

Cross Cultural Psychology

Danish Institute for Study Abroad

Syllabus Spring 2009

Instructor: Ann-Marie Low

Class time and location

Tuesdays and Fridays in Room 10-A32 from 8.30 a.m.-9.50 a.m.

Contact Information

Ann-Marie Low, Instructor

E-mail: aml@cfh.ku.dk

Maren McMullen, PCD Program Assistant

Phone: 3376 5438

Introduction:

The field of cross-cultural psychology (CCP) has gained importance over recent years, following unprecedented emigration and globalization. “Culture” here is understood to be the shared norms, values and behaviors of groups as well as a phenomenon that is applicable to individuals.

In this course we will explore the multiple and reciprocal nature of interactions between culture, intra-individual processes/concepts (such as perception, cognition, personality) and inter-individual processes (such as communication, social behavior and group identity). Factors affecting these interactions (such as ethnocentrism and prejudice) will also be examined.

The above processes are looked at in a variety of settings, including clinical psychology and the socio-political case of “culture clash” between ethnic majorities and minorities. These issues are particularly contemporary and important in Denmark due to past and present immigration and integration policies. Lastly, this course provides an opportunity for students to gain an understanding of how to combine and apply analytical tools into cross-cultural research. Emphasis is given, specifically, to understanding and developing skills in qualitative research methods, a strong tradition within the social sciences in Denmark.

Objectives:

The objectives of the course are that students will:

- Develop a concept of culture.
- Gain a critical appreciation of the reciprocal influences of a culture and the individuals within it, as well as the factors that influence these. More specifically, that students will
 - Develop an understanding of the cross-cultural issues with respect to *intra-individual processes* such as language, personality and emotion.
 - Develop an understanding of the cross-cultural issues with respect to *inter-individual processes* such as communication and stereotyping, as well as the outcome of meetings between cultures.
- Develop skills necessary to be able to discuss, reflect, and analyze information and input from a range of topics that inform and/or are informed by cross-cultural psychology
- Gain practical experience in conducting cross-cultural research by completing a qualitative research assignment and presenting findings in both an oral (in groups) and written report (individually or in groups).

Students are expected to:

1. Independently and actively engage in the course, including study of all assigned readings,
2. Be able to relate the course content to personal experience and understand how personal experience will play a role in how the course content is understood and reflected upon.
3. Undergo a learning process, where the student is responsible for his/her own learning.
4. Critically reflect and analyse on the topics covered in the course.
5. Attend class. Attendance is mandatory and will be factored into the Participation Grade.
6. Complete readings and assignments on time.

Teaching and learning methods:

The course is taught as a combination of lectures and interactive methods such as brainstorming, group work, student presentations, class discussions, and various exercises. Guest speakers will also be invited.

B. THEMES IN THE COURSE.

Theme 1: Research in cross-cultural psychology.

Research approaches in cross-cultural psychology, the unique contribution of cross-cultural research to psychology, and the particular difficulties in conducting cross-cultural research will be discussed. In addition to these theoretical considerations, students will have the opportunity to learn about qualitative research in a cross-cultural perspective. Students will gain practical experience conducting interviews, which they will prepare for throughout the course, as well as writing a report relating to the topic chosen. The interview assignment will be conducted in groups.

Theme 2: Culture and the individual.

The course explores how culture and an individual's cognitive and emotional characteristics affect each other. This part of the course examines the link between basic psychological processes (such as perception and emotion), personality, and cultural variability. The content area provides an understanding of the interplay between biological and socio-cultural considerations as regards personality, self descriptors and cognitive-emotional characteristics from a systemic perspective.

Theme 3: When cultures meet: individual and group processes.

Students will explore some of the main concepts/issues in cross-cultural psychology with regards to interaction of individuals from different cultures. These include ethnocentrism, stereotyping and communication across cultural differences. Examples from recent Danish history will be given and discussed in the context of cultural and group identity. Students will in general be encouraged to reflect on own experiences in order to consciously practice cross-cultural competence.

Theme 4: Current Psychological Issues in a cross cultural perspective.

Students will be presented with two important issues from "general" psychology, specifically intelligence and its assessment and mental health. The extent to which cross-cultural studies can add to our knowledge and challenge our concepts of these subjects will be explored, as well as specific issues in assessment and treatment where the assessor/clinician is from a different culture than the client.

Teaching and learning methods.

The course is taught as a combination of lectures and interactive methods, such as brainstorming, group work, student presentations, class discussions and various exercises.

C. INSTRUCTORS

Ann-Marie Low (coordinator of the course).

Cand. Psych. (1999), Specialist in Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology (2008). Has worked since 1999 as a clinical psychologist with both adults and children, and in Denmark and England. Currently, clinical neuropsychologist at The Centre for Brain Injury, Copenhagen (Children's Dept.); external lecturer at Copenhagen University; and DIS instructor since 2008.

E-mail: aml@cfh.ku.dk

Guest lecturers

Nana Wesley Hansen

Cand. scient. pol. / MSc in Political Science, University of Copenhagen, 2004. Studies in Sociology and Gender at l'Institut d'Études de Sciences Politiques, Grenoble, France, 2003. Consultant at the Danish Association of Junior Hospital Doctors. With DIS since 2005.

André Sonnichsen

Cand.scient.pol.: MA Political Science (2002), Consultant (2002 – 2005) with Rambøll Management, international donor-financed development consulting. Ph.D. Research Fellow (2005 – ongoing) at Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen, focusing on cultural processes of collective identity formation and the social and political consequences hereof.

E-mail: as@ifs.ku.dk

D. PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

Class time and location

Tuesdays and Fridays in room 10-A32 from 8.30 a.m.-9.50 a.m.

Pre-requisites

A university-level psychology or social sciences course.

Literature:

Course text book:

Matsumoto, D. & Juang, L. (2007). *Culture and Psychology*. Wadsworth, USA., 4th Ed.

Required articles:

Copies of articles which are required reading are gathered together in a compendium, available from the library upon arrival at DIS. Please refer to the syllabus overview as to which articles in the compendium are required reading. Extra articles may also be given in the course of the semester.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLASS READINGS ARE UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED ACROSS THE SEMESTER. STUDENTS MAY WISH TO "READ AHEAD" IN ORDER TO AVOID PERIODS WITH MORE READING THAN OTHERS.

E. ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING:

Class attendance, preparation and participation (20%) (individual grade)

- Students are expected to exercise critical thinking skills throughout this course. Participation in class, group work and in other group discussions is expected.
- Classes will relate to the readings listed on the course schedule as well as add new perspectives. Thus, readings must be completed prior to class to lay the foundation for critical analysis and discussion.
- Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Should you be ill or otherwise unable to attend then you **MUST** send an email to the course coordinator.

Reflection journals (20%)

- There will be two analytical reflection journals throughout the semester, 4 pages (+/-10%) in length, which will contain the students' reflection on a given topic. The student is invited to reflect on his / her own learning processes and opinions, and is asked to use the material / theories covered in class to explore the topic further.
- Reflection journal 1 is due Tuesday 8th September, and the topic to explore in the journal is: *Your initial experience of living in Denmark.*
- Reflection journal 2 is due Tuesday 15th December, and the topic is: *To what extent has your stay in Denmark affected the way you perceive your native culture?*

Research paper (25%)

- A 7 page (+/- 10%) research paper, with a minimum of 8 original references, answering one of six questions set by the Class Instructor. To be handed into Ann-Marie at the beginning of class 30.10.09. *N.b. the deadline for this paper is negotiable.*

Oral presentation of Interview Project 15% (group grade)

- The interview-groups give a 20 min. presentation of their research process and results. The students will give an account of the methods used in the interview and the main conclusions produced in a societal context.
- The presentation is a learning experience for fellow students, thus the presentation should open up for discussion. Providing constructive critique and feed back for the presentations of other groups are part of the exercise and will have a positive impact on the grade. App. 5 minutes is allocated for questions and class discussion. The presentations will take place on the 4th December (pool A) and 8th December (pool B).

Interview report 20% (individual OR group work)

- The report should be 10-12 pages, summarizing the group work process: The report should include a summary of findings and a discussion of the results (did you find what you started out wanting to find, problems, dilemmas, challenges, validity of results and achievements).
- Additionally, the report should contain an assessment of what the student learned about working in groups and a reflection on the processes herein; what were the challenges and how were they dealt with. For example - What did you learn about yourself in a group work situation? Will you do something differently in the future? A more specific guidance note to the assignment will be given in class.
- The report is to be handed in on 11th December before start of class.

Grading:

Specific criteria will be used for the grading of each assignment and will be given to students in the course of the semester. General criteria are given both *below and in the “Guide to Assignments in Cross-cultural Psychology”*, which is to be found on the DIS Forum .

It is extremely important that students read both the Guide and familiarise themselves with the “grading matrix” given below.

F D	C+ B-	B	B+	A-	A
<p>Badly written. Many spelling mistakes. A great deal of incorrect grammar. No logical disposition Lacks references or non – correct use of references. Does not follow academic guidelines Does not follow directions of the assignment</p> <hr/> <p>Students show little or no comprehension of course material. Does not include definitions and has no referral to theory. Is normative in attitude</p>	<p>Some spelling mistakes and incorrect grammar. References incomplete Unclear disposition</p> <hr/> <p>Students demonstrate some knowledge of course material. Can refer to and quote theory, but has difficulty applying the theory or compare theories. Shows limited reflection over relationship between theory and practice. Shows beginning critical stance toward normative attitudes Can list, identify, quote, summarize</p>	<p>Somewhat well written, Limited number of grammatical and spelling mistakes Clear disposition Correct use of references most of the time</p> <hr/> <p>Demonstrates knowledge of course material. Can define and discuss theoretical concepts. Shows some reflection over the relationship between theory and practice. Can begin to apply theory and shows some degree of reflection or analysis Can define, describe, discuss, illustrate, classify, experiment with and apply</p>	<p>Well written, no spelling mistakes or grammatical mistakes, logical disposition, well argued, logical flow, well organized, well connected..</p> <p>Correct use of references. Follows academic guidelines Follows directions of the assignment</p> <hr/> <p>Demonstrates thorough understanding of course material. Can critically apply the theory to analyze practice. Can compare and discriminate between theories. Outstanding ability to analyze critically and ability to extend and apply it to other situations. Can define, describe, discuss, illustrate, classify , experiment with and apply as well as analyze, synthesize and evaluate</p>		

Danish Institute for Study Abroad: Cross-cultural Psychology Syllabus and Readings, Fall 2009

Date	Theme	Class	Readings	Instructor	
28.08	INTRO	Cross-cultural psychology –introduction	Textbook Chapter 1	AML	
01.09	<i>Themes 1 & 2: Research & Intra individual processes</i>	Research in cross cultural psychology.	Textbook chapter 2	AML	
04.09		Perception	Textbook chapter 5 pp 110-118; 133-134.	AML	
08.09		Cognition	Textbook chapter 5: pp. 109-134	AML	
		SHORT TOURS			
15.09		Language & Communicaitaion	Textbook chapter 9	AML	
18.09		Emotion	Textbook chapter 8	AML	
22.09		Self and Personality	Textbook chapter 10	AML	
23.09		<i>Field trip: Christiania</i>			<i>T.B.A.</i>
25.09		Qualitative Research; Interviewing workshop I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Neumann, Laurence W 1997: <i>Social research methods – Qualitative and Quantitative methods</i>, Chapter 13, pp. 327-342. o Hollway and Jefferson 2000: <i>Doing qualitative research differently, free association, narrative and the interview method</i>, chapter 1, pp 1-6 	NW/ AML	
29.09		Interviewing project: planning	-	AML	
02.10	Qualitative Research: Interviewing workshop	Kvale, Steinar (1996), <i>Interviews. An introduction to qualitative research interviewing.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Chapter 5: “Thematizing and Designing an Interview Study”. Pp. 81-108 o Chapter 7: “The Interview Situation” pp. 124 – 136 o Chapter 8: pp. 157-159 on leading questions 	NW/ AML		
<i>Long program tour : 4th-10th October</i>					

Danish Institute for Study Abroad: Cross-cultural Psychology Syllabus and Readings, Fall 2009

13.10	<i>Theme 3: Cross-cultural meetings</i>	Ethnocentrism & prejudice; optional interview planning (30 mins)	Chapter 14: pp 373-389	AML
16.10		Collective Identities	(1) Maalouf, Amin. <i>In the name of identity. Violence and the need to belong.</i> Penguin Books, 2000. p.1-5, 30-43; (2) Textbook chapter 3 pp 80-91	AS/ AML
20.10		Intercultural contacts: religion, culture and the Danish cartoon crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Henkel, H. "The journalists of Jyllands-Posten are a bunch of reactionary provocateurs – the Danish cartoon controversy and the self-image of Europe", <i>Radical Philosophy</i> 137, May/June 2006, p.2 – 7. ○ Holm, Ulla. 'The Danish Ugly Duckling and the Mohammed Cartoons, DIIS Brief February 2006, <i>Danish Institute for International Studies.</i> 	AS
23.10		The emergence of 'identity politics' in western Europe and the growth of nationalist parties (DFP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Benhabib, Seyla (2004). <i>The Rights of Others: Aliens, residents and citizens.</i> p.1-24, 213-221. ○ Mudde, Cas. (2007). "Who's afraid of . . .?", in <i>Populist radical right parties in Europe.</i> p.63 - 89. 	AS/ AML
27.10		Intercultural contact: how can psychology add to the debate?	Chapter 13	AML
30.10		Interview project: group preparation	-	AML
<i>Optional Tours/Research: 31st October-15th November</i>				
17.11	<i>Theme 4: Application of CCP</i>	Intelligence and its assessment		
20.11		Mental Health	Textbook Chapter 11 Kleinman (2004).	
24.11		Treatment of Mental Health	Textbook Chapter 12; Kleinman, A. & Benson, P. (2004). Anthropology in the clinic: The problem of cultural competency and how to fix it. <i>PLoS Med</i> 3(10): e294. DOI: 10.1371/ journal.pmed.0030294.	AML
27.11		NO CLASS	-	
01.12		Interview project: group preparation	-	AML
02.12	<i>FIELD TRIP: TBA</i>			
04.12	<i>Interview Presentations and roundup</i>	Group presentations of interview assignment: Pool A	-	AML
08.12		Group presentations of interview assignment: Pool B	-	AML
11.12		Recap, evaluation and reflections: The way forward for cross-cultural Ψ ; reflections on how to integrate what students have learned in future studies and career path.		AML

