

Psychology 455

Cross-Cultural Perspectives in Psychology

Fall 2025

SYLLABUS

Class Format:	Online, asynchronous
Required Textbook:	Matsumoto, D., & Juang, L. (2023). <i>Culture and psychology</i> (7e). Cengage. NOTE: All assignments, including quizzes, will be based on the 7 th edition of this book.
Prerequisites:	Restricted to upper-division Psychology majors and students enrolled in the Conflict Resolution Certificate Program; PSY 200 or equivalent.
Instructor:	David Matsumoto, Ph.D., Professor Contact info: please send emails through Canvas
Office hours:	Mondays, 0900 – 1100 by appointment. All students are requested to email to confirm a date and time for an appointment. All OH appointments will be held via zoom and a link will be sent once an appointment is scheduled.

Description

This course will introduce students to the world of cross-cultural psychology. You will learn what cross-cultural research has said about what we traditionally know about psychological principles in various topic areas. You will also learn about the meaning of cross-cultural psychology in the larger picture of psychology as a discipline and learn to read and evaluate original research articles in cross-cultural psychology.

Course Goals

- To introduce the field of cultural and cross-cultural psychology and to examine the concepts and processes necessary for cross-cultural research.
- To introduce students to cross-cultural concepts, theories and research methodologies.
- To be familiar with empirical research in cross-cultural psychology.
- To help students understand the dynamics of cross-cultural experiences.
- To help students understand their own cultural backgrounds and the ways that cultural perspectives relate to their lives.

Student Learning Outcomes

- To demonstrate an understanding of basic knowledge of cross-cultural psychology. Competence demonstration will occur via exams, class activities, papers, group projects, and/or discussions.

Class Structure and Teaching Methods

This course will be fully online and asynchronous, with no face-to-face or required in-person or Zoom meetings. The course will be divided into modules and each module will include readings from the book, videos, online discussion forums, and assignments, all of which will be administered on the SFSU CANVAS course website. Assignments are divided across the 15 weeks of the semester into 5 modules, with deadlines for the assignments within each module clearly listed in the Schedule below.

The assigned textbook will be your primary source of instruction and learning. Video lectures are intended to introduce and highlight main ideas in the book. Postings will serve to augment the readings and video lectures, and the Reflection Papers will be designed to synthesize and summarize your learning and to integrate your learning into everyday life.

Class Requirements and Grading Policy

Requirements

Final grades will be based on the following:

Requirement	% of Final Grade
Quizzes	50%
Reflection Papers	20%
Discussion Posts	30%
Total	100%

Quizzes (5 quizzes)

There will be five quizzes throughout the semester, one for each module and each covering all content assigned within that module. All quizzes will be open book. All materials presented in that module are eligible to be on the quizzes, including all content in the book readings assigned in addition to what is covered in the video lectures, and anything not in the book but discussed in other, supplemental materials. Note that some materials in lectures are not covered in the textbook and vice versa. If you have questions about any of the material, please set up an appointment. The format of each quiz will be announced on Canvas prior to each quiz. Once a quiz is started you will generally have two hours to complete it. All quizzes will be weighted equally.

Discussion Posts (10 posts)

Everyone will be separated into groups that will likely change every week. Please complete all postings for each week's assignment within your group. For each post, prompt(s) will be provided. Each student should (1) start a new thread and upload a post that addresses the provided prompt(s) and that includes at least two sentences for each prompt, and (2) comment on at least two other threads started by others with at least two sentences to each prompt that include your thoughts, opinions, insights, and/or questions to spur further thought and discussion. Across the semester, please consider responding to posts by different people so that all can experience a variety of voices and opinions.

Please be considerate by posting your initial post at least three (3) days before each deadline so that everyone has a chance to respond to other people's posts before the deadline.

Reflection Papers (2)

Two Reflection Papers are required for all students. The due dates for each are in the schedule below. Instructions and guidelines for the reflection papers will be posted prior to their due dates. All Reflection Papers should be uploaded onto Canvas. Papers should be a minimum of three (3) pages, double spaced, with 1-inch margins all around, not including references, and should address the prompts provided in the instructions. No title page is required and if one is included it will not count as part of the page requirement. Be sure to put your full name as registered with the university and your SFSU student ID on the top right corner of the first page.

Grading Scale

Final grades will approximate the following ranges (as a percentage of total points accumulated in the semester):

93-100 = A	80-82.9 = B-	67-69.9 = D+
90-92.9 = A-	77-79.9 = C+	60-66.9 = D
87-89.9 = B+	73-76.9 = C	00-59.9 = F
83-86.9 = B	70-72.9 = C-	

Email

- Send all emails about this course to me via Canvas.
- Please use proper decorum when sending emails.
- Students who raise questions that are answered in the syllabus will be directed to the syllabus.
- Please allow at least 48 hours to have passed before emailing the instructional staff again for the same issue.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Topic	What to Read	What to View	What to Post or Submit	Due Date (11:59 PM PT)
Module 1					
Intro to Cross-Cultural Psychology					
1 (8/25/25)	Intro to Cross-Cultural Psychology	CH 01	Welcome to class and review of syllabus; Chapter 1 lecture video, Part 1	Discussion Post 1	9/07/25
2 (9/01/25)	What is Culture?	CH 01	Chapter 1 lecture video, Part 2	Discussion Post 2	9/14/25
3 (9/08/25)	Quiz 1			Take Quiz 1 on Canvas	9/21/25

Module 2					
Enculturation and Development					
4 (9/15/25)	Enculturation	CH 03	Chapter 3 lecture video	Discussion Post 3	9/28/25
5 (9/22/25)	Culture and Development	CH 04	Chapter 4 lecture video	Discussion Post 4	10/05/25
6 (9/29/25)	Quiz 2			Take Quiz 2 on Canvas	10/12/25
Module 3					
Self and Personality					
7 (10/06/25)	Culture, Self, and Identity	CH 05	Chapter 5 lecture video	Discussion Post 5	10/19/25
8 (10/13/25)	Culture and Personality	CH 06	Chapter 6 lecture video	Discussion Post 6 Submit Reflection Paper 1	10/26/25
9 (10/20/25)	Quiz 3			Take Quiz 3 on Canvas	11/02/25
Module 4					
Cognition and Emotion					
10 (10/27/25)	Culture and Cognition	CH 08	Chapter 8 lecture video	Discussion Post 7	11/09/25
11 (11/03/25)	Culture and Emotion	CH 09	Chapter 9 lecture video	Discussion Post 8	11/16/25
12 (11/10/25)	Quiz 4			Take Quiz 4 on Canvas	11/23/25
Module 5					
Communication and Social Behavior					
13 (11/17/25)	Culture and Communication	CH 10	Chapter 10 lecture video	Discussion Post 9	12/07/25
14 (12/01/25)	Culture and Social Behavior	CH 14	Chapter 14 lecture video	Discussion Post 10	12/14/25
15 (12/08/25)	Quiz 5			Take Quiz 5 on Canvas	12/17/25
				Submit Reflection Paper 2	12/19/25

- All videos are to be viewed by students enrolled in the classes only.
- No make-up assignments will be given. You have up until the due date to complete all assignments, including postings, quizzes, and submissions of reflection papers. Any assignments submitted after the original due date will be accepted for grading for 50% value and only for one week past the original due date, with the exception of Quiz 5 and Reflection Paper 2, for which no late assignments will be accepted. No assignments will be accepted for grading past one week of the original due date.
- This schedule, the requirements, and anything else about this course may change at any time. All changes will be announced on Canvas. It is your responsibility to keep up with those changes and with anything covered in class.
- You will be responsible for keeping up with the required readings and assignments.

Statements required by Academic Senate Policy

Disability Access

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The [Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC)] is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The [DPRC] is located in the [Student Service Building] and can be reached by telephone [(voice/ 415-338-2472, video phone/415-335-7210) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu).]

Student Disclosures of Sexual Violence

SF State fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the [Title IX Coordinator by completing the report form available at <http://titleix.sfsu.edu>, emailing vpsaem@sfsu.edu or calling 338- 2032]. To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact: [The SAFE Place - (415) 338-2208; http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc/] [Counseling and Psychological Services Center - (415) 338- 2208; <http://psyservs.sfsu.edu/>] For more information on your rights and available resources: [<http://titleix.sfsu.edu>]

Academic Integrity

Additionally, the Academic Integrity Policy (#S22-298) encourages faculty to provide the following statement, or a similar one, to students at the beginning of the semester: Academic integrity, the ethical presentation of one's own work in accordance with the rules established for this class, is required. Instances of academic misconduct will be reported to the College in which the course is housed, the Division of Graduate Studies (if a graduate student), and the Office of Student Conduct with the report being kept in those offices until a student earns his/her degree. Any instances of cheating, deceit, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, unauthorized altering of records or submitting false documents, unauthorized collaboration, unauthorized submission of work previously given credit, or other forms of academic misconduct will be assigned a grade penalty, likely an F or a grade of zero. Failing one or more assignments or examinations for reasons of academic integrity violations may result in a final class grade of F. Students may not withdraw from classes in which they have committed academic misconduct. Consequences for violations of academic integrity may result in an F on the assignment, examination, or class as determined by the Academic Integrity Review Committee.

Members of our academic community have a responsibility to develop an awareness of academic integrity, to cultivate skills to realize honesty in academic and community work, and to sustain actively academic honor as a core value of our community. Students are expected to engage in behaviors that reflect well upon the university. In addition to attending to one's own actions, the Standards for Student Conduct require that students who witness academic dishonesty notify their faculty/ instructor, department chair, or the Office of Student Conduct. Supporting academic integrity enhances the reputation of the University and the value attributed to degrees awarded by the University.

Additionally, all work submitted for all assignments must be the student's own original work. Submitted work that appears to include any use of artificial intelligence software such as ChatGPT and others are strictly not permitted. As mentioned above, consequences for violations of this policy may result in an F on the assignment, examination, or class as determined by the instructor.