

Sam Houston State University
Multicultural Psychology (PSYC 7360)
Department of Psychology & Philosophy
Fall 2017; Thursday, 9-11:50 a.m.
Classroom: Psychological Services Center (PSC) RM I31

Instructor: Dr. Temilola Salami
Office: CHSS 307
E-mail: txs047@SHSU.edu

Office hours:
Office hours by appointment,
just email me.

Course Description

This three credit-hour course examines the theoretical and methodological foundations of multicultural psychology. The course is designed to examine the roles and influences of cultural and individual differences in mental health. Although the field of multicultural psychology covers a vast array of topics, this course will focus specifically on multiculturalism as it applies to the delivery of clinical services. To this end, relevant research and commentary will be reviewed and discussed in class. Appropriate assessment and intervention approaches with various clinical populations will be discussed. Students will be asked to explore their own cultural identity and influences. Although some attention will be given to specific cultural groups, emphasis will be placed upon learning to think critically and constructively about race, culture, and diversity as professional psychologists working with individuals and organizations in a variety of contexts. Students will gain a greater understanding of culture and diversity to enhance one's cultural competence and awareness in various social and applied settings. The class is designed for students to learn primarily through discussion and active participation.

Course Objective

The goal of this course is NOT targeted at providing a complete review on the topic of multicultural psychology and diversity, nor is it intended to change your individual perspectives or attitudes over a single course semester. This course is designed with the intention to acquaint students to the role of multicultural diversity in psychology as it pertains to service delivery. The essential goal of the course is for students to learn fundamental principles and theories related to multicultural psychology. An additional goal involves helping students learn to apply the body of knowledge related to multicultural psychology to their current and future professional practice and scholarly activities.

Class Conduct & Mutual Respect

The topics that will be discussed throughout this course will compose of potentially socially and culturally sensitive and controversial issues that may elicit or heighten one's attitudes or feelings. To help cultivate a positive and safe atmosphere, I suggest that you keep some of these points in mind throughout the course discussions and readings:

- We are all here *together* to discuss and learn about very cognitively and socially loaded materials that may be taboo in everyday dialogues.
- We all have some type of held prejudice.
- We've all experienced some level of prejudice.
- We are constantly building our cultural competence. No one is a social group "expert" or representative on issues related to any cultural diversity topics.
- We are NOT here to victimize or target any individual/group. Cultural diversity learning occurs more readily in a supportive and "safe" environment, where there is a climate of openness and trust. For this reason we will try to discuss our feelings and experiences without fear of being judged, stereotyped, or categorized by our peers.
- In order for all students to have the same opportunity to gain a rich experience from this course it is extremely imperative for students to actively listen to one another with an open mind and respect.

- Students are expected and encouraged to participate in engaging dialogue and interact with each other in a respectful manner. Students are not obligated to discuss their feelings, beliefs, or attitudes about any topic to the entire class that they find uncomfortable or dangerous. On the other hand, students that do willingly share their values or attitudes with the class should also be conscious and respectful of their peers potential reaction or response to the discussion or comment.

Students should review, and adhere to, the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline at:
<http://www.shsu.edu/guidelines/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf>

Expectations

- ✓ Students in the course are expected to give their full attention. By full attention we mean that no one should be sleeping, talking, or working on materials for another class.
- ✓ Personal computers are allowed in the classroom BUT for course related use only (e.g., notetaking). Browsing unrelated websites, e-chatting, and visiting social network sites are considered inappropriate during class meeting times.
- ✓ Please SILENCE all cell phones during class time to respect the instructor as well as your fellow peers learning time.
- ✓ Students are strongly encouraged to participate openly and honestly in class discussion and activities.
- ✓ Students are responsible for completing all assignments for the class and submitting all work on the designated due dates.
- ✓ Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss reading materials and assignments. Students are also expected to read the appropriate assigned readings BEFORE class in order to fully engage in the class discussion and learn from the readings.
- ✓ Disrespect to the instructor or others in the class will not be tolerated.
- ✓ Final grades may only be challenged if you feel there has been a clerical error. If something personal and/or significant occurs throughout the semester that you feel will affect your performance, tell me then! Do not wait to share this news *after* seeing your final grade.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required to perform well in this course, therefore, ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. Sam Houston State University policy is that no student will be penalized for three or fewer hours of absence. A student may be penalized, however, for more than three hours of absence. Thus, students may miss one class without penalty, but *missing two classes may impact your grade for the class*. The three hours of absence provided by university policy should be used carefully for serious illness and emergencies. If a student has a conflict with a scheduled class, he or she must meet with the instructor to determine an appropriate plan of action. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor regarding make-up work, and arrangements must be arranged with the instructor *prior* to the absence or *as soon as possible* after the absence, in the case of an emergency. It is assumed that regular attendance for this course will facilitate students in enhanced learning. Due to our small class roster (which is a great thing!), your attendance is all the more important.

Academic Honesty

The university expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

The university and its official representatives, acting in accordance with subsection 5.32 of *The Student Guidelines* of Sam Houston State University, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of SHSU that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs, nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center (294-1720). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and talk with the instructor about how to best deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential.

Note: No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center, and there are no retroactive accommodations.

Religious Holidays

Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for the absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. *Religious Holy Day* means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the instructor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Instructor Evaluation

You will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Grading Policy

Grades will be assigned based on the scale below. Grades may be curved slightly (e.g., .5 point to round up to a letter grade level) at the instructor's discretion, but only to students' benefit. All final grades will be totaled and entered by the instructor. Grades will only be reviewed and changed if a clerical error was made.

(89.5-100%)	A
(79.5-89.4%)	B
(74.5-79.4%)	C
(69.5-74.4%)	D
(< 69.4) F	F

Grading

PERCENTAGE

○ Reaction Papers & Discussion Questions	20%
○ Exams (25% for each exam)	50%
○ AAPI Essay	10%
○ Presentation	20%

Incomplete Grades

A grade of incomplete is only assigned in extremely unusual circumstances. Such situations require extensive documentation and approval of faculty supervisors. It is only an option if a student is passing the class and is typically only awarded when a student has completed the majority of the classwork and is only missing few assignments, if any. If a grade of incomplete is approved, a written plan for completion of the coursework must be developed by the instructor and student and approved by the faculty supervisor.

Reaction Papers & Discussion Questions

You will be expected to write short reaction papers each week related to the weekly readings. This will serve as an opportunity for students to express their reactions and apply what they have learned from class reading materials. The paper should be NO MORE and NO LESS than 1 page in length (double-spaced). **All reaction papers are due by NOON on Wednesdays via email to txs047@SHSU.edu with the subject "REACTION PAPER [Class Date]".** Students have a choice to focus their reactionary paper on one specific article of interest or all required readings for each discussion day. **Students are able to opt out of 3 of the 9 reaction papers.**

In addition, students are required to submit a MINIMUM OF TWO discussion questions each week. You are expected to turn in your discussion questions regardless of if you choose to opt out of completing a reaction paper. **All discussion questions are due by NOON on Wednesdays via email to txs047@SHSU.edu and should be in the same e-mail as the reaction paper.**

Note: Acceptable discussion questions should be engaging critical thinking questions that will enhance students as well as his/her peers learning of the reading material. Yes/no or "in your opinion" questions are NOT critical thinking questions. Regardless of if a student chooses to write a reaction paper, students are expected to read all articles, and should note that they can be called at any time during the discussion day by the instructor to answer questions related to an article or to give a synopsis of an article.

Exams

The two in-class exams may be comprised of different types of items. However, multiple choice, true/false and short answer/essay questions will be most likely. These exams will evaluate your knowledge of advanced theories and principles of multicultural psychology, as well as your ability to integrate information and apply it. Each exam is worth 25% of your grade and are **noncumulative**. The exams will comprise of content from the assigned readings, lectures, discussions and guest presentation. Please do not miss a scheduled exam. Excuses will only be accepted with proper documentation. The instructor holds the final decision regarding verifying such excuses and granting make-up exam opportunities. Proper documentation would include a doctor's note, jury duty documentation, etc, and such excuses should be regarding situations that were unavoidable. Please

respect my discretion on these issues and I will do my best to respectfully and appropriately accommodate each situation. Improper documentation or simply no excuse will result in a 0 for the exam. You will have the full three hours to complete each exam.

Note: Make-up exams may take a completely different format than the scheduled exams.

AAPI Multicultural Essay (Due October 12)

Each student must write his/her response to the multicultural essay question that is a required element of the standard internship application. The question is:

Please describe your experience and training in work with diverse populations. Your discussion should display explicitly the manner in which multicultural/diversity issues influence your clinical practice and case conceptualization.

As is evident in the question, students will be required to write a coherent, integrated statement that includes their clinical experience with diverse clients and a description of how multiculturalism influences their work.

In-Class Presentation

Students must deliver a presentation related to one of the following groups: African Americans, Latinos/as and Latino/a Americans, Asian and Asian Americans, or Native Americans. This presentation should address issues related to clinical assessment and treatment. The uniqueness of each population should be addressed as well as the within-group heterogeneity that must be considered. Student presentations should address issues related to individual members of the target group as well as issues related to families and communities. Thus, these presentations must be comprehensive and serve the purpose of informing the research and practice of all students in the class. Each student will be assigned 60 minutes to cover the assigned material and allotted 20 minutes for questions and discussion at the end. Each student must provide the class with *at least two* readings pertaining to their assigned topic, which must be approved by the instructor by the date listed on the semester schedule (or ASAP). *The presentation is worth 20% of your grade.* ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR PRESENTATION DAYS FOR ALL STUDENTS! Except under exceptional circumstances and unless discussed a week or more in advance with the instructor, A ZERO will be provided for your grade if you are to miss the in-class presentation on your own presentation day.

NO FINAL EXAM: Your presentation will serve as the course final exam.

Required Readings

Reading

All reading assignments for a given day should be completed before the beginning of class on that date. I expect you to read all assigned material. Discussion is critical in a course such as this one, and it will be limited if not everyone has completed the reading for the day. Please refer to the reading list for each assigned reading.

Textbook

There is no textbook to purchase for this course.

Semester Schedule

Date		Topic
August	24	Introduction to Class and Multicultural Psychology *Presentation sign-up
	31	NO CLASS: Hurricane Harvey
September	7	Cultural Context of Professional Psychological Services
	14	Racism, Discrimination, and Privilege
	21	Racial and Cultural Identity Development
	28	EXAM I
October	5	Multicultural Issues in Psychological Assessment and Treatment
	12	Immigrants and Refugees *AAPI multicultural essay due *Last day to let me know about presentation topic
	19	Sexual Minorities
	26	Religious Diversity
November	2	Working with Persons Living with Disabilities Presentation 1
	9	Presentation 2 Presentation 3
	16	Presentation 4 Presentation 5
	23	Thanksgiving Day – No Class
	30	EXAM II
December	7	NO CLASS – Finals Week

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary