Program: CET Shanghai
Course Code / Title: (SH/PSYC 252) Cross-Cultural Psychology
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Psychology / Intercultural Studies, East Asian Studies
Language of Instruction: English
Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description
This course will provide a comprehensive primer on the general theories and methodologies that underpin today's research in cross-cultural psychology. Given the context of the course, the topics and reading materials will concentrate on issues of Chinese psychology in comparison and contrast to psychological phenomena of cultures outside of China. Readings and method will draw upon significant cross-cultural psychological research found in sources such as Richard Nisbett’s *The Geography of Thought* and Michael Harris Bond’s *The Psychology of the Chinese People*. In addition, the course will emphasize empirical approaches to cross-cultural study and explain the importance of culture in human cognition, language, education and child development.

Through comparative studies of Eastern and Western psychological data, students will gain an understanding of interconnectedness, difference, and diversity in a global society, and learn how to analyze cultural influence on human behavior, describe quantitative and qualitative methods for cross-cultural research, summarize how culture influences thinking and mental processes, explain the differences between collectivistic and individualistic cultures, and understand the relevance of knowledge of diverse cultures to cross-cultural interactions.

Objectives
By the end of the course, students will:
- Acquire a knowledge of fundamental theories, findings, and methodology in cultural psychology
- Be able to critically evaluate research conducted by cultural psychologists
- Have the ability to apply knowledge of cultural psychology and diversity science to real-world contexts

Course Requirements
Active participation is essential in this course. Students are expected to attend each class and field-based course component, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Students are expected to read all assigned materials before the relevant class session and come prepared to participate thoughtfully in class discussions. Reading assignments are generally 30 pages per class session, and are completed by students prior to each class meeting.
Syllabus of Record

Students take two in-class midterm exams (closed-book, 60 minutes). Both consist of five short essay questions. They are held at the end of Part One and Part Two respectively.

For their final exam, students submit a research paper (10 pages, double-spaced). Students are expected to show original thinking and independent analysis of the issues in question.

Grading
The final grade is determined as follows:

- Research Methods Critique: 10%
- Cultural Analysis: 30%
- Midterm Exams (2): 25%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Class Participation: 10%

Primary Texts


Outline of Course Content
1. Introduction: What is cultural psychology?
2. Research Methods: Tools and theories of Cross-Cultural Psychology
3. Cultural background and psychology: East and West differences
4. Cultural background: How does culture impact the way we view and interact with others?
5. Cognition and Culture: The effect of culture on perception, concepts, and social interaction.
6. Cultures impact on emotions: How does culture impact how we experience, express, and perceive emotion?
7. Psychology, ethics and morality: The cultural context of moral instincts
8. Mental health: Chinese and western concepts of mental illness
9. Stigma & Stereotypes. How we perceive ethnic difference
10. Social intergroup contact: Individualism vs. collectivism
11. Ethnic Identity: What does it mean to have an ethnic identity?
12. Psychology of the Self: East and West differences