



Psychology 491-01

Cross-Cultural Cognition

Instructor:	Dr. Valerie Pruegger	Lecture Location:	A253
Phone:	403-256-2770	Lecture Days/Time:	Wednesdays
Email:	vpruegge@ucalgary.ca		15:00-17:50
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Office:	N/A		
Office Hours:	By appointment		

Course Description and Goals

This course will explore the often controversial topic of information and cognitive processing across cultures. Are there differences between cultural groups, and if so, are these a reflection of variations in inborn competencies or variations in social and cultural contexts? Topics include cross-cultural research in intelligence, perception, language processing, emotions, memory, decision making and reasoning among others.

Required Text

There is no required text for this course. Students will be assigned on-line readings for each class.

Evaluation

As this class is highly participative with case studies and class exercises, participation will be graded.

1. Participation (30% of final grade)
2. Mid-term Essay – February 29, 2012 – Take Home (35% of final grade). There will be no class on February 29. Students can use this time to write their mid-term essay as outlined below. More information on writing tips etc. is available on Blackboard).
3. Final Exam – in class April 13 & 18, 2012 (35% of final grade). Two classes may be needed depending on number of students in the class.

1. **Participation:** worth 30% of grade. It will be indicated by attendance (see more on Blackboard); evident completion of readings and preparedness for each class; and active participation in class discussions, group dialogues and exercises. Participation is crucial as the lectures will often differ substantially from the material in the readings. To benefit maximally from lectures, discussions, and activities in class, students are strongly advised to complete the assigned readings before class. For each class, a group of students will be charged with the task of leading a class discussion on issues from the readings. Additionally, discussion leaders will submit a 1 page thought paper to the professor on the day of the session. Although discussion leaders are charged with providing

discussion questions and facilitating the discussion, all students are expected to read the assigned materials and come prepared to class (see Blackboard for more information and readings for each class).

2. **Mid-term Exam:** worth 35% of final grade. Students are to choose a topic relevant to the first 6 lectures of the course and are expected to look at recent relevant research on that topic. Essays will be NO MORE than 3-5 pages, double-spaced in length with an APA style reference page included. A title page with your name and student number should be included with the essay. Essays are to be delivered electronically by email (vpruegge@ucalgary.ca) no later than 12 pm on Monday, March 5, 2012. NO late assignments will be accepted. **Students must discuss their topic with the professor no later than February 8.**

3. **Final Exam:** worth 35% of grade. Held in class April 13 and 18 (depending on class size). The final exam will be in the form of an oral argument. Each student will be asked to prepare a detailed argument on a particular topic covered in the course, or that pertains to the course, that focuses on how and why cultural issues are critical to our understanding of human cognition. **Topics must be discussed and cleared with the professor prior to March 21.** Length of arguments will be determined by class size (usually no more than 10 minutes) and students will be required to submit a 1-2 page paper which clearly presents the oral argument.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor’s discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Important dates

Date	
M Jan 9	Lecture begins.
F Jan 20	Last day to drop a course with tuition refund.
M Jan 23	Last day for registration/change of registration.
Feb 19-26	Reading days. No lecture.
M Feb 20	Alberta Family Day. No lecture.
F Apr 13	Lecture ends.

Date	TOPIC (readings available on Blackboard for each Lecture)β
W Jan 11	Lecture begins. Introduction
W Jan 18	Lecture 2 – Manufacturing Consent – Noam Chomsky
F Jan 20	Last day to drop a course with tuition refund.
M Jan 23	Last day for registration/change of registration.
W Jan 25	Lecture 3 – Language & Communication
W Feb 1	Lecture 4 – Social and Interpersonal Cognition
W Feb 8	Lecture 5 - Perception
W Feb 15	Lecture 6 - Emotion
M Feb 20	Alberta Family Day. No lecture.
W Feb 22	Reading days. No lecture.
F Feb 24	Reading days. No lecture.
W Feb 29	MIDTERM EXAM (take home)
W Mar 7	Lecture 7 – Decision Making & Problem Solving
W Mar 14	Lecture 8 - Intelligence
W Mar 21	Lecture 9 - Memory
W Mar 28	Lecture 10 – Social Implications of Culture & Cognition
W Apr 4	Lecture 11 – Political Implications of Culture & Cognition
F Apr 6	Good Friday. No lecture.
W Apr 11	FINAL EXAM
W Apr 18	FINAL EXAM

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present

a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Students who miss a term test due to a valid and documented official University reason (illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction) have 48 hours to contact AND schedule a makeup test with the instructor. The onus is on the student to have a makeup test approved and scheduled within 48 hours, or the makeup test option is forfeited. The same process applies to missed makeup tests. At the instructor's discretion, the makeup test may differ significantly in form and/or content from the missed test. However, the makeup test cannot differ in weight (% of final grade) from the missed test. Except in extenuating circumstances (a documented official University medical excuse), a makeup test must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test. Absence from a final exam, and deferral of a final exam, are handled by Enrolment Services (see http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final). Students absent from a final exam must notify the instructor within 48 hours and must then apply for an official deferred final exam no later than the deadline indicated in the Examinations Schedule.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombuds provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Jan 20, 2012**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Jan 23, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Apr 13, 2012**.