

Saint Leo University

PSY 339

Social and Cultural Foundations of Behavior

Course Description:

This course explores social and cultural issues in psychology as they relate to the application of psychological theories and principles to diverse groups. Special attention is given to racial/ethnic minority issues and cultural diversity, a key component of which is developing an understanding of personal cultural development and how this pattern of development influences perceptions of interactions with others and general human behavior.

Prerequisite:

PSY 121 or PSY 161

Textbook:

Matsumoto, D., & Juang, L. (2017). *Culture and psychology* (6th ed.). Boston: Cengage.
ISBN: 978-1-305-64895-1

Course Objectives:

PSY 339 Social and Cultural Foundations of Behavior course has three main objectives: (a) To provide students with basic knowledge about the manner in which individuals from diverse groups differ and how these differences influence the interactions that humans have with one another; (b) To help foster students' understanding of the methods that researchers use when exploring racial/ethnic and diverse groups; and (c) To allow students to begin to understand their own cultural identities and how these identities influence the manner in which they interact with those around them. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Develop a clearer understanding of social and cultural influences within the broad field of psychology;
2. Have an increased awareness of issues related to cultural diversity and how this might impact the application of psychological principles to diverse groups;
3. Become familiar with their own cultural development and potential biases;
4. Have a better understanding of manifestations of psychological distress within specific cultures and minorities; and
5. Be aware of psychological theories that are applied to understanding cultures and social groups other than their own.

The Mission Statement and Core Values of Saint Leo University are fundamental to all psychology courses. In addition to the above stated learning objectives, the Psychology faculty has identified the following Saint Leo University core values to be included in the curriculum for this course.

1. *Personal Development:* Saint Leo University stresses the development of every person's mind, spirit, and body for a balanced life. All members of the Saint Leo University community must demonstrate their commitment to personal development to help strengthen the character of our community.

Personal Development can take many forms in this course as you learn about yourself, your cultural background, the backgrounds of those around you and the backgrounds of your family.

2. *Respect:* Animated in the spirit of Jesus Christ, we value all individuals' unique talents, respect their dignity, and strive to foster their commitment to excellence in our work. Our community's strength depends on the unity and diversity of our people, on the free exchange of ideas and on learning, living, and working harmoniously.

Respect can be explored in this course by examining the inherent differences among people who vary in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, special abilities or disabilities, age, education, and sexual orientation. You should develop an appreciation of and respect for cultures other than your own, and discussions about diversity issues will be explored in the context of the respect core value.

Evaluation:

Your grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Quizzes (4 x 150pts each)	600pts	30%
Paper 1	200pts	10%
Paper 2	300pts	15%
Experiencing Culture Through Food assignment	100pts	5%
Trip to the Grocery Store assignment	200pts	10%
Movie Review assignment	100pts	5%
Reflection Activities (4 x 50pts each)	200pts	10%
Discussion Questions (8 x 25pts each)	200pts	10%
Peer Responses (8 x 12.5pts each)	100pts	5%
TOTAL	2000pts	100%

Grading Scale:

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	0-59

Incompletes:

A final grade of incomplete will not be given to a student simply to accommodate an inability to complete the required work in a timely manner during the semester. An incomplete will be given only under certain circumstances that are discussed and arranged in advance with the instructor or for circumstances that are beyond the student's control (e.g., incapacitating medical condition, injury beyond your control).

Quizzes

A total of four quizzes will be administered in the course. Each non-cumulative quiz will be timed and will be composed of multiple-choice and short answer questions. All quizzes will equally cover module material, interaction activities, and reading assignments. Each quiz is timed, so prepare ahead of time as it will not be possible to use notes and text to find all the answers to questions during the process of completing the quiz. Short answer questions must be completed during the allotted time as well, and the short answer questions will be graded on content and how well that content satisfies the question.

Assignments:

This course requires students to complete writing assignments on a variety of topics. Below is a brief overview of each assignment:

Paper 1

This first assignment will provide students a structured opportunity to engage in some "family-snooping" and personal introspection. Each student is to interview relevant family members, use on-line or print materials or other resources to learn about his or her family history.

Experiencing Culture Through Food

Because of the central nature of food in our cultural lives, students will have the opportunity to experience the norms and morays of another culture as related to food. This will involve researching foods and customs, and then going to a restaurant to experience them. Students are to choose a culture with whose food and customs they are unfamiliar and write a brief reaction paper.

Trip to the Grocery Store

Students will identify a large grocery store chain that is a “dominant culture” (American/White culture) store. Each student should plan to spend at least 60-120 minutes at the grocery store taking careful observations of the types of people who frequent the store, the types and availability of the products available for purchase, and the ease of finding both dominant culture (American/White culture) and cultural grocery items. After the observation period, the student should write a brief report.

Movie Review

For this activity, each student will identify a movie that has a racial/ethnic or other minority issue as a **major** theme in the movie. The student will watch the movie then provide a review using topics and terms from the class.

Paper 2

Paper 2 typifies the traditional “research paper” that students complete while finishing a degree in psychology. Each student will submit a paper of 8-12 pages in length on a topic related to the course.

Reflection Activities

At various points during the term, students will be asked to respond to reflection questions. Reflection responses are expected to be well developed and conceived, and they must clearly convey that the student has significantly pondered the issue. Students are required to submit the response in a Word document with the file name “YourLastName_PSY339_reflection#_.doc” where you will add the reflection number from 1 to 4. This assignment will be uploaded to the course site by clicking on the Submit Assignments link on the Course Menu. All responses must be received on time or there will be a one letter grade reduction for each 24 hours the assignment is late.

Discussion Questions and Responses

When completing discussion questions, it is imperative that your responses demonstrate that you have reflected on the material, organized a thoughtful and well-developed response, and have demonstrated critical thinking in offering your response. As regards peer responses, you are asked to comment on at least two of your peer’s comments. When making peer responses, remember to honor our core value of respect in your response, and do not engage in personal anecdotes, overly emotional responses, or personal attacks. It is possible for us to respectfully disagree about various ideas explored in the class. All responses must be received on time or there will be a one letter grade reduction for each 24 hours the assignment is late.

Module 1: An Introduction to Culture and Psychology and Cross-Cultural Cultural Research Methods

Outcomes: After completing this module the student will be able to:

- Define the similarities and differences between culture and society.
- Identify different groups that have culture.
- Explain the processes by which researchers study culture.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post Introduction to the Discussion Board	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Read the assigned materials	
View HotTopix	
Post your initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Review Course Assignment Requirements	

Module 2: Enculturation and Culture and Developmental Processes

Outcomes: After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Define the process of enculturation and the factors involved in the development of culture.
- Summarize the role that parenting and families play in developing culture.
- Explain the influence of culture on attachment, cognitive development, and moral reasoning.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
View HotTopix	
Post your initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 1	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Topic for Paper 2 to instructor via email	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Reflection Activity 1 to Assignment folder	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 3: Culture and Cognition, and Culture and Gender

Outcomes: After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Summarize the influence of culture on perception, cognition, consciousness, and intelligence.
- Explain gender differences across cultures.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
View HotTopix	
Post your initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Paper 1 to the Assignment folder	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 4: Culture and Health, and Culture and Emotion

Outcomes: After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Summarize the influence of culture on health including cultural differences in health, conceptions of physical health and medical disease processes, and cultural differences in dealing with illness.
- Identify the emotions that are universal across cultures.
- Explain the evolution of human emotion and cultural differences that exist in human experience of emotion.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
View HotTopix	
Post your initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 2	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submitted Reflection Activity 2 to Assignment folder	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submitted Experiencing Culture Through Food to Assignment folder	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 5: Culture, Language, and Communication; Culture and Personality

Outcomes: After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Summarize the influence of culture on language and communication including how verbal and nonverbal language, intracultural and intercultural communication, and bilingualism affect cultural interpretations of communication.

- Explain similarities and variations in personality across cultures including the relative utility of the Five Factor Model of Personality in exploring such differences.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
View HotTopix	
Post your initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit "Trip to the Grocery Store" to Assignment folder	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 6: Culture and Abnormal Psychology; Culture and Treatment of Abnormal Psychology

Outcomes: After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Explain the concept of abnormal psychology and behavior and how these differ across cultures.
- Summarize differences across cultures regarding the treatment of abnormal behavior.
- Define indigenous healing and how it differs from Western approaches to the treatment of abnormal behavior.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
View HotTopix	
Post your initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 3	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Reflection Activity 3 to Assignment folder	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Movie Review to Assignment folder	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 7: Culture and Social Behavior I: Self and Identity; Culture and Social Behavior II: Interpersonal and Intergroup Relations

Outcomes: After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Summarize the influence of culture on the concept of the self, identity, self-esteem and self-enhancement, and attributions.
- Explain similarities and variations in (a) impression formation, (b) love, sex and marriage, (c) conformity, compliance and obedience, (d) cooperation, (e) aggression, (f) intergroup relations, and (g) aggression across cultural groups.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:

Read the assigned materials	
View HotTopix	
Post your initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submitted Paper 2 to Assignment folder	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 8: Culture and Organizations

Outcomes: After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Explain cultural differences in work-related values.
- Summarize and examine research on culture and (a) the meaning of work, (b) motivation and productivity, (c) leadership and management styles, (d) decision making processes, and (e) sexual harassment.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
View HotTopix	
Post your initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 4	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submitted Reflection Activity 4 to Assignment folder	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT