Cross Cultural Psychology
PSYC 4332.W01
Spring 2020

Anthony Zoccolillo, Ph.D.
Email: Anthony.Zoccolillo@tamucc.edu
Phone: 361-825-2390

Class Location: Online

Office Hours (BH 318): TBD

Contacting Me
I am always ready and willing to make myself available to help you succeed in this course. I highly encourage you to come to me with your questions and concerns at any point that you need the assistance. I am very good at answering email and many of your questions could probably be answered in that way. For more complicated concerns, I encourage you to drop by my office or make an appointment to chat on the phone so we can discuss whatever it is that is causing you to struggle. I advise you to identify and remedy any concerns as early as you can during the semester – the more time we have to address it – the more likely it is we will be able to resolve it in a way that allows you to be successful. If you wait until the end of the semester, there is little I can usually do to help at that point.

Additional Communication Channels
I have a Psychology Facebook page where I will post articles and links to interesting things relevant to Psychology. That page can be found at https://www.facebook.com/doczocc. If you are interested in keeping up with what is going on within the psychology department, especially if you are a psychology major, consider “liking” our department page as well (https://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-AM-University-Corpus-Christi-Department-of-Psychology-Sociology/334128353345477)

Course Description: This course is designed to provide students with both a theoretical and a practical understanding of the effects of culture on human thinking, values, and behavior. As such, it is focused on the effects of culture on the nature and behavior of individuals, their adaptations to institutions and environments, and their relations with others within and outside their culture. Knowledge presented in the class is drawn from both qualitative and quantitative research.

Course Description Student Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes for this course will include the students’ ability to:

- Describe and understand the major terms and concepts of cross-cultural psychology
- Gain knowledge of multicultural theories and research
- Critique research from a cultural perspective
- Improve multicultural competence
• Identify the role of race, ethnicity, heritage, nationality, gender, SES, sexual orientation, religious identity and other social statuses and how these relate to areas of health (psychological, physical)

Course Requirements:

ISBN: 978-0374533403

There will be no ‘textbook’ for this class however a selection of primary source readings will be posted for each week. It is expected that you read each of these thoroughly and use them to complete each week’s work.

Blackboard: This course will use Blackboard. Please check it regularly, as announcements will be posted there, as well as any changes to the syllabus or assignments. If you do not know your login information for Blackboard, please contact the IT Help Desk, (361) 825-2692. If there are issues within your Blackboard course, please contact me first, as typically the instructor is the only one who can make changes/fix issues within a course. If you are having technical difficulties, please contact the IT Help Desk or your Internet Service Provider.

YOUR GRADE:
Your grade in this section of Cross Cultural Psychology will be a combination of your performance on assignments, weekly discussions, journals, article reviews, and exams.

EXAMS: You will take three exams during the semester. The exams will cover material that is presented in the lectures or covered in the assigned readings. These exams will all be administered online. Each exam is worth 10% of your grade and your exam average will be worth 30% of your final grade. Further directions will follow.

OPTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM:
In addition to the three required exams, there will also be an optional comprehensive exam (OCE) during the exam week. You may choose to take the OCE to replace your lowest exam performance. It cannot hurt you to take the OCE, if you do worse on the OCE than your lowest exam score, your grades will remain as if you had not taken the OCE. If you miss a regular exam for any reason, you must take the OCE to replace the missed exam grade; there will be no make-up exams.

DISCUSSIONS: For each week of the semester, you will have a weekly discussion that you are required to participate in. Each discussion will be worth 30 points (with the exception of Week 1 Discussion 1 (20 points). For each discussion you are required to do two things. First – you must respond to the prompt with a well thought out, researched, and original response (20 points). You will be graded on both content and style so please proofread your work. Additionally, to foster collaboration between students, you must make a minimum of 2 response postings to other students in the class (5 points each). These responses should be well thought out and original as well. Postings of encouragement (e.g. “Great point”, “I agree”, etc.) are great and help to build a sense of community – but will not count toward the 2 required weekly response postings. These
will be based on the readings assigned as well as the book we are reading this semester. Your grade on the discussions will be worth 20% of your final grade.

**JOURNALS:** Conversations about Culture is a journal assignment I have been using for several semesters. It will allow you to have multiple conversations with individuals from a different cultural background and report/reflect on your findings of the similarities and differences. There will be three separate journals due and these will be due by the end of the week that we have exams (Weeks 5, 10, and 15). You must choose a DIFFERENT culture for each of your journal entries and these will be published using the journal feature in Blackboard. Everyone will be encouraged to read each other’s reflections and comment as appropriate. A specific set of questions will be provided for each journal to use as a guide (although you will be allowed to freelance and follow up as you see appropriate). These journals will be worth 20% of your grade.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Note: All assignments must completed by the assigned due date. *Late assignments will not be accepted.*

Weekly homework will be assigned throughout the semester. These assignments are graded and will count toward your final course grade. Assignments will range in length and difficulty and will be worth anywhere between 3 points (short video assignments) to 20 points (more thoughtful assignments involving writing). Although the exact total of assignments may vary, your average on these assignments will be worth 10% of your grade.

**ARTICLE PRESENTATION:** Each student will be placed in a group at the beginning of the semester and be asked to locate a scholarly article related to the week’s topic. These articles will be directly related to the weekly discussion question and as such – will be due the week PRIOR to that particular discussion. You will post a copy of the article and your thoughtful summary of the article for the class. This can be completed as a group or as an individual and further directions will be provided for what your summary should contain. Your grade on your presentation will be worth 10% of your grade.

**CROSS CULTURAL REPORT:** This final piece of your grade will be a self-reflection into what we cover in class. The purpose of this is to have you develop insight and personal awareness into your reactions, thoughts and feelings that arise as we move through the semester. This will also allow you to reflect on things that you perhaps think too personal to share with the class in the discussions and/or to personally communicate to me about the content. This is not meant to cover every single reflection you have, but rather the ones that are most important or stand out the most. You will submit these to me twice during the semester. One at midterm on the content covered through that point, and one at the end of the semester. These reflections should be about 2 pages each and further guidelines will be given on how to write each of these. This report will be worth 10% of your final grade.
% of total grade

30% Exam average = _____ * .30
20% Journals = _____ * .20
20% Discussion Reponses = _____ * .20
10% Homework = _____ * .10
10% Article Presentation = _____ * .10
10% Cross Cultural Report = _____ * .10

100% Total

90-100% = A
80 – 89% = B
70 – 79% = C
60 – 69% = D
less than 60% = F

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero for the assignment or exam.

Dropping a Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Friday, April 10 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Statement of Civility

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified,
respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

DISABILITY SERVICES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf
## Course Calendar (Tentative)

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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Intro to Cross Cultural Psychology</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Enculturation</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Culture and Development</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Culture and Cognition</td>
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<td>Exam #1</td>
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<td>Conversation About Culture Journal #1 Due</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Culture and Gender</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Culture and Emotion</td>
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<td>Cross Cultural Report #1 Due</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Culture and Health</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Culture and Communication</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Culture and Personality</td>
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<td>Exam #2</td>
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<td>Conversation About Culture Journal #2 Due</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Culture and Abnormal Psychology</td>
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<td><strong>Friday April 10</strong></td>
<td>Last Day to Drop Class</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Culture and Abnormal Psychology</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Self and Identity</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Interpersonal and Intergroup Relations</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
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<td><strong>Scheduled Final Exam Time</strong></td>
<td>Optional Final Comprehensive Exam</td>
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