**Psychology 2250: Cross Cultural Psychology**

**Spring, 2012**

**Meeting Place:**  Wellington, New Zealand **Instructor:** Howard Rollins, Professor

**Course Time:** Monday-Thursday **E-mail:** [howard.rollins@psych.gatech.edu](mailto:howard.rollins@psych.gatech.edu)

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**REQUIRED TEXT: 1. *Culture & Psychology* by Matsumoto and Juang, 4th Edition, 2008, Thompson/Wadsworth.**

**Prerequisite:** Waived for this study abroad program

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES**

Psychology is a science-based discipline that attempts through research to understand all aspects of human behavior. However, much of this research is based on studies of individuals living in Western cultures. There has been much interest over the past two decades in correcting this bias by studying human behavior in other parts of the world including Asia, Latin America, and Africa. While there are many similarities in human behavior across cultures there are also many interesting differences that help to inform our understanding of human life in all its complexities. The course “Cross-Cultural Psychology” provides students with an opportunity to learn about the similarities and differences in human behavior across cultures. We will examine all major domains of human behavior including cognition, perception, emotion, intelligence, motivation, development, social behavior, and psychological disorders. We will also take a look at how this knowledge might be applied in medicine, business, education and law.

There are four primary objectives of this course:

1. Learn the basic facts of cross-cultural psychology. What do we know about physical, cognitive, social, developmental and emotional differences across cultures?
2. What broad theories or more specific models have been proposed to account for the differences in behavior across cultures?
3. What are the unique ways in which the scientific method is applied to enable us to uncover the facts of cross-cultural psychology and subsequently to develop theories and/or models of explanation?
4. How might knowledge of cross-cultural differences in human behavior be applied in various contexts such as business, education, medicine, and law?

**Assessment**

**Exams:**  There will be two exams: one during the semester and a non-cumulative final. The exam questions will come from readings, in-class activities (including lectures, videos, discussions, etc.) and from team projects. Exams may include short answer, matching, identify and define, and multiple choice questions. The final exam is non-cumulative.

**Please Note:** If you are absent from an examination, I will NOT give a make-up exam unless you have an institution-approved absence and the necessary documentation. Please contact me before the scheduled exam if you must miss an exam. The make-up exam will not be the same as the exam given at the regular time.

**Projects:** Projects will be assigned periodically. Teams of 2 – 4 members of the class will participate in each project. Projects will involve library/web research as well as some outreach into New Zealand’s communities. The product of each project should be a PowerPoint presentation that will be presented by the team to the class (10 to 12 minutes). Projects will be scheduled as the teams determine their project and are prepared to present.

**Research Paper:** Research is the foundation of everything you will study in this course. The purpose of the paper is to give you first hand exposure to research in cross-cultural psychology. The paper assignment is intended to facilitate a deeper understanding of research in some more narrow area pertaining to the course and of particular interest to you. Each paper should consist of a review of a small number of recent research articles (2003-2010) dealing with the topic and end with your best shot at a summary of what was found and what the implications of those findings are. The paper should be between 8-10 pages (double spaced, 1” margins, 12 pt font). I will prepare and publish on T-Square a more detailed explanation of how the paper should be written.

Paper topics should be chosen from team projects or from one or more of the chapters covered or readings assigned. You should check with me if you have questions about developing a good paper topic.

Do a literature search of major research journals and locate three recent (2000-2007) research articles (where data are collected and reported) about the topic. You paper should describe the issue addressed and what is known before the studies, summarize the three articles (what was done and what was found) and explain how the findings shed new light on the topic. More details about the papers are available on T-Square.

**T-Square Activities (**web address**,** <https://t-square.gatech.edu/portal>)**:** This course will utilize T-SQUARE in several ways. First, the syllabus for the course, powerpoint slides of all lectures and any other documents pertaining to the course will be provided on T-SQUARE. Second, you can communicate with me and others in the class via the email provided by T-SQUARE.

**GRADING BREAKDOWN:**

1. 200 points of the final grade will be composed of the two exam grades, each worth 100 points (50% of total).
2. 100 points will come from the research paper (25% of total).
3. 100 points will come from the project (25% of total)

**Total = 400 points**

**Course Grades**

Letter grades will be assigned by obtaining the percentage correct (sum of scores on all tests, papers and discussions divided by 400 times 100). These scores will be rounded to the nearest whole percentage (e.g. 89.6=90 but 89.4 = 89). Letter grades will be assigned to the percentages as follows:

A – 90-100 D – 60-69

B – 80-89 F – 59 or below

C – 70-79

**Class Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend each class especially given the compacted 6-week semester. Attendance will be taken each day with allowance for three absences. Absences due to illness and such will not count toward this total.

**Grading problems:**

If you think that a mistake has been made in the grading of an exam, paper or the team projects, please write a note to me explaining the error. I will recheck the grading and get back to you to indicate whether or not an error occurred and extra credit earned, if any.

**OFFICE HOURS**

I am very willing to meet with you to discuss the course at any time during the semester. Please don’t hesitate to arrange an appointment to see me by emailing me directly or setting something up before or after class.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Please let me know as soon as possible about any disability you have that might impact your performance in this class. I will certainly work with you to address these problems including accommodation during lectures as well as exams, paper assignments, and the T-SQUARE Discussions. We will follow GT guidelines for students with disabilities. You will have to provide me with the Georgia Tech ADAPTS accommodation letter which must be presented to me in advance of the need for any accommodation (class lectures, exams, papers, etc). I would encourage you to make an appointment to meet with me to discuss the accommodation you will need so that we can figure out how best to help. Further information about accommodation for students with disabilities can be obtained from the ADAPTS office (894-2564).

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY ( from** [**www.honor.gatech.edu**](http://www.honor.gatech.edu) **)**

Violations of the Georgia Tech Honor Code are taken extremely seriously and may result in a failing grade for the course. I expect each student to be familiar with the GT Honor Code and to abide by that code in this class. For this class, the key areas of concern are:

* Exams. Exams must be taken without use of any materials or help from any other person or group inside or outside class. Electronic devices (cell phones, computers, PDA’s, etc.) are prohibited during the exam period.
* Research paper. The research paper must be your own work. No help from anyone in the class or outside the class is permissible either in the writing or revision of these papers. Collaboration on the research or writing of the papers is also a violation of the Code. Submitting any work other than your own is also a violation of the Academic Honor Code. Plagiarism, including the use of words and ideas without attribution to the originator of the words/ideas, is also a violation of the Honor Code.

For any questions involving these or any other Academic Honor Code issues, please consult me or the website.