

## Syllabus of Record

**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

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### 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.

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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

Bond, Michael Harris (ed). *The Psychology of the Chinese People*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press. 1986.

Bond, Michael Harris. *Beyond the Chinese Face: Insights from Psychology*. New York: Oxford University Press. 1992.

Haidt, J. *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*. New York: Vintage. 2013.

Heine, S. J. *Cultural Psychology* (3rd edition). New York: W. W. Norton & Company. 2015.

Matsumoto, D., & Juang, L. *Culture and Psychology* (6th edition). Boston, MA: Wadsworth Publishing. 2016.

Nisbett, Richard E. *The Geography of Thought: How Asians and Westerners Think Differently...and Why*. New York: Free Press. 2003.

Tomasello, M. *The cultural origins of human cognition*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. 2009

Watters, E. *Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche*. Free Press. 2011.

### 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

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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