

# HON 413. Psychology of Diversity and Multiculturalism

SDSU – Fall 2017

## Class Meetings

Class Day: Tuesday and Thursday

Class Times: 12:30 –1:45 PM

Class Location: Hepner Hall (HH) 128

**Instructor:** Dr. Thierry Devos

Office Hours: Thursday 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM or by appointment

Office Hours Location: Life Sciences South (LSS) 273

Phone: (619) 594-6911

Email: tdevos@mail.sdsu.edu

## Course Overview

### Purpose and Course Content

This course focuses on the psycho-social dynamics coming into play in diverse and multicultural settings. Increasingly, the notions of diversity and multiculturalism are used to describe important facets of many social environments. In a world characterized by a globalized economy, movements of populations, and new communication technologies, individuals are increasingly immersed in diverse and multicultural settings. These societal changes influence the frequency and nature of intercultural contacts and also shape people's understanding of who they are. The unprecedented degree of social and cultural diversity can be source of both aspirations and concerns. This course prepares students to navigate a diverse and multicultural world. Students will be exposed to a variety of relevant research perspectives and will learn about these topics through multiple instructional methods.

### Course Learning Objectives

The goal of this course is, quite simply, to **provide students with a solid training in the psycho-social dynamics coming into play in diverse and multicultural settings**. The expected learning outcomes are as follows:

- Students will be able to use concepts, principles, theories, and research findings to increase their understanding of dynamics coming into play in diverse and multicultural settings;
- Students will be able to grasp how socio-cultural contexts influence individual thoughts, feelings, and behaviors;
- Students will be able to consider various perspectives or levels of analysis in their thinking about diversity and multiculturalism;
- Students will be able to identify ways (actions, behaviors) that emphasize the importance of interacting effectively and sensitively with people of diverse cultural backgrounds.

## Enrollment Information

Before taking this course, you must have already completed PSY101 (Introductory Psychology) or an equivalent Introductory Psychology course from another school. This pre-requisite is designed to ensure that students have the adequate skills and experience to do well in the class and to avoid being at a disadvantage in the course relative to those who have taken Introductory Psychology.

## Course Structure and Conduct

The course includes a series of **8 modules**. Each module is devoted to a different topic (see *Schedule of Topics and Instructional Activities*). We will learn about these topics in several ways including interactive presentations, demonstrations, exercises, individual or group activities, discussions, readings, videotapes, and assignments. Course activities will be delivered through face-to-face instructional time and/or using an online format. Through a mix of instructional methods, students will assimilate and integrate new ideas and develop problem solving skills.

Typically, each module will include the following:

- **Learning Objectives:** A description of the specific learning objectives
- **Face-To-Face Class Meetings:** 3 class meetings during which we will cover a significant amount of material in an interactive format
- **Online Activity:** 1 online activity (e.g., demonstration, exercise, discussion board, etc.)
- **Class Discussion:** 1 class discussion on a specific theme or topic relevant to the module and covered in an assigned reading and videotaped talk
- **Essay:** 1 essay on a specific theme or topic relevant to the module. An assigned reading and specific instructions will serve as prompts for this essay
- **Dig Deeper:** Additional (optional) resources relevant to this module

Each module will be completed over a 10- or 14-day period. In most cases, an estimate of the **amount of time necessary to complete each online task** will be provided on Blackboard. Keep in mind that there are individual differences among students/learners (it may take some of you more or less time to complete some of these tasks).

## Course Materials

### Blackboard

You can access the course website on Blackboard:

- <https://blackboard.sdsu.edu> [Course: HON413-01-Fall2017]

**Slides** used as a support for class meetings will be made available on line before the class meetings.

The best browser for Blackboard is Firefox. There are known problems with using other browsers to complete activities in Blackboard. To download Firefox for free, click on the following link:

<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/>

## Readings

All required readings can be accessed through Blackboard. For each module, you will be assigned one paper (article or book chapter) for the class discussion and one paper (article or book chapter) as a starting point for the essay. There is no required textbook for this course.

More specific additional resources (articles, videos, websites, blogs, etc.) for each module will be provided under “Dig Deeper” menus. Under “Supplemental Resources”, you will find additional resources, references, or readings. These are general resources.

**IMPORTANT: Material posted on Blackboard (slides, videos, recorded lectures, activities, articles, etc.) is only for students enrolled in a section of HON 413 - Psychology of Diversity and Multiculturalism taught by Dr. Thierry Devos at SDSU. By accessing or downloading these documents, you agree (1) not to share them with anyone and (2) not to post them on the Internet.**

## Course Assessment and Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following components (adding up to a total of maximum 700 pts):

### Online Activities (6 x 20 pts = 120 pts = 17%)

You will complete 6 online activities (demonstrations, exercises, discussion boards, etc.). For each activity, you will be able to earn up to 20 pts. Specific instructions for each activity will be provided on Blackboard. Please pay attention to the deadlines to complete these activities (see *Schedule of Topics and Instructional Activities*). Unless specified otherwise, the deadline to submit online activities is 12:30 PM on the due date. Late activities will be penalized 5 pts per day late. It is your responsibility to make sure that activities were submitted successfully on Blackboard. Penalties will not be waived based screenshots of computer files (or similar documents).

### Essays (7 x 40 pts = 280 pts = 40%)

You will write 7 short essays (3-4 paragraphs). For each essay, you will read a paper (article or book chapter) relevant to the topic of the module. In your essay, you will be asked to address specific questions. These essays are opportunities to demonstrate that you assimilate and can use key concepts and notions covered in this course. For each essay, you will be able to earn up to 40 pts. Please pay attention to the deadlines to complete these essays (see *Schedule of Topics and Instructional Activities*). Unless specified otherwise, the deadline to submit essays is 12:30 PM on the due date. Late essays will be penalized 5 pts per day late. It is your responsibility to make sure that essays were submitted successfully on Blackboard. Penalties will not be waived based screenshots of computer files (or similar documents).

### Class Discussions (6 x 20 pts = 120 pts = 17%)

You will participate in 6 class discussions (see *Schedule of Topics and Instructional Activities*). These discussions will focus on specific research areas on diversity and multiculturalism. Prior to the discussion, you will read a paper (article or book chapter) and watch the video of a talk given by the author or co-author. Next, you will submit 3 discussion points (worth 10 pts; 3 or 4 sentences for each discussion point) via Blackboard by 12:30 PM on the day of the class discussion. These discussion points will serve as prompts for the class discussion. You are expected to actively and meaningfully participate in class discussions (worth 10 pts). Late discussion points will not be accepted and it is not possible to make-up for a missed class discussion.

### **Class Activities (80 pts = ~11%)**

You will have the opportunity to complete 14 class activities (demonstrations, exercises, etc.). These activities will either be individual or group assignments. Each activity is worth 5 points and will be graded using a Credit / Non Credit scale. You can also earn 5 pts for creating a student profile by Thursday, September 7 and 5 pts for completing a mid-semester teaching evaluation.

### **Group Project (100 pts = ~14%)**

Toward the end of the semester, you will work on a group project (3-4 students). The main goal of this project will be to develop a wiki that will provide access to valuable resources on a specific question or theme relevant to this course. Specific and detailed instructions will be provided when the group projects are initiated. The final product will be graded using the following scale: Excellent (100-91 pts), Very Good (90-81 pts), Good (80-71 pts), Fair (70-61 pts), Poor (60 pts or less).

### **Grading Scale**

In line with University Policies, grades are defined as follows: A (outstanding achievement; available for the highest accomplishment); B (praiseworthy performance; definitely above average); C (average; awarded for satisfactory performance; the most common undergraduate grade); D (minimally passing; less than the typical undergraduate achievement); F (failing). Plus/minus grading is utilized at the discretion of the instructor.

Final grades will be based on an absolute scale (not a curve). Thus, your grade will not be affected by how well (or how poorly) other students perform in the course.

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Grade</b>
93-100	A
90-92.99	A-
87-89.99	B+
83-86.99	B
80-82.99	B-
77-79.99	C+
73-76.99	C
70-72.99	C-
67-69.99	D+
63-66.99	D
60-62.99	D-
< 60	F

### ***Classroom Atmosphere***

We should work together to create a classroom atmosphere conducive to learning. I strongly encourage **active participation** in the classroom; you should feel comfortable asking questions and contributing to class discussions. Throughout this course, we will be discussing a variety of sensitive and controversial issues. Thus, it will be extremely important to keep an open mind, to listen to others' viewpoints, and to tolerate a different opinion than your own. I expect everyone to show **respect** for each other and to

**refrain from actions that might reduce the quality of students' learning experiences.** Cell phones or beepers should be turned off or on vibrate.

### ***Academic Honesty***

SDSU adheres to a strict policy regarding **cheating** and **plagiarism**. These activities will not be tolerated in this course. Become familiar with the policy ([http://go.sdsu.edu/student\\_affairs/srr/conduct.aspx](http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/srr/conduct.aspx)). Any cheating or plagiarism will result in failing this class and a disciplinary review by Student Affairs.

Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to:

- Using sources verbatim or paraphrasing without giving proper attribution (this can include phrases, sentences, paragraphs and/or pages of work).
- Copying and pasting work from an online or offline source directly and calling it your own.
- Using information you find from an online or offline source without giving the author credit.
- Replacing words or phrases from another source and inserting your own words or phrases.
- Submitting a piece of work you did for one class to another class.

Students agree that by taking this course all required assignments may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted assignments might be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.

If you have questions on what is plagiarism, please consult the helpful tutorial from the Library (<http://library.sdsu.edu/guides/tutorial.php?id=28>).

### ***Interacting with Me***

The best way to reach me is via email ([tdevos@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:tdevos@mail.sdsu.edu)). Please include "HON413" in the subject line (unless you are sending email through Blackboard). I will try to respond within 24-48 hours to emails. For quick questions, the turnaround time may be much shorter. Of course, you are welcome to talk to me after class or during office hours.

### ***Specific Accommodations***

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this course, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

## Schedule of Topics and Instructional Activities

<i>In-Class</i>	<i>Instructional Activity</i>	<i>Due Date<sup>+</sup></i>
<b>Module 1. Mapping and Understanding Cultural Variations</b>		
Tuesday 08/29	FTF - Psychology and Cultural Diversity	
Thursday 08/31	FTF - Psychological Variations	
	AC - Dimensions of Culture [20 pts]	Tuesday 09/05
Tuesday 09/05	FTF - Psychological Universals	
Thursday 09/07	RTD - Tight and Loose Cultures in a Globalized World - Gelfand	Thursday 09/07
	RE - What Is Culture For? - Chiu & Hong [40 pts]	Tuesday 09/12
<b>Module 2. Socio-Cultural Perspectives on the Self</b>		
Tuesday 09/12	FTF - Self-Definitions	
Thursday 09/14	FTF - Self-Motives	
Tuesday 09/19	RTD - Our Cultures, Ourselves: Sources of Belongingness - Markus [20 pts]	Tuesday 09/19
	AC - Art of Choosing - Iyengar [20 pts]	Thursday 09/21
Thursday 09/21	FTF - Acculturation and Multicultural Identities	
	RE - Multiple Identities and Intersectionality - Settles & Buchanan [40 pts]	Tuesday 09/26
<b>Module 3. Experiencing and Managing Diversity</b>		
Tuesday 09/26	FTF - Categorization in Diverse Settings	
	AC - Personal Experience of Intercultural Contact [20 pts]	Thursday 09/28
Thursday 09/28	FTF - Intercultural Contact	
Tuesday 10/03	FTF - Intergroup Ideologies	
Thursday 10/05	FTF - Experiencing Diversity	
Tuesday 10/10	RTD - Diversity, Social Cohesion, and Prejudice - Hewstone [20 pts]	Tuesday 10/10
	RE - Multicultural Societies - Berry & Sam [40 pts]	Thursday 10/12
<b>Module 4. Cultural Inertia and Change</b>		
Thursday 10/12	FTF - Production and Reproduction of Culture	
Tuesday 10/17	FTF - Cultural Change	
Thursday 10/19	RTD - Birth of High Gods - Shariff, Norezayan, & Henrich [20 pts]	Thursday 10/19
	RE - Psychological Science of Globalization - Leung, Qiu, & Chiu [40 pts]	Tuesday 10/24
<b>Module 5. Prejudices in Multicultural Settings</b>		
	AC - Implicit Association Test [20 pts]	Tuesday 10/24
Tuesday 10/24	FTF - Implicit Intergroup Biases	
Thursday 10/26	FTF - Not Living Up to Egalitarian Principles	
Tuesday 10/31	FTF - Complexities of Intergroup Perceptions	
Thursday 11/02	RTD - Microaggressions, Marginality, and Oppression - Sue [20 pts]	Thursday 11/02
	RE - Shades of American Identity - Devos & Mohamed [40 pts]	Tuesday 11/07

### Module 6. Cognition and Reasoning

Tuesday 11/07	FTF - Culture and Cognitive Processes	
	AC - Cognition [20 pts]	Thursday 11/09
Thursday 11/09	FTF – Language, Communication, and Multicultural Minds	
Tuesday 11/14	RTD - Dynamic Multiculturalism - Hong & Khei [20 pts]	Tuesday 11/14
	RE - Bilingual Brain - Ramírez-Esparza & García-Sierra [40 pts]	Thursday 11/16

### Module 7. Perspectives on Morality

Thursday 11/16	FTF - Morality and Ethics	
	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>	
	RE - Moral Challenge of Robust Cultural Pluralism - Shweder [40 pts]	Tuesday 11/28
	AC - Morality [20 pts]	Tuesday 11/28
Tuesday 11/28	FTF - Moral Violations and Justice	

### Module 8. Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes

Thursday 11/30	FTF - Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes	
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### Group Projects

Tuesday 12/05	Work on Group Project #1	
Thursday 12/07	Work on Group Project #2	
Tuesday 12/12	Group Project Presentations #1	
Thursday 12/14	Group Project Presentations #2	
	<b>Group Project due [100 pts]</b>	Tuesday 12/19

\* Unless specified otherwise, the deadline to submit coursework is 12:30 PM on the due date

FTF = Face-to-face class meeting

AC = Activity completed online

RE = Read paper and instructions; write and submit essay online

RTD = Read paper, watch video of talk, submit discussion points, and actively participate in class discussion