



PSYCHOLOGY 355 Online CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY

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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment online

E-mail is the best way to contact me, rather than phoning my office, as I will do a majority of work during the term from my home. I will answer emails within 24 hours except on Sundays. I will be glad to call you if you e-mail me and request me to do so. When emailing me, include your first name, last name, and Psy 355 in the subject header. Emails without this information will not be answered.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Psych 355 is a course examining “the impact of culture on major principles, theories, and applications of psychology, including social behavior, gender, communication, development and abnormal psychology. Involves interacting with people from diverse cultural backgrounds.” (WKU Course Catalogue, 2016). During this course, you will be exposed to various cultural theories through journal articles, videos, and your own research. I hope you find this course to be both challenging and interesting.

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Computer and Internet access (high speed recommended); your web browser should be within 1-2 years of the current browser. Blackboard works very well with Firefox. You can download this browser free for both WIN and Mac from the Blackboard homepage. ALL exams will be taken using Firefox web browser.

- Blackboard: <https://blackboard.wku.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>
- Firefox Web Browser: <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/ie.html>
- Java Software: <http://www.java.com/en/download/>
- Adobe Reader Software: <http://www.adobe.com/products/reader/>
- Adobe Flash Software: <https://www.download-free.com/flash-video-player?source=ga&qclid=CPGKj8CK2a8CFZDrKgod4DFXAq>
- PowerPoint Software
 - If you don't have PowerPoint, you may use Google Docs (<https://docs.google.com>) or Open Office Software (<http://www.openoffice.org/>) to access them



Course Objectives

Students will:

- become familiar with the diversity of topics and theories within cross-cultural psychology through reading journal articles and watching videos
- demonstrate knowledge of theories and research in the core areas of cross-cultural psychology through reading quizzes and discussion boards
- recognize cross-cultural psychology principles in everyday situations as demonstrated by responding to discussion boards and short essay questions
- recognize cross-cultural psychology principles that can be used to influence how you perceive various cultures

Being in an Online course- The nature of this class

Using Blackboard

This class will be presented through “Blackboard,” which is the name of the website you will use to access materials, turn in assignments, take reading quizzes, and take exams. To access Blackboard:

- 1) Go to www.wku.edu
- 2) In the lower left corner, you will see links to various sites, one of which is Blackboard. Click the word “Blackboard.”
- 3) You will be required to login using your NETID (the same ID for WKU Portal) and WKU password.
- 4) After logging in, on the right-hand side of the screen, you will see the course name underlined, Cross-Cultural Psychology. Click on the course name.
- 5) Now you will see a screen that will have any current announcements in the center. To the left will be a list of menu items on white buttons, such as “Course Documents,” “Assignments,” “Start Here”, etc. Click on these, depending on what you want to do. However, you should begin this course by clicking on “Start Here: Syllabus.”

In general, I will communicate with the class through **Announcements and the Class Questions Discussion Board** (see page 9), rather than clogging up your e-mail inbox. However, if I need to contact an individual student, I will use e-mail. I count on you to check your e-mail and the Blackboard Announcements section at least once a day. I will check mine at least twice a day, Monday through Friday—usually throughout the day during the week. You can expect me to reply to your email within 24 hours, but usually it will be sooner.

Getting Course Materials

To access course notes, journal articles, videos, and other materials I might post for the class, click the “Course Materials” button. Materials for each topic will be organized into folders by **ARTICLE SETS**. To access



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your syllabus, click the “Start Here: Syllabus” button. Go to Course Materials, then click on the folder corresponding to the Article Set (Set 1,2,3...) you need. Generally, Course Materials will have course notes that help explain more difficult material, links to documentaries, videos, etc. These course notes will be posted in PowerPoint (.ppt) format and offer you a preview of what you are assigned to read. These PowerPoints will help you understand the material by also providing definitions of terminology that are given in the assigned materials. Often, a PowerPoint will have a link to a YouTube video. To play the YouTube videos, look for the underlined text that has a video camera picture next to it. Put your PowerPoint in “slide show” mode, and click on the underlined text. The YouTube video will begin to play. Other files in Course Materials will be in Adobe Reader (.pdf) format or can be played using Adobe Flash so they should download easily using free Adobe software.

Checking Your Grade

You can check your grade anytime in Blackboard by clicking on the “My Grades” button. Your final grade will be calculated by adding up all of the points you have earned and then comparing this total to the Grade Scale on page 8. The corresponding letter grade will be given.

Getting HELP!!

If you are experiencing difficulty with your computer or the internet, please call the WKU IT Help Desk at 270-745-7000. While I am usually your best resource for helping you with Blackboard, I am not a good resource for helping you with technical problems concerning your computer and the way it might be interfacing with Blackboard. **PLEASE read important information on Blackboard that is on the screen immediately after you login, and before you click the name of the class.** There is a box in the middle of the screen that tells you which web browsers work best for Blackboard (Web Browser recommendations). Most technical problems can be solved by changing browsers. Ironically, some newer browsers do not work well with Blackboard—so check.

Quizzes: There will be quizzes for each Article Set. These quizzes will be handled on Blackboard (Bb). Individual quizzes will be based on course notes, videos, and assigned journal article readings. **You will be required to complete your quizzes by 11:59pm of each due date.** All quizzes will be open notes, open article, and taken at your convenience from your chosen location. However, you are only given **50 minutes** to take each reading quiz, so you **MUST** read and watch the assigned material before taking your quiz! Quizzes will consist of 20 multiple choice questions and 2 short essays that will cover the assigned readings and videos. Quiz answers will be released after you complete your quiz.



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If you are unable to complete your quiz because your system crashes, email me immediately! I will reset your quiz so that you can log back in and complete it. **However, you must email me by 10:00pm on the day the quiz is due.** If you do not email me by this time, I will NOT reset the quiz for you. I expect you to be responsible and not put off your assignments until the last minute. Therefore, if there is any possibility that your system might crash (Bb, internet, computer, etc.), TAKE THE QUIZ AT LEAST 3 HOURS IN ADVANCE!

The quizzes can be accessed by clicking on the “Quizzes” link in the Blackboard menu. From there, a list of available quizzes will appear. Simply click on the quiz you want to take. Questions will appear one-at-a-time, but you are able to go back to previous questions! Once the due date has passed for the quiz, it will be removed from Blackboard. I will not allow any student to take a late quiz! Therefore, be mindful of the quiz due dates located in your syllabus. I recommend that you take the Practice Quiz before taking any Blackboard assessments. The Practice Quiz is located in the same Quizzes folder.

Syllabus Quiz: Also available in the Quizzes folder is the Syllabus Quiz. This quiz is worth 10 points and will cover information only available in this syllabus.

Practice Quiz: To give you some experience in taking exams on Blackboard, you may take a Practice Quiz. The Practice Quiz will be set up just like a reading quiz on Blackboard. You can take the quiz from any computer. To access the quiz, click “Quizzes”. On the next Window click “Practice Quiz”. When the quiz appears, you will have directions to follow. You may take the quiz as many times as you want. It does NOT COUNT for a grade. All quiz scores will be removed.

Discussion Board: Throughout the course, we will watch videos and be exposed to controversial topics. To encourage critical thinking and application, you will be required to complete discussion question assignments addressing these activities. **Everyone is required to 1. read Dr. Clayton’s Thread, 2. respond to Dr. Clayton’s Thread, 3. Being your own thread that contains his/her own Discussion Question (known as a DQ), and 4. respond to one other student’s DQ.** Each student question must meet the criteria of being a *Bloom’s Taxonomy question* on a topic covered by the assigned articles, videos and PowerPoint material. A Bloom’s Taxonomy question must include **three** question cue categories. The question cue categories are as follows:

Knowledge: list, define, tell, describe, identify, show, label, collect, examine, tabulate, quote, name, who, when, where

Comprehension: summarize, describe, interpret, contrast, predict, associate, distinguish, estimate, differentiate, discuss, extend



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Application: apply, demonstrate, calculate, complete, illustrate, show, solve, examine, modify, relate, change, classify, experiment, discover

Analysis: analyze, separate, order, explain, connect, classify, arrange, divide, compare, select, explain, infer

Synthesis: combine, integrate, rearrange, substitute, plan, create, design, invent, what if?, imagine, compose, formulate, prepare, generalize

Evaluation: assess, decide, rank, grade, test, measure, recommend, convince, select, judge, explain, discriminate, support, conclude, compare, summarize.

Concrete Experience: How does that influence/impact/change/emphasize your feelings/thoughts/ behaviors?

For example, questions that simply ask for a “yes” or “no” will not generate a variety of answers, such as:

“Do you think cultures that encourage spousal abuse should be held legally accountable for their actions?”

Some people might explain a reason for their answer, but the way the question is asked doesn’t require it. The way to write a DQ is as follows:

“**Identify** a culture that encourages spousal abuse. **Compare** this culture to the American culture. What are the differences and similarities between the two? How does this culture’s encouragement of spousal abuse **make you feel** about this culture?”

This question has three question cues: identify (Knowledge), compare (Analysis), and feeling (Concrete Experience).

Also, questions that are already asked in course notes, in your reading assignments, or other course materials will NOT earn ANY points. Therefore, write unique questions.

Each acceptable DB question that you post at the end of your response to Dr. Clayton’s thread is worth 5 points.

- The question includes all 3 required areas of Bloom’s Taxonomy: 3 points
- The question included a topic, theme, theory, or quote from the assigned material. That is, the question clearly addresses the lecture/video/article material. 1 point
- The question is well written and well organized. It is easy to read and understand, and has few grammatical or spelling errors: 1 point

You are also required to respond to Dr. Clayton’s Thread and at least 1 DQ written by another student. When responding, click the Quote button to help you keep track of the question’s contents. Responses that count for credit must be thoughtful, address each portion of the question, and add new ideas or information with real-world examples.



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For instance, suppose you are responding to the example DQ given above about spousal abuse. An example response might be:

“I think spousal abuse is never acceptable. I don’t like any culture that encourages spousal abuse. Americans don’t like spousal abuse, but it is hard to determine spousal abuse in American courts.”

This response does not address each area of the DQ and does offer support or an explanation for each statement. Furthermore, the response is not organized well. It jumps from feelings to the American court system. Finally, this response does not incorporate a real-world example or connection to assigned materials.

Each response for each discussion board will be graded using the following rubric:

- The response addresses each question asked in the post: 4 points
- The response shows some depth of thinking and connection to real-world examples. That is, the idea is well developed and fully explained. 4 points
- The response is well written and well organized. It is easy to understand, and has few grammatical or spelling errors: 2 point

Each response is worth 10 points, for a total of 20 points (10 points for responding to each of Dr. Clayton’s Threads and 10 points for responding to a student’s DQ) per Article Set. (The way I would score the first response above is: the response addresses only one of the presented questions/issues, 1 point; shows depth of thinking, 1 point since it could use more explanation; well written and organized, 0.5 point, since it jumps from thought to thought without any kind of logical connection). **DBs are worth 25 points total (20 points for responses and 5 points for a DQ).**

Introductory Discussion Board: The first Discussion Board is introductory. That is, I am asking you to introduce yourself to the class, discuss your major, year in school, and something you are looking forward to learning about in this class. I also ask, if you are comfortable, to tell the class about your hobbies, family life, pets, and anything else you would like to share. This discussion board **ONLY** will be graded simply by you giving this information. That is, it does not have to meet the criteria for other Discussion Board responses and is worth 5 points. Feel free to respond to each other’s introductions and get to know each other! I would also like to encourage everyone to attach a picture in the Intro DB. If you are comfortable, attach a picture of yourself, you with your family or pet, or if you would rather not share a personal photo, you may submit an “icon” that symbolizes something about you. In the Intro DB, tell us about your photo or icon. To attach the file, click the link that says “Attach a file.” You will then be given a few options. Click the Browse



button next to Attach a local file. Browse your computer for your saved picture file, click the file to highlight it and click Open. The name of your file will appear in the box next to the Browse button. When you are totally finished, click Submit.

Professional Conduct is REQUIRED. I expect you to treat me, your classmates, and all of the people you encounter during all course activities with utmost respect. AT ALL TIMES, STUDENTS MUST RESPOND IN WAYS THAT ARE RESPECTFUL AND UNOFFENSIVE. I WILL REMOVE ALL INAPPROPRIATE RESPONSES. YOU MAY NOT PUT DOWN OTHER STUDENT'S RESPONSES, RESPOND IN OFFENSIVE OR PREJUDICIAL WAYS, OR USE LANGUAGE THAT IS INAPPROPRIATE (NO "CURSE WORDS"). STUDENTS WHO MAKE AN INAPPROPRIATE RESPONSE WILL BE GIVEN ONE WARNING. IF A SECOND INAPPROPRIATE RESPONSE IS MADE, I WILL BLOCK YOUR PARTICIPATION FROM THE DISCUSSION AND YOU WILL NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN FURTHER POINTS THROUGH THE DISCUSSION BOARD.

Any student who does not adhere to this professional conduct policy will receive the following:

1. On the first offense— grade deduction of 25% on Article Set 1 assignments.
2. On the second offense—grade deduction of 50% on Article Set 2 assignments.
3. On the third offense—you automatically fail the course.

Blackboard Instructions: Participating in the Discussion Board

Click the Discussion Board button from the main menu. Click on the forum in which you wish to participate. From there you can click the option to add a new thread (a new DQ). You can also click on and read other people's responses and respond to them. If you want to reply/respond to a particular post, make sure you click the little Reply button on the right in the box of that particular post. In a thread where there are lots of posts, there may be lots of Reply buttons showing. Just make sure you click the right one.

I encourage you to watch training videos that will help you using the Discussion Board feature. You can find these videos at

<http://www.wku.edu/online/orientation/using-bb.php>

Grading Policy: **Please save all of your graded work until you have reviewed your final grade** Course requirements will be weighted as follows in assigning grades:



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To summarize, your grades will be determined by

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Article Set Quizzes (8 quizzes worth 50 points each) | 400 points |
| Syllabus Quiz | 10 |
| Discussion Board (8 DBs worth 25 points each) | 200 |
| Introductory DB | 5 |
| TOTAL | 615 points |

Final grade will be assigned as follows:

| <u>TOTAL POINTS EARNED</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>LETTER GRADE ASSIGNED</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 553.4 or more | 90 or above | A |
| 491.4 – 553.3 | 80–89 | B |
| 430.4 – 491.3 | 70—79 | C |
| 368.4 – 430.3 | 60—69 | D |
| 368.3 and below | 59 and below | F |

I retain all rights to modify your grade so that it is reflective of your actual work in my course

Attendance & Withdrawals: Students cannot be automatically dropped from the class unless you do not attend. Registration in a course obligates you to be regular and punctual in class attendance. Students who, without previous arrangement with the instructor or department, fail to attend the first meeting of a class that meets one time per week may be dropped from the course. Nonattendance does not release students from the responsibility to officially drop any course for which they have enrolled and choose not to complete. In other words, if you haven't done the paperwork and I have not dropped you for nonattendance, you are still enrolled in the class. If you are withdrawn from the course because of non-payment, it is your responsibility to re-enroll.

Academic Honesty: Acknowledging that the vast majority of WKU students do not engage in dishonest behavior, the university's policy regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism will be upheld in this class. In brief, if you quote or paraphrase from your textbook (or other sources) on any papers or assignments, you must cite your source(s) appropriately using APA format. Failure to appropriately cite the source(s) of any passage in a paper or assignment will be considered plagiarism. If you are unsure how to appropriately cite a source, consult me or visit the OWL at Purdue, <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> which is an online writing lab for APA formatting. If you are unsure whether you should include a citation for a particular statement(s) in a paper or assignment, include the citation. For our purposes, it is better to have too many citations than to plagiarize other people's work. Any form of substantiated dishonesty, including plagiarism will result in failure of the course. Please refer to the WKU Handbook and/or website for additional guidelines.



Incompletes: University policy dictates that a student may be given an incomplete ONLY if he or she has passed the first half of the course, and is precluded from successful completion of the course by a documented illness or family crisis. Keep in mind, the instructor decides what constitutes "precluded from successful completion". If something arises in your life that interferes with your ability to do your best in this class, talk to me about it ASAP. Many students wait until the end of the semester (or after finals week) to tell me about these kind of difficulties and there is little or nothing I can do at that point. The sooner you talk to me, the more options I have to help you.

Office for Student Disability Services: Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services (OFSDS), DUC A200. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/(270) 745-3030/TDD. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Communication: You will notice that one of the DB forums is titled **Class Questions Discussion Board**. I am asking that if you have general class questions (not personal ones—use email for that) that you use this DB. For example, if you have questions about exams, assignments, or need clarification about class notes or other materials, please use this DB. Every student can read your question and my answer. Therefore, you might find the answer to a question you have by going to this DB. So by posting your questions here, everyone has equal access to that information, and I only have to answer the question one time! Everyone wins!! This DB is informational only and is not graded. It will be available for the duration of the class.

Obviously, anything that you do not want the class to know should not be posted here. Email me for those purposes. If you choose to email me, in the subject line of your email include the course title (Psy355) and your first and last name. I will NOT answer any emails that do not have this information in the subject line! My email software has a filter function that looks for this particular information. If your email does not have it, chances are that I will not see it. I will answer your emails Monday-Friday between the hours of 9am-9pm. You will receive a reply email from me within 24 hours.

COURSE SCHEDULE*

Please realize that you have signed up for a class in which we have a few weeks to cover an entire semester's worth of material that would normally take 16 weeks. I strongly encourage you to keep up with the course by doing the tasks listed on the days they are listed, and when possible working ahead. Links for



assignments will be available 3 days in advance. While an internet class is attractive in its flexibility, a class that is so brief is somewhat limited in that flexibility!

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: Dates, topics and assignments may change!*

ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE AT 11:59PM CENTRAL TIME

July 11

- Syllabus Review
- Syllabus Quiz due

July 12

- Complete Article Set 1 readings and videos
- Introductory DB due

July 13

- Dr. Clayton's Thread response and DQ due for Article Set 1

July 14

- **Quiz due for Article Set 1: Body Movements**
- DQ response due for Article Set 1

July 15

- Complete Article Set 2 readings and videos

July 18

- Dr. Clayton's Thread response and DQ due for Article Set 2

July 19

- **Quiz due for Article Set 2: Native Americans and Mental Health**
- DQ response due for Article Set 2

July 20

- Complete Article Set 3 readings and videos

July 21

- Dr. Clayton's Thread response and DQ due for Article Set 3

July 22

- **Quiz due for Article Set 3: Islam**
- DQ response due for Article Set 3

July 25

- Complete Article Set 4 readings and videos

July 26

- Dr. Clayton's Thread response and DQ due for Article Set 4

July 27

- **Quiz due for Article Set 4: Body Type**
- DQ response due for Article Set 4



July 28

- Complete Article Set 5 readings and videos

July 29

- Dr. Clayton's Thread response and DQ due for Article Set 5

Aug 1

- **Quiz due for Article Set 5: Beauty**
- DQ response due for Article Set 5

Aug 2

- Complete Article Set 6 readings and videos

Aug 3

- Dr. Clayton's Thread response and DQ due for Article Set 6

Aug 5

- **Quiz due for Article Set 6: Gender**
- DQ response due for Article Set 6

Aug 6

- Complete Article Set 7 readings and videos

Aug 7

- Dr. Clayton's Thread response and DQ due for Article Set 7

Aug 8

- **Quiz due for Article Set 7: Aging**
- DQ response due for Article Set 7

Aug 9

- Complete Article Set 8 readings and videos

Aug 10

- Dr. Clayton's Thread response and DQ due for Article Set 8

Aug 11

- **Quiz due for Article Set 8: Death and Dying**
- DQ response due for Article Set 8