



Cross Cultural Psychology

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: FLOR 3006

Number of Credits: 3

Language of Instruction: English

Contact Hours: 45

Instructor: Dr. Mary Ann Bellini

Course Objectives

- To recognize the cultural influence on human behavior, communication, attitudes and values in both Italy and the US.
- To examine basic principles of psychology, such as child development, identity formation, learning, psychopathology, and others using different cultural contexts.
- To understand differences in Mental Health Services in Italy and America.
- To observe one's own acculturation and the changes that occur in this process, using the participant-observer model.

Learning Outcomes

General

Learn basic skills to help in the understanding of culture shock and acculturation. Students will become more able to tolerate differences in other cultures and acquire more open mindedness.

Course Specific

Acquire specific knowledge about the Italian Mental Health System and the similarities and differences between Italy and America.

Students will use the city of Florence as an experiential classroom to observe behaviors of children, adolescents, adults, and families to understand differences and similarities that they

would normally observe and participate in their own family, peer group, college campus, and other settings.

Developmental

Observe changes in one's own behavior in the transition from home to Florence. Students will focus on one of their own behaviors and attempt to modify it during the semester abroad. They will reflect on these changes within themselves with the understanding that this semester is a very special one and that the journey to Florence, Italy is both a unique discovery of the past art and culture of this city but also a sudden impact with parts of oneself that were previously unknown. The experience becomes a journey into one's own inner world, a discovery of the self and of new resources to utilize both now in the new environment and well into the future when back home. These reflections, changes, and critical analysis will be recorded in a journal, which will be collected two times during the semester.

Methodology

This class will consist of class lectures with PP presentations, guest lectures with Italian professionals, field studies, student group projects, and individual oral presentations.

Research Paper

Students will write a 5-page research paper choosing one topic from the class lectures (ex. personality in different cultures, child development, acculturation, culture and mental health, etc.) More details will be shared in class.

Student Panels

Group projects that discuss three reality reports of psychopathology and criminal offense in Italy (Monster of Florence, death of Meredith Kercher in Perugia, and organized crime in Naples. See required readings). Students will talk about the history of the case, current developments and public opinion, also including the role of television and other media.

Students will summarize their particular contribution in a written review (2 pages). More details will be shared in class.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for the course.

Required Reading / Materials

1. CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY: RESEARCH AND APPLICATIONS. (3RD EDITION). Berry, Poortinga, Breugelmans, Chasiotis, Sam. (2011). Selected chapters available in Reader
2. An Italian Education. Tim Parks (2001) Paperback
3. The Marshall and the Mad Woman. Magdalen Nabb (2009) Paperback

4. The Monster of Florence. Douglas Preston & Mario Spezi (2009) Paperback
5. Death in Perugia: The Definitive Account of the Meredith Kercher Case. John Follain (2011) Paperback.
6. Gomorrah-Italy's Other Mafia. Roberto Saviano (2011) Paperback

These paperback editions are available at Paperback Book Exchange, Via delle Oche 4r

Grading

Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D+	67–69	
D	60–66	
F	0–59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Mid-term	20%
Final exam	30%
Research paper	20%
Panels	20%
Oral presentations & journals	10%
Overall grade	100%

Class Schedule

Week 1

- Introduction to course & Syllabus. Behavior and Culture. Ethnocentrism and Stereotypes. What is Cross Cultural Psychology?
- Chapter 1 in Reader

Week 2

- Studying Developmental Psych Cross-Culturally. Infancy and Child Rearing in the family.
- Chapter 2, 3 in Reader. Student Observations of children, families.
- Observations in piazza S. Spirito, Pitti, and others.

Week 3

- Adolescence, Adulthood. Social behavior. Mating and Partnership
- Chapter 4 in Reader. Student Observations of couples.
- Read for today's class and be ready to discuss "An Italian Education". Is this myth or reality according to your experiences so far in Italy?

Week 4

- Personality and Culture. Some non-western concepts. National character

- Chapter 5 in Reader
- Film – “La Prima Cosa Bella”

Week 5

- Emotions and Language as Universal Concepts
- Chapters 7, 8 in Reader
- Read for today’s class and be ready to discuss “The Marshall and the Mad Woman”. Florence after the great flood of 1966. What are the changes that you have observed and what remains the same

Week 6

- Mid Term Exam
- Hand in Journals
- Guest Lecture: The New Italian Family. (To be confirmed)

Week 7

- Acculturation and Intercultural Relations
- Chapters 13, 14 in Reader
- Hand in Outline for term paper
- Guest Lecture: “Counseling and Psychotherapy in Different Cultures” (to be confirmed)

Week 8

- Field Trip to Substance Abuse Unit (to be confirmed)
- Alcohol Use and Abuse in Italy
- Treatment and therapy for substance abuse in Florence

Week 9

- The Evolution of Eating Disorders in a Historical and a Cross Cultural Perspective.
- Eating Disorders in Italy and in USA: Differences and Similarities
- Research Project and Presentation together with Univ. California students in the course “History and Culture of Food in Italy, instructor: Dr. Peter Fischer

Week 10

- Panel Presentation: GOMORRAH – ITALY’S OTHER MAFIA
- Psychopathology and Abnormal Behaviors in Cultural Context – 1
- Structured Interview Presentation for Taormina study tour

Week 11

- Panel Presentation: DEATH IN PERUGIA
- Psychopathology and Abnormal Behaviors in Cultural Context – 2
- To Taormina and back again: student observations and discussions
- Hand in Taormina interviews
- Film “Gomorra” Part 1

Week 12

- Panel Presentation: THE MONSTER OF FLORENCE
- Psychopathology from the cultural lens – Chapter 17 in Reader
- Review for Final
- Hand in Journals
- Film “Gomorra” Part 2

Week 13

- Final Exam
- Research Paper due

Policies

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the on-site director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly (check the Academic Handbook for the attendance policy in place at the Florence Program). In the case of absences, it is the student's responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

Missed assignments: a valid doctor's certificate dated on the day of the absence or other evidence of medical need is required to make up for any missed assignment (paper due, presentation due, project due, test, quiz, midterm, final, and all other graded activities). Failure to provide such evidence will automatically result in an “F”/“0” grade for the assignment.

No exceptions allowed.

University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or

misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).