

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	CASS
Programme:	Psychology
FHEQ Level:	4
Course Title:	Cross Cultural Psychology
Course Code:	PSY 4800
Course Leader:	Dr Ira Konstantinou
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	30
Seminar / Tutorials:	15
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Spring/Fall
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

This course examines a selection of theoretical, empirical and applied issues in the cross-cultural study of human social behaviour with a focus on Italy and Italians.

Aspects of cross-cultural analysis from the field of cross-cultural psychology (as well as interdisciplinary elements from sociology, anthropology, biology and ecology) will be discussed, including: cultural influence on human behaviour, attitudes, values, communication and societal organization. Special topics of ethnocentrism, individualistic vs. collectivistic societies, plural societies, cultural views on mental health, and intercultural communication are highlighted. Methodological issues of cross-cultural research will be reviewed, and students will have the opportunity to conduct a cross-cultural interview and be participant-observers of their own study abroad experience in Italy. Italy and its inhabitants become the classroom through various excursions and field work. Participants are encouraged to reflect on their own cultural origins in regards to behaviours, communication, attitudes and values, as well as their acculturation experiences while studying in Italy.

Prerequisites:

N/A

Aims and Objectives:

- a) To explore, discuss and acquire an understanding of the principal concepts in cross-cultural psychology.

- b) To investigate and apply ideas from cross-cultural psychology to the needs of individuals, groups and society.
- c) To develop critical thinking and skill in evaluating traditional gender roles and racial stereotypes.
- d) To develop an intellectual tolerance and respect for others' viewpoints as well as self-understanding and empowerment.

Programme Outcomes:

A4 (i); A4 (ii), B4 (i), B4 (iii), C4 (i), C4 (ii), D4 (i), D4 (ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the key concepts and themes in cross-cultural psychology.
- Develop an awareness of the history of cross-cultural psychology and its connections/distinguishing characteristics from traditional psychology.
- Apply the concepts of cross-cultural psychology to real-world issues/situations.
- Identify and critique the influence of culture in social issues.
- Identify and reflect upon the ways in which cultural identity influences thoughts, views, perceptions, and behaviors.
- Develop strategies to address cultural differences respectfully and effectively in both psychological research and real-life settings.

Indicative Content:

Understanding and defining culture
Research methods in cross-cultural psychology
Environment and intelligence
Culture and identity
Enculturation and acculturation
Culture and mental health
Critical thinking in cross cultural psychology
Culture, social perception and social cognition
Social psychology
Ethnocentrism, stereotypes and prejudice
Methodology of cross cultural research
Human development

