



# EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER, 2008 CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

**A. Division:** EDUCATION **Effective Date:** SEPTEMBER 2008

**B. Department / Program Area:** PSYCHOLOGY/ FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES **Revision**  **New Course**

**If Revision, Section(s) Revised:**  
**Date of Previous Revision:**  
**Date of Development:** January 2008

**C. PSYC 3340** **D. CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY** **E. 3**

Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title	Semester Credits						
<p><b>F:</b> Calendar Description: This course is an elective which is recommended for students majoring in Psychology and for students in professional programs who intend to work in multicultural contexts. Cultural Psychology is largely a new discipline which challenges our understanding of human nature. Systematic research continues to show just how deeply cultural influences penetrate our psychology and shape the ways that people think. This course reviews the growing body of cultural research across a wide range of topics including self and personality, motivation, morality, emotions, reasoning, communication, mental health, interpersonal attraction and groups. The research is examined in the context of an analysis of the nature of culture and cultural socialization. Particular attention is paid to the research methods used in this field and to the strength of evidence in support of each claim. Towards the end of the course, students are invited to consider how the research in Cultural Psychology can inform our approach to a variety of practical issues that have emerged in multicultural worlds. This is a writing intensive course in which students will be given guidance and detailed feedback on constructing clear essays that evaluate alternative perspectives using carefully reasoned arguments and evidence from high quality research.</p>								
<p><b>G:</b> Allocation of Contact Hours to Type of Instruction / Learning Settings</p> <p>Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings:</p> <p><b>Lecture and Seminar</b></p> <p>Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor)</p> <p><b>Lecture: 2 hours per week/semester</b> <b>Seminar: 2 hours per week/semester</b></p> <p><b>Number of Weeks: 15</b></p>	<p><b>H:</b> Course Prerequisites: <b>PSYC 1200</b></p> <p><b>I:</b> Course Corequisites: <b>NONE</b></p> <p><b>J:</b> Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite <b>NONE</b></p> <p><b>K:</b> Maximum Class Size: <b>25</b></p>							
<p><b>L:</b> PLEASE INDICATE:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30px; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Non-Credit</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>College Credit Non-Transfer</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>College Credit Transfer:</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (<a href="http://www.bctransferguide.ca">www.bctransferguide.ca</a>)</p>			<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Credit	<input type="checkbox"/>	College Credit Non-Transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	College Credit Transfer:
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**M:** Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of culture and its significance for the study of psychological process.
2. Describe and evaluate the range of research methods used in cultural psychology.
3. Analyse and evaluate research articles in the fields of cultural and cross-cultural psychology.
4. Describe and evaluate the impact of cultural variation across a wide range of psychological fields including self and personality, motivation, morality, emotions, reasoning, communication, mental health, interpersonal attraction and groups.
5. Critically evaluate claims about the universality and cultural variability of psychological processes.
6. Demonstrate an ability to write a clear and well reasoned academic paper that draws effectively on research evidence in the field of cultural psychology.
7. Analyse and evaluate the effect of cultural change and cultural transition on psychological processes.
8. Demonstrate an ability to apply knowledge from cultural psychology to a contemporary topic in multicultural societies.

**N:** Course Content:

1. **Culture and Human Nature**  
The nature of culture and cultural learning  
Psychological universals and variability  
The origin and significance of cultural psychology
2. **Cultural Evolution**  
The origin of cultural variation  
Cultural change  
Cultural persistence
3. **Research Methods in Cultural Psychology**  
Meaningful comparisons and cultural measures  
Cross cultural research design  
Specific research approaches in cultural psychology
4. **Development and Socialization**  
The development of culturally variable minds  
The cultural variation of childhood experience  
Developmental transitions.  
Socialization through education
5. **Self and Personality**  
Culture and the self concept  
Gender and culture  
Implicit theories of self  
Personality and the five factor model
6. **Motivation**  
Motivations for self esteem and self enhancement  
Motivations for face  
Religion and achievement motivation  
Agency and control  
Motivations for conformity

7. **Morality, Religion and Justice**  
Ethnocentrism and cultural variability  
Ethics of autonomy, community and divinity  
Emotions and moral violations  
The morality of thoughts  
Culture and distributive justice
8. **Emotions**  
Theories of emotions  
Emotional display and recognition  
Emotion and language  
Cultural variations in kinds of emotional experience  
Cultural variations in well-being and happiness
9. **Cognition and Perception**  
Analytic and holistic thinking  
Attention and attribution  
Styles of reasoning  
Cognitive dissonance  
Language and thought
10. **Mental and Physical Health**  
Universal mental disorders  
Culture-bound mental disorders  
Culture, physical health and psychological variables  
Cultural attitudes towards health, illness and mental disorder
11. **Interpersonal Attraction, Close Relationships and Groups**  
Universality and variation in types of relationship  
Bases of interpersonal attraction  
Friends and enemies  
Love  
Ingroups, outgroups and workgroups  
Bases of group identification
12. **Living in Multicultural Worlds I**  
Issues in studying acculturation  
Moving to a new culture  
Multicultural people
13. **Living in Multicultural Worlds II**  
Special topics  
Cultural psychology and contemporary issues in multicultural worlds.

**O:** Methods of Instruction

The primary methods of instruction will be the lecture and seminar, but the course may involve various other methods of instruction such as small group activities, discussion groups, oral presentations, video tapes, guest lectures and supplementary online discussions.

**P:** Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students

Texts will be updated periodically. A typical example of a text is:

Heine, S. J. (2008). *Cultural Psychology* (1<sup>st</sup> ed.). New York, N.Y: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

**Q:** Means of Assessment

The course evaluation will be based on the course objectives and in accordance with Douglas College policy. The instructor will provide a written course outline with specific evaluation criteria at the beginning of the semester.

An example of a possible evaluation scheme would be:

Evaluation of Research Article	15%
Mid Term Paper	20%
Seminar Presentation and Response	10%
Term Paper	35%
Final exam	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR

No.

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Course Designer(s): Dr. Graham Rodwell

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Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

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Dean / Director

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Registrar