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### Course Outline for PSCN 13

#### MULTICULTURAL ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICA

Effective: Fall 2005

#### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

PSCN 13 — MULTICULTURAL ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICA — 3.00 units

Exploration of issues relating to the multicultural community in which we live today. Interpersonal relations and communication. Focus on improving individuals understanding of other cultures and how those cultures impact the American lifestyle. Includes exploration of myths and misunderstandings. Discussion of four specific cultures or sub-cultures from the following groups: 1) African-American, 2) Asian-American, 3) Hispanic-American, 4) Native-American, 5) Middle Eastern-American, 6) European-American, 7) Gay/Lesbian American, 8) Disabled American. 3 hours

3.00 Units Lecture

#### Grading Methods:

Optional

#### Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54.00

#### II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT:

#### III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

#### IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

**Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

1. compare and contrast the impact of various cultures on the modern American lifestyle
2. describe important myths and stereotypes associated with different cultural groups
3. identify the contributions and value of various cultures to American society today
4. evaluate critical elements necessary to improve interpersonal relations and communication between members of different cultural groups
5. explain the operational definition of culture that is used in cross-cultural research studies
6. analyze cultural differences and similarities with respect to gender roles, emotion, cognition, social behavior, and health issues
7. describe current local and state cultural demographics
8. identify the main behavioral and psychological aspects which define each specific cultural group
9. define and utilize "cultural diversity competence" skills to establish positive relationships with individuals from different cultural backgrounds

#### V. CONTENT:

- A. Concept of Culture
  1. Defining culture
  2. Culture and diversity
  3. Understanding culture through identity groups
  4. Pancultural principles versus culture-specific differences
  5. Cultural metaphors
  6. Cultural relativism and ethnocentrism
  7. Multiculturalism as a movement and field of study
- B. Cross-Cultural Research Methods
  1. Types of cross-cultural research
  2. Special issues concerning cross-cultural research
  3. Measuring ethnic identity
  4. Guidelines for reviewing cross-cultural research
- C. Local and State Demographic Information
  1. Department of Commerce: Census Bureau Statistics
  2. Analyzing demographic information
  3. Concept of minority-majority community
- D. Profiles of American Cultural Groups
  1. European-American
  2. African-American
  3. Asian-American
  4. Hispanic-American

5. Native-American
6. Middle Eastern-American
7. Gay/Lesbian-American
8. Disabled-American
- E. Ethnocentrism, Prejudice, and Stereotypes
  1. Psychological factors contributing to ethnocentrism and intergroup attitudes
  2. Cultural mythology and cultural filters
  3. Development of stereotypes: psychological analysis
  4. Racism, classism, and sexism
  5. Institutional discrimination
  6. Recognizing one's own level of ethnocentrism and stereotypic thinking
- F. Culture, Self and Personality
  1. Different cultural conceptualizations of self
  2. Interrelated and isolated self-concepts
  3. Consequences for cognition, emotion and motivation
  4. Measurement of personality across cultures
  5. Culture and indigenous personalities
- G. Intercultural Communication
  1. Language differences across cultures
  2. Role of culture in the communication process
  3. Intracultural versus intercultural communication
  4. Differences in non-verbal behavior
  5. Differences in emotional expression
  6. Differences in perception
  7. Improving intercultural communication
- H. Culture and Gender Issues
  1. Cross cultural views of women and men
  2. Similarities and differences in gender roles and stereotypes
  3. Other psychological gender differences across cultures
  4. Ethnicity and gender role expectations
- I. Culture and Health
  1. Differences in the definition of health
  2. Culture and conceptions of the body
  3. Cultural influences on attitudes and beliefs related to health and disease
  4. Cultural differences in dealing with illness
- J. Social Behavioral Issues in a Multicultural Society
  1. Cultural differences in ingroup-outgroup relationships
  2. Cultural differences in work-related values
  3. Intercultural dating, marriage, and partnerships
  4. Cultural blending and bi-racial identity, transcultural adoption
  5. Treatment of abnormal behavior across diverse cultures
  6. Guidelines to improving cross-cultural relationships
- K. Media Images of Various Cultures in Contemporary America
  1. Creative media: movies, television programs, literature and theatre
  2. News media: Internet, television, newspapers, magazines
- L. Impact and Contribution of Cultural Diversity on Modern Lifestyle
  1. Language and communication style
  2. Religion and belief systems
  3. Artistic/Aesthetic (music, art, fashion, food/cuisine, literature, etc)
- M. Four Skills of Cultural Diversity Competence
  1. Understanding culture as multilevel
  2. Understanding barriers to effective intercultural relationships
  3. Practicing culturally-centered communication
  4. Designing and implementing organizational-cultural competence

## VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Demonstration** - Demonstrations and simulations
- B. **Lecture** - Lectures on major themes and concepts
- C. Readings from the texts, supplementary materials, primary source materials
- D. Student-led presentations
- E. **Written exercises and case studies** - Written assignments
- F. **Audio-visual Activity** - Utilization of video and CD-ROM media
- G. **Discussion** - Group discussion and problem solving of significant and controversial issues

## VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Reading and discussion: 1. Read Chapter 3, "Culture and Communication" in *Culture and Modern Life* by David Matsumoto, pp. 31-46. Be prepared to discuss the cultural differences in non-verbal behaviors. 2. Read Chapter 4 section, "Cultural and Gender Role Expectations" in *Cross-Cultural Explorations: Activities in Culture and Psychology* by Susan Goldstein, pp. 129-133. Be prepared to compare and contrast psychological gender role differences across various cultures. B. Writing: 1. Based on assigned readings concerning cultural diversity competence skills, write a brief summary report discussing the five stages of the cultural diversity competence change process. 2. Write a brief paper identifying examples of the twelve basic aspects of culture for a specific cultural group being studied in the course. 3. Research and write a term paper pertaining to one of the primary topic areas discussed in this course (e.g., Testing Cognitive Abilities Across Cultures). Cite references in proper APA format, footnote sources and include a bibliography. 4. After viewing the video (film) "Dances with Wolves", be prepared to write a short paper concerning how Native-Americans and Native American culture is represented in the film differently than in usual media presentations. C. Collaborative Learning: 1. As a small group project, select a specific cultural group and interview at least four persons of that cultural background using the series of cross-cultural interview research questions discussed earlier in the course. Based on the information obtained from these interviews and other available sources of information (background readings, personal experiences, movies, news programs, etc.) develop an overall cultural behavioral profile of the group following the model presented in the textbook. Prepare a PowerPoint media presentation that will illustrate the most significant behavioral aspects of the cultural group. D. Internet Research: 1. Go to the following web site: <http://www.apa.org/pubinfo/answers.html> After reviewing the American Psychological Association's "Answers to Your Questions About Sexual Orientation and Homosexuality", post on the class discussion board a list of at least three things that you have learned about Gay men and women that increased your awareness of this social cultural group.

## VIII. EVALUATION:

### A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Research Projects
4. Papers
5. Class Participation

### B. **Frequency**

1. Minimum of one midterm examination
2. Quiz following each major course unit (module)
3. Minimum of three short essay/opinion papers and/or one research paper or small group project
4. Final examination

## IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Kottak, Conrad and Kozaitis, Kathryn *On Being Different: Diversity and Multiculturalism in the North American Mainstream*. 2nd ed., McGraw-Hill Publishing, 2003.
2. Shiraev, Eric and Lev, David *Cross-Cultural Psychology: Critical Thinking and Contemporary Applications*. 2nd ed., Pearson Allyn & Bacon, 2003.
3. Matsumoto, David *Culture and Modern Life*., Brooks/Cole Publishing, 1999.
4. Goldstein, Susan *Cross-Cultural Explorations: Activities in Culture and Psychology*., Pearson Allyn & Bacon, 1999.
5. Juang, Linda and Matsumoto, David *Culture and Psychology*. 3rd ed., Thomson/Wadsworth Publishing, 2004.
6. Hogam-Garcia, Mikel *The Four Skills of Cultural Diversity Competence*. 2nd ed., Thomson/Wadsworth Publishing, 2003.
7. Hall, Gordon and Baronga, Christy *Multicultural Psychology*., Prentice-Hall, 2003.
8. Mano, Sandra and Rico, Barbara *The American Mosaic*. 3rd ed., Houghton-Mifflin, 2001.

## X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: