

# **PSYCO341**

## **Cultural Psychology**

**3 Credits**

Instructor: Kelly Mutter

Phone: 780 871 5423

Original Developer: Gregory Yelland

Current Developer: Kelly Mutter

Reviewer: Gordon Jangula

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2602 - 59 Avenue, Lloydminster, Alberta, Canada T9V 3N7. Ph: 780 871 5700  
5707 College Drive, Vermilion, Alberta, Canada T9X 1K5. Ph: 780 853 8400  
Toll-free in Canada: 1 800 661 6490



# PSYCO341 Version: 5



## Cultural Psychology

### Calendar Description

PSYCO341 introduces students to the unique and challenging perspectives and methodologies inherent in the study of cultural psychology, which examines the impact of cultural experiences on a variety of psychological phenomena.

Throughout the course, students are challenged to discuss abstract concepts such as culture, evolution, and psychology and more concrete (but surprising) examples of human cultural variation. In doing so, students uncover strongly held assumptions regarding human nature, personality, morality, self-concept, health, and other aspects of being human. However, the course is designed to teach students to adopt a metacognitive approach which allows them to adopt a cultural psychological mindset as they apply cultural theories and perspectives while also employing empirical reasoning.

### Rationale

This course is intended for Psychology majors and fulfills one of the requirements for those graduating with a degree in Psychology. It also fulfills the Social Science requirements in other faculties.

### Prerequisites

Prerequisites: one of PSYCO 223, 233, or 241.

### Co-Requisites

None

### Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. recognize and appreciate the need for a cultural psychological perspective in more fully understanding human psychological phenomenon.
2. identify and describe major perspectives, theories, and concepts in the study of the relation between culture and the individual.

3. critically evaluate these perspectives, theories and concepts, and understand their implications for psychological research.
4. appreciate the role of culture across a variety of psychological area, such as cognition, emotion, self, gender, health, language and abnormal behaviour.
5. develop and improve formal writing skills in terms of spelling, grammar, argumentation, terminology, and American Psychological Association (APA) formatting and style..

## **Resource Materials**

This course is structured around the Steven Heine (2016) textbook, *Cultural Psychology*, but students may also be required to read additional articles or book chapters from additional sources throughout the course. Additional readings will be available electronically or on reserve through the library.

## **Conduct of Course**

**This is a 3 credit course with 3 hours of lecture per week (3-0-0).**

### **Absence & Evaluation Policies**

Extended absence from classes, missed exams, and late assignments due to illness or other factors must be justified with acceptable documentation from attending professionals. This documentation need not divulge personal information but it must give exact dates of your consultation with an attending professional and it must specify the periods for which you were or are unable to complete your work. Unless adequate documentation is provided, late assignments will be subject to the penalty stated below; missed exams will be given a zero. If you are unable to write the mid-term exam due to illness or emergency, please contact me prior to the mid-term or no later than 48 hours following the mid-term.

### **Essay Style & Formatting**

Except when gender specificity is necessitated by the topic or context, gender inclusive language must be used. All assignments require you to use 12-point Times New Roman font with 2.5 cm (1 inch) margins. Lines are to be double-spaced and make sure that your program is NOT defaulted to add a space between paragraphs.

APA formatting is to be used on all assignments. This includes: title page, page layout, in-text citations, inclusive language, and reference pages. For details on APA style, see the style guide in the Library or go to <http://www.apastyle.org/>. Marks will be deducted for incorrect citation and referencing. Absent citations and references may result in academic misconduct. See plagiarism in the following section.

It is expected that you will develop and improve upon your writing skills throughout the course. Marks are deducted for poor grammar, spelling errors, and generally unreadable work.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is extremely important to Lakeland College and academia in general. Cheating and plagiarism are two forms of academic misconduct. According to the College's Student Policies and Procedures, plagiarism is:

The use and submission of another's work without appropriately identifying and crediting the individual. "Work" includes direct quotations longer than two words; facts that are not common knowledge or are arguable; judgments, opinions, or ideas of others, even if paraphrased or summarized; statistics, charts, tables, and graphs from other sources; or information or help provided by friends, instructors, or others. (p. 3)

If cheating or plagiarism has been judged to occur, **by accident or by intention**, penalties are imposed. Punishments can range from a zero on the assignment to expulsion from the College. Further information can be found in the Policies & Procedures e-document located at:

<http://www.lakelandcollege.ca/mylakeland/>

### **Student Resources**

- **Writing & Study Skills:** The ability to write well comes only through constant work and critique. The Commons, <http://www.lakelandcollege.ca/campus-life/the-commons/>, provides multiple online resources that can provide guidance in writing and study skills. In addition to the comments made on your assignments, you can also meet with me to work on your writing skills.
  - If you have a learning disability that affects your writing, please contact me to discuss possible solutions and/or accommodations.
- **Student Health & Wellness:** It is not uncommon to experience difficulties with balancing personal and university life. If you are struggling with any kind of personal issues, please talk to me or visit <https://lakelandcollege.ca/campus-life/the-commons/wellness/> for more information.
- **Accessibility Accommodations:** If you have a disability that affects your learning in the classroom or how much time you need for the tests/exam please contact <https://lakelandcollege.ca/campus-life/the-commons/accessibility/>.

### **Additional Comments**

- **Subject to change.** I will strive to adhere to the course syllabus to the best of my efforts but unanticipated events might require me to make changes.
- **I will do my best to return your emails within 48 business hours.** Questions regarding course material will be answered in class since it is likely that others have the same or similar questions.
- **When you write e-mails to me,** please make sure to:
  - Use "PSYCO341" in the subject line.
  - Ensure your full name is in the body or the email address so that I know who you are.

## Evaluation Procedures

Reflection/Discussions	20%
Midterm Exam/Quizzes	25%
Class Presentation (Group)	10%
Special Topics in Cultural Psychology/Research Paper	20%
Final Examination	25%

### Reflection & Discussion Opportunity (20%)

**Due: Continuous**

Students will respond to online (D2L) discussion questions in a way that demonstrates: (a) critical thinking about how culture influences/interacts with human thought and behavior by referring to and going beyond course readings and/or applying it to their own lives; (b) self-awareness of their own psychological experiences in relationship to their cultural experiences; and (c) the ability to apply their cultural knowledge in their future professional work and personal life (using examples). *Please see assignment description for more details.*

### Midterm Exam (25%)

**Due: TBA**

The Midterm Exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. It will be based on the material covered in the textbook, lectures, readings, guest lectures, and class videos. (Chapters 1-8).

### Class Presentation (10%)

**Due: TBA**

This assignment provides students with an opportunity to go deeper with one of the textbook chapters. Depending on class size, small groups of up to 5 students will have a chance to experiment with presentation skills such as lecturing and facilitating learning activities.

Students are provided the opportunity to ‘facilitate’ 45 minutes of class time. Students are encouraged to use a combination of learning activities (lecture, group discussion, ‘games’). The teaching lesson plan must also include at least one engaging activity, demonstration, or critical thinking exercise to help facilitate the audience’s ability to learn the presented material. *Please see assignment description for more details.*

### Special Topics in Cultural Psychology: Refugee and Immigrants (20%)

**Due: TBA**

Refugees and immigrants have always migrated to Canada. This assignment will assess issues related to migration in general, with applications to recent migration to Canada.

Students work in groups to research and produce a report assessing the following areas related to migration:

1. Demographics and public concerns regarding immigration.
2. Issues in multiculturalism and immigration: Integration and social isolation
3. Mental health of immigrants
4. Physical health of immigrants
5. Education and workforce placement

More information on this assignment will be provided in class.

Students are expected to use proper APA writing and citation methods.

A deduction of 10% per day will be applied to late submissions.

**Final Exam (25%)**

**Day & Time TBA**

The Final Exam consists of multiple choice and short answer questions. Further information will be discussed in class. It will be based on the material covered in the textbook, lectures, readings, guest speakers, and class videos.

**No supplemental assignments or examination re-writes are permitted in this course.**

**Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements**

*A minimum grade of D (50%) (1.00) is required to pass this course.*

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.00

**Students must maintain a cumulative grade of C (GPA - Grade Point Average of 2.00) in order to qualify to graduate.**

**Attendance**

Regular attendance is essential for success in this course as discussion and interaction with the content is expected. Absence for any reason does not relieve a student from the responsibility of completing coursework and assignments to the satisfaction of the instructor. Poor attendance may result in the termination of a student from a course(s). Active and respectful participation in class discussions (online or in-person) is expected and enhances not just your education but the education of your peers as well.

**Course Units/Topics**

Date	Readings
Week 1 – Introduction to Cultural Psychology	Course syllabus, Introduction, Plagiarism, and APA readings, Chapter 1 of Heine (2016) textbook; additional readings on D2L

Week 2 – Culture and Human Nature	Chapter 2 of Heine (2016); additional readings on D2L
Week 3 – Cultural Evolution and Studying Cultural Psychology	Chapter 3 and 4 of Heine (2016); additional reading on D2L
Week 4 – Development and Socialization	Chapter 5 of Heine (2016); additional readings on D2L
Week 5 – Self and Personality	Chapter 6 of Heine (2016);
Week 6 – Motivation	Chapter 8 of Heine (2016)
Week 7 – Cognition and Perception	Chapter 9 of Heine (2016); additional readings on D2L
Week 8 – Emotions	Chapter 10 of Heine (2016)
Week 9 – Interpersonal Attraction and Close Relationships	Chapter 11 of Heine (2016)
Week 10 – Morality, Religion, and Justice	Chapter 12 of Heine (2016)
Week 11 – Physical Health	Chapter 13 of Heine (2016); additional readings on D2L
Week 12 – Mental Health	Chapter 14 of Heine (2016); additional readings on D2L
Week 13 – Conclusions	Special Topics Paper
Week 14 – Final Exam	



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