

# PSY 340: CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY

Spring 2015 \* MW 3:00pm-4:20pm \* Hopkins Center 302 (or 311)

**Professor: Lisa M. Brown, Ph.D.**

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No man ever looks at the world with pristine eyes. He sees it edited by a definite set of customs and institutions and ways of thinking.

~**Ruth Fulton Benedict**

Culture is but the fine flowering of real education, and it is the training of the feeling the tastes and the manners that makes it so.

~**Minnie Kellogg**

**Please note that all facets of the syllabus are subject to change at my discretion.**

## Course Overview

A goal of science is to establish general conclusions about relevant phenomena. Psychology has aimed to make general conclusions about human behavior. Much of the research has been conducted in industrialized, democratic, Protestant societies by male, individualistic, highly educated, economically privileged researchers. The psychological canon suggests that we know about the basic psychological processes, such as language development, moral reasoning, causal attributions and intelligence. However, how much of what we know really is universal and how much is relevant only to Western industrialized societies (WEIRD societies as our textbook author would say)? We will begin to address these issues in this course. When psychologists study group differences, they often warn that within group variance is larger than between group variance (whether they are discussing gender or ethnicity or something else). When psychologists have studied culture, they usually have divided the world in “the East versus the West” or “collectivist cultures versus individualistic cultures.” The implication is that collectivism and individualism are mutually exclusive and monolithic. Ironically, often they seem not to heed their own warning about studying groups.

## Course Requirements

**I will make every reasonable attempt to grade blind.** In order to maintain blind grading on assignments submitted through turnitin.com, you must create a new or edit an existing turnitin.com account. For your first name, enter your four-digit personal class ID number. For your last name, enter your four-digit personal class ID number. Submit all of your assignments for this class using this account that keeps your identity masked from me.

**Class Organization:** Generally, we will have papers, presentations and discussion on Wednesdays and lecture on the topic the following Mondays. Each week, you will be responsible either to lead discussion, give an oral presentation or submit a paper on the week’s topic. Students will lose points for superficial coverage and/or misunderstanding of the week’s topic. These requirements must fall on different weeks. If you schedule these requirements on the same week, you will only earn credit for one. You must submit all written assignments both on hardcopy (typed) and on turnitin.com. **The class ID number for turnitin.com is 9460346. The password is class.** **Assignment instructions (and other course documents) will be posted on Moodle.**

**Discussion Leading:** You will be responsible to help lead discussion four times during the semester. This entails reading the required readings and may also include incorporating outside but easily accessible materials. In addition, you should generate and hand in a list of at least five substantive questions or issues that should foster discussion. All grading will be done blind so only put your personal class ID number on your paper. You should coordinate with the other people leading discussion that week. Each time leading the discussion will be worth 5% of your grade. You will lead discussion four times during the semester totaling 20% of your grade. The key is *conversation*. You

should write questions based upon the course readings and lectures that foster conversation. A question that has one correct answer does not foster conversation. Questions should cover multiple topics/readings. You must ask at least one of your questions when you lead.

**Oral Presentation:** Four times during the semester you will be responsible for giving a 5-6 minute presentation to the class; Powerpoint, Keynote, Prezi or some other presentation software is required for these presentations. You must incorporate at least two outside materials into your presentation. One must be a peer-reviewed, empirical, academic article. The other must be something non-academic such as a news story, an advertisement, or something from popular culture. You will want to coordinate with the other people presenting that day so that your presentations are complementary and not redundant. But you should work independently. You must hand in a hardcopy of your presentation. **DO NOT USE YOUR PERSONAL CLASS ID number.** Each presentation will be worth 7.5% of your grade; all four presentations will total to 30% of your grade. The key is *application*. Bring up a topic, theory and/or finding from the course readings and lecture and review an academic article in light of it. Apply those ideas to a real world example. Your presentation should demonstrate your understanding of the weekly topic in light of the outside article and the real-life example should demonstrate your ability to recognize these theoretical ideas in a concrete example. However, the bulk of your presentation should be on the outside article and the real-life example. You need to make sure that you can show your presentation in our classroom. Failing to give a presentation for technical reasons will result in a failing grade for that presentation.

**Topic of the Week Paper:** Four times during the semester you will hand in a 2½ -4 page paper including your integration of at least two outside peer-reviewed journal articles and the required materials and lectures. You are limited to one direct quote per page. These papers are due on Wednesday. All grading will be done blind so only put your personal class ID number on your paper. Each paper will be worth 7.5% of your grade; all four papers will total to 30% of your grade. The key is *integration*. Throughout the paper you integrate ideas from the course readings and lectures with an analysis of the two academic articles you read. It is not just simply a summary of the articles but a fusion of ideas and findings across several sources. People will be rewarded for making meaningful connections between their outside readings and themes from the course readings and lectures throughout the paper. People will also be rewarded for making connections across weeks of the class.

**Cultural Analysis/Ethnography Paper:** Your task is to write about a particular group and discuss its culture. You may discuss various norms and practices of the group, the hierarchy within the groups, means of joining, maintaining and losing membership, etc. You must use outside sources for this assignment. However, you must also integrate themes from the class. This paper should have 6-8 pages of typed, doubled-spaced text. You are limited to one direct quote per page. Your papers will be our reading for week 13 of class. All grading will be done blind so only put your personal class ID number on your paper. It will be worth 20% of your course grade. These papers are due Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at noon and are the required reading for the following week of class when we will discuss them and have presentations and papers on them.

### Required Readings

Heine, S. (2012). *Cultural Psychology* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, ISBN 978-0-393-91283-8). New York: W.W. Norton. You may purchase it at the AC Bookstore. Other readings are on **Moodle**. Course materials and handouts will also be on Moodle.

### Miscellaneous

1) I offer extra credit for participation in studies through the Psychology Department Participant Pool. I generally do not accept more than 120 minutes of participation, so plan accordingly. In order to receive credit you must a) participate in studies approved by the Austin College IRB and b) turn in a sheet signed by the experimenter documenting your participation and with your brief explanation of the study. You may earn no more than two points of extra credit on your final course grade (one point for every 60 minutes). These research opportunities are current studies being conducted by your peers and/or the psychology faculty, and are opportunities to contribute to the knowledge of the field as well as your classmates' education. Participation is a serious commitment that requires honest and thoughtful responses. If you give false, misleading, or thoughtless (i.e., choosing "4" on every item on the scale) data, it not only compromises the work of your peers and faculty but can potentially cripple research that took months or years to set up. The researchers can see how much time

it took you to complete the study (even the online surveys) and have to throw out data that is clearly carelessly entered. If you do not have enough time to complete the research appropriately (as described in the informed consent statement), do it at another time. More information may be found at the Research Opportunities link on the Psychology Department webpage: <http://artemis.austincollege.edu/acad/psych/>. Incomplete grades are only appropriate when an unforeseen circumstance (e.g., an extended illness or severe accident) affects your ability to complete the assignments for this class in a timely manner. The incomplete allows you to complete the missed work at a later time; it does not allow you to rewrite a paper solely for the reason of improving your grade.

2) **If you miss class**, you are responsible for making up the work. Please do not ask me for lecture notes. However, you may ask your classmates. If you have questions about a classmate's notes (or in general), please ask me for clarifications. Students who have more than three unexcused absences may be reported to the Student Services Office and/or their mentors. Students who have more than four unexcused absences may be dropped from the class. Do not sign up to lead discussion on a day you will be out of town for an official absence. Such absences generally do not count as unexcused absences; however, if you have already expended your allotment of unexcused absences or you are doing poorly in the class, I will determine if official absences count as unexcused absences on a case-by-case basis.

3) **Make-up discussion leading and papers without a late penalty** after the scheduled date will generally only be offered in the case of a documented emergency, illness or death in the family. When you are ill, I need an official note from a medical professional (e.g., an email from the campus nurse). In the case of ongoing issues, you or your family should notify Karen Spore in Student Affairs at 903.813.2228. Notification of your absence on the discussion leading day should be given preferably prior to but no later than the day of the class, and prior to the start time of the class to avoid a late penalty. You may reschedule assignments ahead of time if a conflict arises.

4) **If you have a documented disability** for which you would like accommodations, please inform me by the second week of class. It is your responsibility to remind me of your accommodations at least a week before I distribute each assignment or exam. To arrange for accommodations, you will need to register as soon as possible at the Academic Skills Center with Laura Márquez-Ramsey, the Director of the Academic Skills Center, (903) 813-2454, Suite 211 of the Wright Campus Center. For information on this process, go to <http://www.austincollege.edu/campus-life/academic-skills-center/>.

5) **Turn your cell phones off or on silent during class.** Please clear it with me if you feel you have an emergency situation requiring your cell phone be on vibrate mode while you are in class. You can enter your class schedule into a cell phone app (e.g., Studious [for Android phones]), and it will silence your phone when you are in class.

6) **Please be courteous in class to fellow students and to me.** This includes not holding conversations, not reading for other classes or for pleasure, not studying for other classes, not doing games or puzzles, not text messaging or emailing, not surfing the net, etc. during class. Please make an effort not to fall asleep in class. Be respectful not to leave during class unless absolutely necessary. If you know you will need to leave during class, then sit near the door. Students who routinely text, surf the net or are otherwise distracted during class will be dropped from the class.

7) **The GRADING SCALE** is as follows: A+ = 97-100; A = 94-96; A- = 90-93; B+ = 87-89; B = 84-86; B- = 80-83; C+ = 77-79; C = 74-76; C- = 70-73; D+ = 67-69; D = 64-66; D- = 60-63; F = 59 or below. All grading will be done "blind," so only put your personal class ID number on your assignments. I will downgrade all late work a third of a letter grade for each day late including weekend days. If you want to contest a grade, please do it during the course. I will keep course materials only until the last day of the subsequent semester. I will discard them after that time.

8) **You are responsible for keeping track of your grades in the course.** Do not assume that you are passing the course or that the course grade will be curved so that no one fails. If you are concerned about your progress in the class, please come and see me – the earlier in the semester, the better.

9) **Academic Honesty:** The academic process is one in which all members of the class, instructors and students alike, disseminate information and acquire knowledge with goals of both personal fulfillment and collective improvement through intellectual enrichment. Academic dishonesty completely undermines this honorable and valuable process. If I have evidence of your suspected academic dishonesty, I will report it to the Academic Integrity Council and you will have the incident noted in your file. Punishment could be as severe as failing the course. Austin College's detailed statement on academic honesty is in the Environment at <http://www.austincollege.edu/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/Environment-2012-2013.pdf>.

## **Avoiding Plagiarism and Cheating**

*Working together on assignments:* All work for this class must be done on your own. Working with others on an assignment will be considered cheating in this class.

**Plagiarism:** You will write short papers for this class. Throughout the body of the paper, if you are summarizing findings or ideas that are not yours, you need to cite where you found that information - even if from the textbook, course readings or lecture. Not giving credit to the original authors is plagiarism. In addition, if you use more than three words in a row from a source, you need to not only cite it but you also need to use quotation marks. Typing in a sentence from a source and then changing every third word but presenting it in your paper as your own ideas and writing is dishonest (i.e., it is cheating). In addition, using work you wrote or created for another course or a from a previous semester of Cultural Psychology without first clearing it with me and any other professors involved will be considered plagiarism in this course.

**Research Papers and Citing Sources:** The writing assignment will require you to conduct research. This involves citing the sources for your ideas. If you use someone else’s idea, you MUST cite it. This is not only when you quote it; this is ALWAYS. In addition, you include the citation immediately after the sentence with the idea. IT IS PLAGIARISM TO USE SOMEONE’S IDEAS THROUGHOUT A PARAGRAPH AND THEN CITE THEM AT THE END OF THE PARAGRAPH. Maybe this is how some of you were taught in high school. NOT ONLY IS THAT WRONG ACCORDING TO MLA STYLE AND APA STYLE, BUT IT IS ALSO PLAGIARISM. If you think this is a trivial offense, keep in mind that in the past year several people were reported to the Academic Integrity Council for this exact type of offense. As your professor, I believe it is incumbent upon me to give you clear warnings and instructions regarding this issue. However, it is incumbent upon you to take this seriously and to work diligently not to plagiarize. Students often start papers at the last minute. Doing so may not allow you enough time to cite sources properly. Make sure you give yourself enough time to cite things properly so that you do not end up with a violation of Austin College’s Academic Integrity Policy.

**There are additional notes on avoiding plagiarism and cheating on Moodle. There are also notes on how to do well in this class on Moodle. You are responsible for information and instructions posted in these documents on Moodle even if I do not mention them in class.** Moodle is a website that Austin College uses so that professors may exchange information via the Internet with their students. I use it to post documents you need for the course as well as to send messages to the class. If you are unsure how to sign into your Moodle account, ask another student or ask someone at the IT Helpdesk.

**Schedule of Lectures & Readings**

Week 1: Feb 2-6	<i>Introduction</i> - Heine chs. 1 & 2
Week 2: Feb 9-13	<i>Antecedents of Culture</i> - Heine ch. 3; <i>Methods in Cultural Psychology</i> - Heine ch. 4
Week 3: Feb 16-20	<i>Collectivism &amp; Individualism in the World</i> - DeCoster (2005) (read the intro); Oyserman, Coon & Kimmelmeier (2002)
Week 4: Feb 23-27	<i>Development</i> – Heine ch. 5
Week 5: Mar 2-6	<i>Personality &amp; The Self</i> - Heine ch. 6
Mar 9-13	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
Week 6: Mar 16-20	<i>Motivation</i> - Heine ch. 7
Week 7: Mar 23-27	<i>Emotion &amp; Well-Being</i> – Heine ch. 14
Week 8: Mar 30-Apr 3	<i>Cognition, Perception &amp; Attribution</i> - Heine ch. 8
Week 9: Apr 6-10	<i>Acculturation</i> - Heine ch. 10
Week 10: Apr 13-17	<i>Morality, Religion &amp; Justice</i> - Heine ch. 13
Week 11: Apr 20-24	<i>Physical &amp; Mental Health</i> - Heine chs. 11 & 12
Week 12: Apr 27-May 1	<i>Applications</i> - Heine ch. 9
Week 13: May 4-8	<b>Class Papers: Due May 1 at noon</b>
Week 14: May 11-15	<b>Exam Week – no class, no exam</b>

**DATES YOU MAY WANT TO REMEMBER**

Feb 9: last day to add a course

Mar 7-15: Spring Break

Mar 20-21: AC Student Scholarship Conference

Mar 30: last day to drop or change grading system

Apr 10-12: SWPA in Wichita, KS

Apr 13-15: Fall registration

May 8: last day to drop with WP, WF or WU grade

May 11-15: Exam period

May 17: Commencement