PSY 251E CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY

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Office Hour: Wednesday 16.20-17.20

Course Information:  
Spring 2018  
Monday & Wednesday 17.30-18.50

Course description  
This course has been designed to offer a comprehensive view of Cultural Psychology with its most important phenomena, theoretical dilemmas, research methodologies and applications. We will approach these issues through a continuous navigating between theoretical developments and specific cases or examples, including those from the everydayness of our daily lives.

Course Goals and Methodology  
In general, this course addresses the following learning objectives:

- Understand what cultural psychology consists of, and why it is useful.
- Understand the general dynamics characterizing the relationship between subjects and cultures.
- Understand how these influences take place during the process of development, and become aware of the risk of ethnocentrism.
- Be able to apply what you learn to your daily life, learning to reflect about what is “normal” in relation to your perception of reality, and of yourself.

The topics to work on include cognition, human development, emotions, the self, and cultural values. In the case of each of these topics, a principal focus of analysis will be whether the particular psychological processes and behaviors in question, at both individual and collective levels, can be explained more fully in culture-specific or universalistic terms, and how they are related to the salient characteristics of the cultural-historical context in which they are embedded. Specific research and intervention projects which run in different contexts (education, work-place, immigration policies) will also be presented and discussed. To give the class a relevant outlook, the bibliography studied will include both classic readings in the discipline as well as emergent new trends.

In order to achieve a meaningful understanding of the concepts involved in the subject, we will combine different materials such as teacher expositions, analysis of scientific articles, student’s project presentations, class debates and films. Student’s participation will be fostered and required.

Prerequisites  
There are no prerequisites.
Course Requirements and Grading
Students will be evaluated on their ability to articulate and critically apply the terms, concepts and
theories from class and readings verbally, during class discussions, as well as in writing, on exams
and in written assignments.
The final grade for the course is comprised of the following:

Participation  20%
Midterm Exam 25%
Final Exam 25%
Research Project 30%

Participation: 20% of your grade
Participation is essential during the class and also outside of it. During the class you will be able to
contribute to organized discussions or to introduce new topics relevant to the subject being studied.
Suggestions of new materials to discuss or to consider are welcome, as well as activities which
could contribute to enrich our approach to the course subjects. Also as part of the class you will
participate in organizing and presenting contents together with your classmates. This will make
classes more dynamic, fostering abilities related to the selection of information, organization of it into
time-unities, and social skills related to presenting contents to the others.
Outside of the class you will need to prepare for the classes, reading materials, reflecting about
them and becoming ready to have a proper view on the issues being studied.
Participation is structured the following way:
  10% Voluntary class concepts presentation.
  5% Class debate participation and behavior.
  5% On-line debate participation: 0,5 points if you write a post for our
    blog: http://culturalpsychologyseville.blogspot.com.es/
1) Choose a topic you want about your experience in Spain. You can reflect on anything you want.
2) Write at least 200 words and send it to "arias.sanchez.samuel@gmail.com"
3) Specify if you want to remain anonymous, if not, I will write your name at the end.
4) I will read every post. If there is nothing offensive or inappropriate, I will just copy and paste it as
   you sent it to me. For the maximum grade, you should include a picture.

Mid-term Exam (short questions and written essay): 25% of your final grade.
Working individually, you will have short questions about theoretical concepts and you will have to
deliver short essays (around 700 words) to answer some specific questions using the theoretical
concepts worked on and applied to the understanding of one example-situations.

Final exam (written essay): 25% of your final grade.
Working individually, you will have short questions about theoretical concepts and you will have to
deliver short essays (around 700 words) to answer some specific questions using the theoretical
concepts worked on and applied to the understanding of one example-situations.

Final paper-research project: This research represent 30% of your final grade.
In this project students will work in groups (3 or 4 students) to explore in depth an object of study
selected by them related to Cultural Psychology. The object of study can take manifold forms, it is
open and creativity and innovative ideas are welcome. To analyze the select object in this project,
students can draw from the course readings and/or from additional readings related to the topic.
The groups will present their projects in class, during the last 3 classes. The professor will give
students feedback throughout the semester as the projects are developed.
   Papers, up to 6000 words, must be presented printed before the May 16th.
   20% Project written report
   10% Project class presentations
# How could I know my grade?

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USA: A A- B+ B B- C+ C C C C D D E E F

ECTS: A B B C C C D D E E F
Learning Objectives
After this course you will be able to:
- Understand the dynamic interaction between culture and individuals
- Understand how these dynamics permeate our psychological functions, but also ourselves, our
daily lives, and our perception of “normality”.
- Use concrete terms to discuss these dynamics, appropriating theoretical concepts and using
them in relation to real-life examples.
- Think critically about different possibilities concerning perceptions of what is normal in terms of
development, and of psychological functioning.
- Summing up, the most important goal is to become able to bring the theory you learn to
concrete use, understanding everyday phenomena from the perspective of cultural psychology.

Required Texts

Ways of Understanding: On the Heterogeneity of Verbal Thinking, Culture & Psychology,14
(4), 403-430.
The Influence of Formal Schooling Experience on Earliest Autobiographical Memories and
466(7302), 29-29.
- Keith, K. D. (Ed.). (2011). Cross-cultural psychology: Contemporary themes and
- Kirmayer, L. J. (2001). Cultural variations in the clinical presentation of depression and
- Macías, B.; García, J.; Sánchez, J.A; Marco, M.J. (2010). Literacy and the formation of
Perspectives on Psychological Science, 5(4), 420-430.
- Martínez, V.; Sánchez, J.A.; Goudena, P.P.A (2011). Cross-Cultural study of observed
www.simplypsychology.org/naturevsnurture.html
Press.
Infancia y Aprendizaje, 35(2), 233 - 252.

Key Dates:

Midterm Exam: March, 19th
Project oral Presentation: From May 9th to 16th
Project paper Presentation: Before May 16th
Final Exam: to be scheduled: May 21st - 25th

General Course Policies
Please do not hesitate to ask about anything that may not be clear to you (concerning learning contents, class organization, dates). You can always ask me in class (after or before), or during office hours. The use of computers and tablets will be strictly limited to learning purposes.

Attendance and Punctuality
Attendance is mandatory. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the final grade (please mind that these excuses need to be related to medical reasons). Students with more than 2 such absences may not challenge the final grade received. Punctuality is required. If you need to skip classes due to medical reasons, please do not forget to ask for a certificate to justify your absence.

Missed or Late Work
If you fail to participate in class on regular basis, or if you miss assignments (e.g. essays, class examples and presentations, or exams) your final grade will be affected (as you will not be able to sum up the grades of missed activities). Please keep this in mind.

Academic Dishonesty
Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Pablo de Olavide University. Cheating on exams and plagiarism (which includes copying from the internet) are clear violations of academic honesty. A student is guilty of plagiarism when he or she presents another person’s intellectual property as his or her own. The penalty for plagiarism and cheating is a failing grade for the assignment/exam and a failing grade for the course. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly (using footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography).

Students with Disabilities
If you have a disability that requires special academic accommodation, please speak to your professor within the first three (3) weeks of the semester in order to discuss any adjustments. It is the student's responsibility to provide the International Center with documentation confirming the disability and the accommodations required (if you have provided this to your study abroad organization, they have most likely informed the International Center already but please confirm).

Behavior Policy
Students are expected to show integrity and act in a professional and respectful manner at all times. A student’s attitude in class may influence his/her participation grade. The professor has a right to ask a student to leave the classroom if the student is unruly or appears intoxicated. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, that day will count as an absence regardless of how long the student has been in class.
### Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Basic readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Course presentation</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Cognition</strong></td>
<td>Cole, M. (2009). The illusion of culture-free intelligence testing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Cognition</strong></td>
<td><em>In this session you will do the second quiz and you will work with your group to design the data collection</em></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Cognition</strong></td>
<td>PROJECT EVALUATION</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Cognition</strong></td>
<td>IPLS (Interpersonal Perception, Liking and Social Status)</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td><strong>Cognition</strong></td>
<td>IPLS (Interpersonal Perception, Liking and Social Status)</td>
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<td><strong>MID-TERM EXAM</strong></td>
<td>Project Evaluation</td>
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*In this session you will do the first quiz and we will organize groups and we will start working on research projects*
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<th>Emotion &amp; Motivation</th>
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<td>16</td>
<td>04/04/18</td>
<td>3.3 Future research on Culture and Emotion</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>09/04/18</td>
<td>3.4 Theories of Motivation</td>
<td>Motivation, book chapter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>11/04/18</td>
<td>QUIZ III + Research project</td>
<td><em>In this session you will do the third quiz and you will work with your group in the data analysis and discussion</em></td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>07/05/18</td>
<td>QUIZ IV + Research project</td>
<td><em>In this session you will do the last quiz and you will work with your group to elaborate the presentation of your project results.</em></td>
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<td>Project presentations 1</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>16/05/18</td>
<td>Project presentations 3</td>
<td>Closure</td>
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<td>21 to 25/05/18</td>
<td>FINALS WEEK</td>
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Presentations (readers and research projects): to be scheduled in class.  
**Midterm** Exam: March, 19th.  
**Final** Exam: to be scheduled: May 21st - 25th.  
Project **paper presentation**: Before May 16th.  
This syllabus is subject to change.
Recommended readings:

Books:


Journal articles:


