

San José State University
Psychology
PSYCH 190, Current Issues Capstone, Summer 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Christine Ma-Kellams
Office Location:	DMH 312
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Email:	christine.ma-kellams@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	W 8:30-10:30 on Canvas (via “Chats”) & via video appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW 10:30-2:45
Classroom:	ZOOM & Canvas
Prerequisites:	Psyc 1 (Intro to Psychology) Stat 95 (Elementary Statistics) Psyc 30 (Biopsychology) Psyc 100W (Writing Workshop in Psychology) Psyc 120 (Advanced Research Methods)

Course Format: Online

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on [Spartan App Portal](http://one.sjsu.edu) <http://one.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Psychology 190 is your capstone course in psychology. This section is designed for students who have some background and interest in multicultural and cross-cultural issues.

Course Goals

How do beliefs associated with one’s social milieu change psychological tendencies, and what happens when cultures collide? This course will explore the specific ways one’s cultural background shapes your sense of self, emotions, motivation, judgments, and relationships. We will discuss race, politics, God, sex, money, and how you like your coffee. In the process, we will unpack “culture” in all its various forms, including (but not limited to) ethnic, socioeconomic, educational, political, gender and religious culture.

In doing so, the goal of this course is to help you gain a better appreciation for the ways in which human culture and psyche interact, and to enhance your ability to deal with and understand variations in human behavior across populations and groups. In order to achieve these goals, we will review empirical psychological research on culture, examine theoretical and methodological foundations of cross-cultural research in psychology, and apply them to real-world issues, from whether money makes you happy to how Obama influences White identity. We will discuss the mounting evidence suggesting that much of psychological processes are culture-specific, theory-driven and context-dependent. We will discuss several basic questions of multicultural psychology, such as,

1. What is culture? What is ethnicity?
2. How does culture relate to psychological processes? How human psyche affects human cultures?
3. How to apply cultural psychology to understand and deal with real life cultural conflicts, ethnic tensions, or diversity?

We will focus on questions regarding the effects of culture-specific theories of mind, person, self, and social institutions on human cognition, motivation, emotion, and social interaction.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO 1: Students will be able to –identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts related to historical and contemporary issues in psychology and multicultural/cross-cultural psychology. Assessment for this will be on mid-terms, class discussions, and presentations.

CLO 2: Students will be able to –describe, and communicate the major issues and theoretical perspectives associated with culture, its associated schemas, values, and thinking styles. Assessment for this CLO will be conducted in the midterm and class presentations.

CLO 3: Students will be able to –identify, describe, and communicate experimental approaches and associated empirical findings for various methodological approaches in cross-cultural studies. Assessment for this CLO will be conducted primarily in the final paper.

CLO 4: Students will be able to – think critically and creatively about cultural approaches to address issues related to real world outcomes across psychological subfields, including parenting, consumer behavior, and mental health. This CLO will be assessed in exams and the final research paper.

CLO 5: Students will be able to – apply cross-cultural and multicultural principles to individual, interpersonal and group processes. This will be assessed on the final presentation.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):

Upon successful completion of the psychology major requirements...

PLO1 -- Knowledge Base of Psychology -- Students will be able to identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

PLO2 -- Research Methods in Psychology -- Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.

PLO3 -- Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology -- Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.

PLO4 -- Application of Psychology -- Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

PLO5 -- Values in Psychology -- Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Required Texts/Readings

Ma-Kellams, C. (2018). *Cultural Psychology: Cross-Cultural and Multicultural Perspectives*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Additional readings (i.e., articles) will be posted on Canvas and listed below.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Online course structure

This class will have **both** SYNCHRONOUS (i.e., weekly regular Zoom meetings) and ASYNCHRONOUS parts (videos/activities you do on your own online on Canvas). This means we will both be meeting via Zoom twice a week during the first half of our assigned class times (usually for 1 to 1.5 hours, from 10:30 a.m.-Noon) and afterwards, you will do activities posted on Canvas on your own time (e.g., videos, exams, assignments).

Activities

Activities are an important part of this class and attending class synchronously on Zoom requires active participation. Activities are meant as a space for you to apply the theories and findings from the psychology of prejudice to the real world.

Attendance

Timely attendance and participation in the weekly Zoom meetings are essential for success in the course. I will do my best to foster an environment where all students feel free to express their ideas. If you miss the synchronous class meetings on Zoom, you will miss important material that will be covered on the exams. You are responsible for all announcements, assignments, lectures, and other materials from the twice-a-week Zoom meetings whether you are there or not. If you miss a Zoom meeting, you should try to get missed notes from a classmate.

Course Readings

Readings should be done before each class. Useful discussions follow only when everyone has completed the readings thoroughly and thoughtfully.

Exams: All midterm exams are noncumulative; however, the final exam is cumulative. Prior to each exam, there will be a study guide and review materials posted on Canvas. Exam material will come from the live Zoom lectures, class activities, and assigned readings. All exams will go live after class, be timed (75 minute time limit), and due by midnight.

Cultural Genogram: Students are required to explore their cultural background by constructing a Cultural Genogram. Due to the nature of the genogram, it is expected that students will put forth sufficient effort into creating an aesthetically creative genogram. Specific instructions for this assignment will be discussed in the Zoom class meetings.

Final Paper: Scientific understanding of cultural influence is based on empirical research. As a student of this science, it's important that you be able to think critically about published research and think creatively about future directions for existing research. To facilitate this learning, you will choose one topic related to culture and complete a paper on the topic. The paper will include a thorough review of the existing literature on the topic, your own critical analysis of the research that has been conducted, possible future directions and practical applications. The paper should be 4-5 pages in length (double-spaced), include 3 journal articles or academic books as references, and be in APA style. Additional information will be provided in class.

Class participation: We will engage in a variety of online activities, including demonstrations, group discussions, quick-writes, videos, and interactive games. Attendance and participation in these activities are crucial for doing well in the course.

***ALL written assignments need to use 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, in APA style.

Final Examination or Evaluation

The final exam will be on the last day of class.

Grading Information

Grading

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Grade</u>
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Activities/Assignments:

Cultural Genogram & presentation	10 pts
Participation in weekly online activities	10 pts

Exams:

Midterm #1	40 pts
Midterm #2	40 pts
Final Exam	40 pts

Research Project:

Final Paper Topic + references	10 pts
Final Paper	20 pts

Determination of Grades

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

Classroom Protocol

Late assignments

An assignment turned in after the due date (and time) will receive a 10% penalty per day late. If you do not complete the exam by the deadline, you will receive a zero on it. There are no exceptions to this rule except for emergencies with official documentation (e.g., doctor's note). Note the deadlines in the class syllabus and plan accordingly.

Electronics & Zoom protocol

Cell phones, mp3 players, and all other electronic devices should be turned off during synchronous class meetings on Zoom. Texting or answering calls during class is not acceptable. Please turn your VIDEO ON during all Zoom meetings.

Academic Honesty

You are held to the highest standard of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. You may never use the ideas or work of another person without proper citation (i.e. noting the name and source according to APA style). The work you turn in for all assignments should always be your own. I am interested in your original ideas, as well as your ability to properly cite others' ideas. Keep in mind that plagiarism does not necessarily have to be intentional to be serious. When in doubt, cite!

Contact

I check my email on a daily basis and should respond to most queries within 24 hours. Please feel free to talk to me before/after class, or make an appointment for office hours.

Accessibility

Any student needing academic adjustments or accommodations should talk with me by the end of the second week of the term.

University Policies (Required)

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>. **Make sure to visit this page, review and be familiar with these university policies and resources.**

In the following pages, you will find an outline of the topics and readings we will be covering. Please note that the syllabus may be updated during the semester to reflect changes in course readings, shifts in lecture topics,

etc. You will be notified each time a change takes place.

DATES, TOPICS, AND READINGS

Week 1a (Mon, 6/1)

Introduction & Development/East Asian and European-American Culture

Textbook Ch 1

Sue, S., & Okazaki, S. (1990). Asian-American educational achievements: A phenomenon in search of an explanation. *American Psychologist*, 45, 913-920.

Online activities: TST & Your Two Selves

Week 1b (Wed, 6/3)

African-American, Latino-American and Native-American cultures

Textbook Ch. 2

Knowles, E. D., Lowery, B. S., Chow, R. M., & Unzueta, M. M. (2014). Deny, Distance, or Dismantle? How White Americans Manage a Privileged Identity. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 9(6), 594-609.

Online activity: Take the IAT

Week 2a (Mon, 6/8) MIDTERM #1 (available after class and due by midnight)

Unpacking White Identity and Politics

Online activity: Money & Morality Survey

Week 2b (Wed, 6/10)

Social Class, Gender, and Region as Culture

Textbook Chapter 3, 4

Nisbett, R. (1993). Violence and US regional culture. *American Psychologist*, 48, 441-489.

Stephens, N. M., Hamedani, M. G., & Destin, M. (2014). Closing the Social-Class Achievement Gap: A Difference-Education Intervention Improves First-Generation Students' Academic Performance and All Students' College Transition. *Psychological Science*, 25(4), 943-953.

Online activity: Birthday Boy vs. Girl

Week 3a (Mon, 6/15) FINAL PAPER TOPIC & REFERENCES DUE by midnight

Religion as Culture & Human Universals

Cohen, A. B., & Hill, P. C. (2007). Religion as culture: Religious individualism and collectivism among American Catholics, Jews, and Protestants. *Journal of Personality*, 75, 709-742.

Week 3b (Wed, 6/17)

Intergroup Conflict: Stereotypes, Prejudice and Discrimination

Textbook Chapter 5- 7

Online activities: Social Media Posts & Privilege "Walk"

Week 4a (Mon, 6/22) CULTURAL GENOGRAMS DUE
Ingroup derogation & self-stereotyping

Textbook Ch. 8, 9

Bell, A. C., & Burkley, M. (2014). "Women Like Me Are Bad at Math": The Psychological Functions of Negative Self-Stereotyping. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 8(12), 708-720.

Week 4b (Wed, 6/24) MIDTERM #2 (available after class on Wed and due by midnight)
Acculturation; Biracial/Multiracial Identities; & Diversity

Textbook Ch. 10-12

Hong, Y., Morris, M., Chiu, C., & Benet-Martinez, V (2000). Multicultural minds: A dynamic constructivist approach to culture and cognition. *American Psychologist*, 55, 709-720.

Sue, D.W., Capodilupo, C.M., Torino, G.C., Bucceri, J.M., Holder, A.M., Nadal, K.L. & Esquili, M. (2007). Racial microaggressions in everyday life: Implications for clinical practice. *American Psychologist*, 62, 271-286.

Week 5a (Mon, 6/29) FINAL PAPER due
Distal & Proximal Explanations for the Origins of Culture/Frontiers in Cultural Neuroscience/

Textbook Ch. 13

10 Big Ideas in 10 Years of Brain Science:
<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/10-big-ideas-in-10-years-of-brain-science/>

Kamble, S., Shackelford, T. K., Pham, M., & Buss, D. M. (2014). Indian mate preferences: Continuity, sex differences, and cultural change across a quarter of a century. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 70, 150-155.

Week 5b (Wed, 7/1) FINAL EXAM DUE by midnight
The Future of Culture & Questions of Cultural Change

Yang, W. (2011). Paper Tigers. *New York Magazine*.
<http://nymag.com/news/features/asian-americans-2011-5/>

Arkes, H. & Tetlock, P. (2004). Attributions of implicit prejudice, or "Would Jesse Jackson 'Fail' the Implicit Association Test?" *Psychology Inquiry*, 15, 257-278.
