training

Topic 13 – Health and psychopathologies: conceptualizations across cultures

Topic 14 – Education, work, and organizations

Topic 15 – Contributions of Cultural Anthropology and Evolutionary Biology

Topic 16 - Phylogenetic considerations