**Syllabus for PSY 132 Psychology and Culture  Spring 2010 CRN 21567**

*PSY 132 has been accepted in the AGEC and for the Global Awareness (G) requirement.

**Description:** This course will focus on human diversity in behavior and culture using examples from a variety of contexts and nations. It will examine the processes of enculturation, socialization, and human development around the world and include discussions of current international events. Controversial topics such as alternative family structures and sexual behaviors, religion and politics are included. Respect for differences in views is expected.

**Instructor:** Rita Flattley, M.Ed  Email: rflattley@pima.edu
**Web Site:** [http://ecc.pima.edu/~rflattley/psy_culture.htm](http://ecc.pima.edu/~rflattley/psy_culture.htm)

**NOTE:** You MUST include the course number in the subject line of an email message, and please do NOT send assignments as email attachments due to virus & spam problems.

**Office:** O 1 162  Mon/Wed 8:45 – 9:45 am or Tue/Thur 9 – 10 am or by email  
**Phone:** 206-7634 days or leave a message  
**Texts:** Cross-Cultural Psychology, 3rd Ed. by Shiraev and Levy Allyn & Bacon pub.

**Attendance and Participation:**  
Regular attendance is part of your grade. Student presentations and discussions are key elements of interactive learning in this course. **If you can not attend you may be better off in a self paced class. You may be withdrawn at the 45th day for nonattendance, or may fail the course if you stop attending without withdrawing from the class through Admissions.**

**Guiding Questions:**  
Can we learn to appreciate other cultures without judging them by our own standards?  
Is it possible for people of diverse cultures to live in peace?  
Is there really any such thing as a fundamental “human nature” or are all people different?

**Important Dates for Spring 2010**

- Classes Start Tuesday, January 19  
- Drop/Refund Deadline Monday, February 1  
- Rodeo Days Thursday and Friday, February 25 – 26 – No Class  
- 45th Day Census for Registration Thursday, March 4  
- Spring Break Week March 14 – 20 – No Class  
- Withdrawal Deadline Thursday, April 8  
- Finals Week May 12 – May 18

Pursuant to Arizona state law (ARS 13-3620) College personnel who learn in the course of their employment that a minor has been the victim of physical or sexual abuse are required to report this information immediately to law enforcement.

PCC provides reasonable accommodation to those students who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA.) Appropriate medical documentation will be required to determine
eligibility. Please contact the campus Disabled Student Resource office at 206-7799 to begin the accommodation request process.

Classroom Manners:
In order to maintain a positive and constructive learning environment, everyone involved must be mature and respectful to others. Turn off cell phones and avoid side conversations, entering late and/or leaving early, and other distracting or disruptive behaviors. Thank you!

Class Schedule

The purpose of this schedule is to enable you to keep up with readings and assignments. Occasional changes and adjustments may occur throughout the semester that will be announced in class - another reason to be there! NOTE: Chapters are not always in order!

Unit I Understanding Cross-Cultural Psychology and its Methods

Week #1 January 19 - 21 Introduction to Course: Topics, Methods, Expectations. Review syllabus and grading, ideas about cultural comparisons and ethics.

Week #2 January 26 - 28 Studying Cross-Cultural Psychology – Science and Values READ Ch. 1 Understanding Cross-Cultural Psychology. Basic approaches and issues in cross-cultural psychology. Ethnocentrism, indigenous psychologies, history of the field.

Week #3 February 2 - 4 Methodology in cross-cultural research READ Ch. 2 Methodology, and the scientific method as applied to psychology. Common sources of error in thinking about human behavior. Locating and evaluating information. Awareness of sources of bias and misinformation.

Week #4 February 9 - 11 Critical Thinking in cross-cultural psychology READ Ch. 3. Sources of bias in social thinking. Gender roles, marriage customs, and religious beliefs across cultures as examples of “hot button” issues.


Unit 2 Psychological Processes

Week #6 Tuesday, February 23 – First Quiz on 1, 2, 3, and 12 and UN Declaration of Human Rights. Multiple choice format, can use 2 page sides notes. No class Thursday.

Week #7 March 2 - 4 READ Ch. 5 Intelligence and Cross-cultural Measurement Cultural values and intelligence. IQ testing, sources of bias in measurement, genetic and environmental influences on IQ, ethics in the use of testing.
Week #8 March 9 - 11  Cognition: Sensation, Perception, and Consciousness
READ Ch. 4. Cultural interactions with sensory perception, time sense, and aesthetics. Dream interpretation. Spirituality, substance use, and altered states of consciousness.

Week #9 March 23 - 25  Emotion and its Social Expression
READ Ch. 6  Emotional experiences and expressions, cultural display rules.

Ethnographic Interview due Week 9. Work with instructor if you need help with contacts from another country or culture.

Week #10 March 30- April 1  Motivation and Behavior
READ Ch. 7  Evolutionary psychology, primary motivators - sex, food, aggression. Achievement motivation, competition and cooperation in human societies. Review for second quiz, prepare 2 pages sides of notes.

Week #11 April 6 - 8  Human Development and Socialization
READ Ch 8 Human Development. Stages of development across cultures, family structures, age cohorts, socialization. Social “memes” and their replication.

Second Quiz on Tuesday, April 13 on chapters 4, 5, 6, 7

Unit 3 Developmental, Social, and Abnormal Psychology

Week #12 April 13 - 15  Social Perception and Cognition
READ Ch. 10 Attribution theory, locus of control, beliefs about beauty.

Week #13 April 20 - 22  READ Ch. 9 Psychological Disorders
American and International manuals and categorization of mental disorders. Universal and culture-bound mental illnesses, beliefs about mental illness, and treatment of the mentally ill and therapeutic methods in different cultures.

Week #14 April 27 - 29  READ Ch. 11 Social Interaction. Cooperation and competition, social influence, conformity, social loafing.

Week #15  Student Presentations
Cultural Diversity Paper Due if not already in – Last Week to turn in written work!!

Week #16  Tuesday, May 11  Last Day for Student Presentations
Thursday, May 13 Last Test  multiple choice with review and notes

Writing Assignments:
All writing assignments must be typed, in a standard 12 point font, with at least one inch margins, preferably with 1.5 or double spacing. Make sure that your full name, as it appears on the class list, is at the top as well as which class you are enrolled in.
Extra Credit:
If you are interested in extra credit, present to the class an international news story of particular social or political interest relevant to the class as reported by a foreign news service, such as the BBC (Britain) al-Jazeera (Qatar) China Central News, etc.

Grading Policy and Point Assignments

Attendance: Max. 20 pts.

Three Quizzes (or in class activities) @ 20 - 30 pts. each: Max. 90 pts. Tests will be given in class on the on the listed dates. The tests will be graded and returned the week after they are given. Make-up tests may be arranged in Testing Center.

Appreciation of Cultural Diversity – Event, Book, or Movie - Max. 30 pts. Have fun and earn credit!! Attend an ethnic festival or cultural event, see a foreign film, or read a book set in a foreign country. We will discuss upcoming events in class. Write a brief commentary on what you learned from the activity.

Ethnographic Interview Each 30 pts. Locate and interview a person who grew up outside of the USA regarding what their life was like there and what is different about living in their country or the USA. Guidelines will be provided.

One Presentation on Social Life and Customs of a Region / People / Culture Each 30 pts. Create a brief presentation for the class on what it is like to live in a different place. This may be information on a place you have visited, where your ancestors are from, or a place that you have an interest in. Focus on the lifestyles of the people, in present times. You may want to narrow your focus to a particular ethnic or religious group, or an aspect of culture like music and art, etc.

For example chose a specific country or a distinctive cultural group within a country, OR a comparative study such as selecting a holiday (like Mardi Gras) or a religion (like Islam) or a social practice (like alcohol consumption) and show how it is observed or practiced differently in two or more different places.

Course Total : 200 pts

Point Conversion To Letter Grade
180 - 200 points 90% A
159 - 179 points 80% B
138 - 158 points 70% C
117 - 137 points 60% D

Final grades will be posted through the College’s computer system after the semester ends. Grades can only be discussed with the enrolled student due to privacy regulations, so please clarify how the instructor may contact you in a manner that maintains your right to privacy.