

# PSY 344. Psychology and Culture

SDSU – Fall 2017 – Schedule # 22979

## Class Meetings

Class Day and Time: Tuesday 2:00 – 3:15 PM

Class Location: West Commons (WC) 230

**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](mailto:tdevos@mail.sdsu.edu)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:** Dylan Petze

Office Hours: Monday 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Office Hours Location: Life Sciences North (LSN – basement level) 24C

Email: [dpeteze@sdsu.edu](mailto:dpeteze@sdsu.edu)

## Course Overview

### Purpose and Course Content

The goal of the course is to **introduce you to the field of cultural psychology**. This course will explore how culture influences human thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. The relations between culture and psychology are both complex and profound. In contrast to the view that psychological processes are essentially the same everywhere, cultural psychologists examine how psychological processes are inextricably linked to specific social, cultural, and historical contexts.

This course provides an overview of theory and research on psychology and culture. We will be considering a number of complex questions including: What is human nature? What are key dimensions along which cultures vary? How do cultures change or persist over time? What methodologies can we use to study culture in psychology? How do “universal” laws in psychology vary by situation and culture? How do culture and self make each other up? How do various ways of thinking differ across cultures? What are the specific differences and similarities between cultures in areas such as personality, emotion, motivation, child-rearing, or mental health? Does the definition of what is moral or fair vary across cultures? What happens when people move to another culture? The course will be taught from a research perspective. We will identify answers to these questions that are currently being proposed by the research community.

### Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Describe influential concepts, principles, and theoretical frameworks in cultural psychology
2. Describe how socio-cultural contexts influence individual thoughts, feelings, and behaviors

3. Explain the complexity of the interconnections between culture and psychology
4. Apply concepts, principles, theories, and research findings in cultural psychology to everyday life (including personal, social, or organizational issues or problems)
5. Reflect on your own thoughts, feelings, and behaviors from a cultural perspective
6. Describe ways (actions, behaviors) to interact effectively and sensitively with people of diverse cultural backgrounds
7. Critically evaluate scientific research on culture and psychology
8. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of empirical research from a cultural psychology perspective
9. Discriminate between research findings that apply universally and those that are dependent on cultural differences
10. Value considerations of culture and diversity in psychological research and practice

### ***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***

This course is a blended course. This means that we will conduct instructional activities both in class and online. Instructional activities will include lectures, demonstrations, exercises, discussions, videotapes, and examinations. Specific instructions for how to access various online class activities will be provided separately.

**Online instructional activities** will be delivered in a work-at-your-own-speed manner. For example, at a time convenient to you, you will watch recorded mini-lectures or video presentations. In addition, you will complete activities that will help you assimilate and master course material. New course materials will be released on Mondays each week and all activities for the week must be **completed by the following Monday (11:59 PM Pacific Time)**. The course will not be as effective, however, if you wait until Monday to do all the online activities. To stay on track, log in several times each week, at least for a few minutes, and work on portions of the course material (e.g., complete an activity or watch a mini-lecture).

The course is structured according to **12 distinct modules**. Typically, each module will include the following:

- **Learning Objectives:** A description of the specific learning objectives
- **Face-To-Face Lecture (in class on Tuesdays):** This lecture will cover a significant amount of material; attendance is strongly recommended
- **Recorded Mini-Lecture:** One recorded mini-lecture covering additional material (typically 15-25 minutes)

- **Activities:** Two activities (e.g., discussion board, demonstration, exercise, etc.) completed online
- **Dig Deeper:** Additional (optional) resources relevant to this module
- **Review Sheet:** A review sheet listing key constructs you need to master

In most case, the module will be completed over a one week period (some modules will be covered over a 10-day period). 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). All **online activities for a given module need to be completed by the due date** (see *Schedule of Topics, Instructional Activities, and Examinations*).

### ***Success in a Blended Course***

A blended course offers some flexibility in the sense that some instructional activities will be completed at a time convenient to you. Even more important, the online activities will require that you play a very active role in the learning process. In this course, online instruction does not mean passively listening to recorded lectures prior to a test. To succeed in a blended learning environment, students should keep in mind the following requirements:

- A computer - PC or Macintosh - with a stable Internet connection. Higher speed Internet connections (cable modem, DSL) are strongly recommended.
- Basic computer skills - email, surf the Internet, and create basic word processor files.
- Microsoft Office 2010, or higher (Must include Word and PowerPoint).
- A reliable email address that will not change from the beginning until the end of the course.
- A “technology back-up” plan. Students should plan out an alternative location to do activities in the event their computer or Internet connection is not working.
- Time. Blended learning courses require as much time as traditional (classroom) instruction. The primary difference is that portion of the instruction (i.e., online instructional activities) allows flexibility.
- Self motivation. Blended students must be “self starters” and have the ability to work with a minimum of supervision. Students who procrastinate are rarely successful in blended courses.

Students are also required to:

- Make use of the online course materials available via Blackboard. Access to these materials is available once you have registered to the course.
- Complete activities by the dates indicated on the syllabus.
- Check email on a daily basis.

## Course Materials

### Blackboard

You can access the course website on Blackboard:

- <https://blackboard.sdsu.edu> [Course: PSY344-01-Fall2017]

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

The following **textbook** is **required** for this course:

- Heine, S. J. (2016). *Cultural psychology* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed). New York: Norton.

For each face-to-face or recorded lecture, the pages of the textbook that are most directly relevant to the material covered will be provided. It does not mean that these are the only sections of the textbook that you need to read, but it will help you draw bridges between lectures and textbook chapters.

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

**IMPORTANT: Material posted on Blackboard (slides, videos, recorded lectures, activities, articles, etc.) is only for students enrolled in a section of PSY 344 - Psychology and Culture 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:

### Tests and Final Exam (60% = 3 x 200 pts)

Three tests will be given in class (see *Schedule of Topics, Instructional Activities and Examinations*). **You will need to bring a ParScore form # F-289-PAR-L (narrow red) and a No 2 pencil to each test.** Each test covers 4 modules, is worth 200 pts, and will consist of 50 multiple choice questions (1 correct answer = 4 pts). For these tests, you need to know material covered in lectures (face-to-face and recorded), activities, and textbook. The final exam will be taken online. The format of the final exam is similar to that of the tests (50 multiple choice questions), but the final exam covers all modules (comprehensive exam). Only the 3 best scores (3 tests or 2 tests + final exam) will be taken into account for the final grade. **No make-up tests will be given.** If you miss a test, your grade will be based on the 2 remaining tests and the final exam. If you took the 3 tests, the final exam is optional.

### Activities (40% = 400 pts)

You will be asked to complete activities (**demonstrations, exercises, discussion boards**, etc.). Each activity might be worth 10, 15, or 20 pts. Specific instructions for each activity will be provided on Blackboard. Please make sure you **follow carefully these instructions** and pay attention to the **deadlines** to complete these

activities (see *Schedule of Topics, Instructional Activities, and Examinations*). 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 on screenshots of computer files (or similar documents).**

### Bonus Points - Online Quizzes and Participation (up to 30 bonus pts)

You can earn points for **completing a short online quiz prior to each test** (10 MCQ; maximum 5 bonus pts per quiz). Specific instructions will be provided on Blackboard. You can also earn points for completing a short syllabus survey (5 bonus pts), for creating a student profile (5 bonus pts), and for completing a mid-semester teaching evaluation (5 bonus pts) on Blackboard.

### 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.

Points	Percentage	Grade
930-1000	93-100	A
900-929	90-92.99	A-
870-899	87-89.99	B+
830-869	83-86.99	B
800-829	80-82.99	B-
770-799	77-79.99	C+
730-769	73-76.99	C
700-729	70-72.99	C-
670-699	67-69.99	D+
630-669	63-66.99	D
600-629	60-62.99	D-
< 600	< 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 activities may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted activities 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 this 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 "PSY344" 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, Instructional Activities, and Examinations

<i>In-Class</i>	<i>Instructional Activity</i>	<i>Due Date*</i>
	Watch welcome video + read syllabus	
	Syllabus Survey [5 bonus pts] + Create Student Profile [5 bonus pts]	Monday 09/11
<b>Module 1. What is Cultural Psychology?</b>		
Tuesday 08/29	FTF - Cultural Psychology	
	AC - What Is Culture? [20 pts]	Monday 09/04
	REC - Critical Thinking Skills	
	AC - Individual Differences and Demographics [10 pts]	Monday 09/04
<b>Module 2. Cultural Variations and Universals</b>		
Tuesday 09/05	FTF - Reflecting on Psychology as a Field	
	AC - Is Psychology Culture Bound? [20 pts]	Monday 09/11
	REC - Culture and Human Nature	
	DB - So Human, So Chimp [15 pts]	Monday 09/11
<b>Module 3. Cultural Evolution: Change and Stability</b>		
Tuesday 09/12	FTF - Production and Reproduction of Culture	
	REC - Mapping Cultural Differences	
	AC – Dimensions of Culture [20 pts]	Monday 09/18
	REC - Cultural Change	
	DB - Narcissism Epidemic - Dr. Jean Twenge [15 pts]	Monday 09/18
<b>Module 4. Development and Socialization</b>		
Tuesday 09/19	FTF - Socialization, Attachment, and Transitions	
	DB – Babies [15 pts]	Monday 09/25
	REC - Schooling	
	QZ – Online Quiz 1 – Modules 1-4 [5 bonus pts]	Monday 09/25
Tuesday 09/26	<b>TST - TEST 1 – Modules 1-4 [200 pts]</b>	
<b>Module 5. Self: Cultural Facets</b>		
Tuesday 10/03	FTF - Self-Views	
	AC - Independent vs. Interdependent Self [20 pts]	Monday 10/09
	REC - Personality	
	AC - Personality and Culture [20 pts]	Monday 10/09
<b>Module 6. Motivational Processes</b>		
Tuesday 10/10	FTF - Self-Motives	
	AC - Choices and Decisions [20 pts]	Monday 10/16
	REC - Agency and Control	
	DB - Art of Choosing - Dr. Sheena Iyengar [15 pts]	Monday 10/16

<b>Module 7. Morality, Ethics, and Justice</b>		
	Mid-Semester Teaching Evaluation [5 bonus pts]	Monday 10/23
Tuesday 10/17	FTF - Morality and Ethics	
	AC - Cultural Relativism vs. Ethnocentrism [20 pts]	Monday 10/23
	REC - Moral Violations	
	AC – Morality [20 pts]	Monday 10/23
	REC - Justice	
<b>Module 8. Emotion: Universal and Cultural Aspects</b>		
Tuesday 10/24	FTF - Emotions: Universal Aspects	
	REC - Cultural Variations in Emotions	
	AC - Cultural Display Rules [20 pts]	Monday 10/30
	QZ – Online Quiz 2 – Modules 5-8 [5 bonus pts]	Monday 10/30
Tuesday 10/31	<b>TST - TEST 2 – Modules 5-8 [200 pts]</b>	
<b>Module 9. Cognition and Perception</b>		
Tuesday 11/07	FTF - Perception and Reasoning	
	AC – Cognition [20 pts]	Monday 11/13
	REC - Language and Communication	
	AC - Linguistic Relativism and Determinism [20 pts]	Monday 11/13
<b>Module 10. Mental and Physical Health</b>		
Tuesday 11/14	FTF - Mental Health	
	AC - Culture Bound Syndromes [20 pts]	Monday 11/20
	REC - Physical Health	
	DB - Hierarchy, Stress, and Health [15 pts]	Monday 11/20
<b>Module 11. Multiculturalism</b>		
	DB - God Grew Tired of Us [15 pts]	Monday 12/04
	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>	
Tuesday 11/28	FTF - Acculturation	
	AC - Acculturation Strategies and Host Culture Orientation [20 pts]	Monday 12/04
	REC - Multicultural Minds	
<b>Module 12. Interpersonal Relations</b>		
Tuesday 12/05	FTF - Attraction and Close Relationships	
	AC - Love and Marriage [20 pts]	Monday 12/11
	REC - Group Processes	
	AC - Social Relations [20 pts]	Monday 12/11
	QZ – Online Quiz 3 – Modules 9-12 [5 bonus pts]	Monday 12/11
Tuesday 12/12	<b>TST - TEST 3 – Modules 9-12 [200 pts]</b>	
	REC – Review Session	
	<b>ONLINE FINAL EXAM BETWEEN 10:00 AM AND 6:00 PM (1 ¼ HOUR)</b>	Tuesday 12/19

\* Unless specified otherwise, the deadline to submit coursework is 11:59 PM on the due date.

FTF = Face-to-face in class lecture

REC = Recorded lecture

TST = In-class test

DB = Online discussion board

AC = Online activity

QZ = Online quiz