

Course Syllabus: Readings in Cross-cultural Psychology (PSHXXX), Summer 2016

Online Instruction: May 16th-June 14th

Onsite Instruction (Vienna): June 16th-July 1st

Professor: Ganie DeHart, Ph.D.

E-mail: dehart@geneseo.edu

Course Description: The primary purpose of the course is to examine the influence of culture on human behavior and development, both typical and atypical. Emphasis is placed on research dealing with non-Western cultures and minority cultures in the United States and Europe. We'll cover a wide range of topics, starting with definitions of culture and cross-cultural research methods, and continuing through physical development and health, social and cognitive development, intelligence and schooling, emotion and nonverbal behavior, personality and the self, culture and gender, work values across cultures, and cross-cultural contact and communication.

Required Readings: Various original articles and book chapters, to be provided on Blackboard throughout the course.

Course Requirements:

Computer: During the online portion of the course, you will need daily access to a reliable computer (Mac or PC, your choice) with a high-speed, broadband Internet connection (n.b., a slow or unreliable internet connection may limit your ability to complete the course successfully).

Required Software: The latest version of Firefox. Although other browsers are supported by MyCourses, I strongly recommend Firefox.

Assignments:

1. **DISCUSSION FORUM POSTS (25% of grade, maximum 100 points).** There will be a discussion forum for each of the ten units in the course. To receive full credit for the discussion forums, you are required to participate in at least **nine** of them. Each forum will open with a set of prompts; your initial posts will respond to the prompts and/or ask questions about the material in the unit's readings. After others have posted, you're expected to return to the board and respond, connecting to and moving beyond past post ideas without mere redundancy or simple agreement/disagreement (i.e., if you agree or disagree, say why and support your ideas with evidence, citations, and page numbers of readings). I will actively review posts on a continuous basis. The date and time of the LAST opportunity to participate in each discussion board will be posted online, but you are expected to both post and respond to at least one classmate post. If not otherwise specified, posts should be a minimum of one paragraph (3 sentences minimum) and a maximum of 2-3 paragraphs. Postings should include proper spelling, grammar, and tone (see netiquette resources) and include citations to avoid plagiarism (for direct quotes, include page numbers as well as citation information). A grading rubric will be provided.
2. **READING SUMMARIES (15% of grade, maximum 60 points).** You will be required to submit a 1-page summary for 15 of the assigned readings. (You choose which 15—you can submit more than 15 if you like, and the 15 with the highest scores will count toward your grade.) You will receive up to 4 points for each summary you submit before the reading is

discussed online or in class, depending on quality. Each summary should include the following: ***For research articles:*** Research question(s)/hypotheses? (i.e., *why* was the study done?) , summary of methods (i.e., *how* was the study done?), summary of the most important results (i.e., *what* did the researchers find?), and either problems with the study or questions left unanswered by the article. ***For book chapters, review articles, and journalistic articles:*** Summarize the issues the author(s) address in the article, the current bottom line on the issues they raise, and questions that remain to be answered.

3. **ON-SITE DISCUSSIONS (10% of grade, maximum 40 points):** During our time in Austria, four 3-hour discussions will take place. We'll be focusing particularly on topics related to intercultural contact, culture shock, and acculturation, but we'll also be making use of the material covered during the online portion. You will be expected to attend each discussion, and you will be expected to be punctual, to remain for the entire time (except for group breaks), and—in particular—to make a substantive contribution to each topic. In advance of each discussion, we will decide together which topics will be discussed.
4. **INTEGRATIVE ESSAYS (1/2 of grade; maximum 200 points).** There will be two integrative essays, each worth 100 points. These will not be tests of your ability to remember the material we have read and discussed, but rather tests of your ability to integrate material from the readings, class activities, videos, lectures, discussions, and field trips, construct logical arguments using that material, and write with clarity and originality. The midterm integrative essay will be completed in class at the end of our first week in Vienna. The final integrative essay will be completed at the end of the course. In each case, you will receive a set of 3-4 essay questions a few days in advance; on the day the essay is due, you will be required to answer one of them, randomly selected. In preparing for these essays, I encourage you to discuss the questions and how they relate to the readings with other members of the class, either in person (for the midterm) or online (for the final); however, I expect each of you to produce individual, original essays. On the day of each essay, you will be free to use your readings, class notes, reading summaries, and notes you have made in preparation for the essay.

Student Responsibilities:

During the online portion of the course (four weeks before we go to Vienna and one week after), it is your responsibility to check the course site within Blackboard and your associated email account every day for announcements and posted materials.

You will often be asked to express opinions and reflect on your experiences before, after, and during our stay in Vienna. You will not be evaluated on the *content* of your opinions, but rather on how well you are able to support them with evidence and reason. This is an academically rigorous reading- and writing-intensive course; please be prepared to work several hours every day during the online segments.

All work must be submitted electronically through Blackboard or email as noted in the syllabus before the due dates/times. You are responsible for allocating your time so that you can complete each task no later than the deadline. In other words, you're encouraged to complete assignments administered through Blackboard well before the end of the specified time frame to allow for potential power, computer, and/or web server interruptions and outages. Consider the due date/time the outer limit.

COURSE OUTLINE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u>
<i>5/16-17</i>	Unit 1: Concepts of culture and cross-cultural research methods	R1-2
<i>5/18-19</i>	Unit 2: Culture and health	R3-4
<i>5/20-23</i>	Unit 3: Socialization and developmental niches	R5-6
<i>5/24-27</i>	Unit 4: Cognitive socialization, schooling, and intelligence	R7-8
<i>5/30-6/1</i>	Unit 5: Linguistic socialization and bilingualism	R9-10
<i>6/2-3</i>	Unit 6: Emotion and nonverbal behavior	R11-12
<i>6/6</i>	MIDTERM INTEGRATIVE ESSAY	
<i>6/7-8</i>	Unit 7: The self in cultural context	R13-14
<i>6/9-10</i>	Unit 8: Culture and gender	R15-16
<i>6/13-14</i>	Unit 9: Cultural values and the world of work	R17-18
<i>6/21-30</i>	Unit 10: Intercultural contact, culture shock, and acculturation	R19-20
<i>7/4-10</i>	Reflection and discussion	
<i>7/11</i>	FINAL INTEGRATIVE ESSAY DUE	