

Partial Syllabus as of 2-25-06

FALL 2006
PSYCHOLOGY 437* - CROSS CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. Barbara Bunker
362 Park Hall 645-3650 x 362
Home (emergency only): 881-2166

Office Hours: by appointment
Email: bbunker@buffalo.edu
Secretary: Mrs. Lewis 358 Park

Class Meeting Times:

Saturday September 2nd 9 AM - 2 PM
Saturday September 16th 9 AM - 5 PM
September 18-20 Visit of the Dalai Lama
Saturday October 7th 9 AM - 5 PM
Saturday November 11th 9 AM - 5 PM
Saturday November 19th 9 AM - about 1 PM
Saturday December 2nd (tentative) 9 AM-Noon

Exam Schedule:

Exam 1: Sat October 14, 10-12 noon
Exam 2: Sun November 12, 10-12 noon

Cross Cultural Psychology is an advanced course in which we examine whether psychological processes researched and articulated in the West are true for non-Western cultures. We also investigate the idea of cross cultural competence i.e. what it takes to interact competently with other cultures.

This course is being taught as an *intensive* course. This means that class meetings will be infrequent but when they occur they will be for a whole day. This will allow us to develop a very different set of class activities and experiences. There will be the usual reading, papers, exams but we will also do projects together, view movies and analyze them, engage in simulations, etc. **Attendance at all class meetings is required.** There are no exceptions. Do NOT register for this course if your work or personal commitments will prevent you from attending class. By the end of the semester you will have spent as much time in class as you would have taking a course for 14 weeks several times a week.

Part I Asian Immersion as the West Goes East. Since the Dalai Lama is visiting UB in September, in the first part of the semester we will orient ourselves to that visit and to Asia. We will begin by reading *Confucius Lives Next Door : What Living in the East Teaches Us About Living in the West (Vintage) (Paperback)* by [T.R. Reid](#) (UB bookstore under Psychology 437). This is the delightful account of the life of a perceptive American journalist working and living with his family in Tokyo. We will see movies about the Dalai Lama and about Americans who have gone to Asia to work and live. This creates the background for discussion of crossing cultures and what that involves psychologically. **The Cultural Partners Project** involves getting to know a student from another culture and learning more about that culture. I will link you up with international students that volunteer to participate.

Part II How Does Psychological Research Cross Cultures?

TEXT (Tentative – to be finalized summer 2006): *Introduction to Cross-Cultural Psychology: Critical thinking and contemporary applications.* (Shiraev & Levy, 2003, 2nd Ed), readings as indicated below.

Part III East Comes West We will read Anne Fadiman's book *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* This is a remarkable documentary account of the illness of an immigrant Hmong child and her family's interaction with the medical establishment trying to get treatment and get her well

International Week Class Project (Week of November 13th) will be planned by the class when the schedule for the week is announced. We will view films, go to lectures, maybe even cook or eat a meal together. Because people have different schedules, small sub groups will do different things.

- Requirements:** There are five assignments during the semester that will comprise your course grade:
- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1/2) Two short papers on Reid & Fadiman books (2+ pages) | 15%+15% |
| 3/4) Two exams over the basic readings | 25%+25% |
| 5) The reach-out project and project report | 20% |

I will hand out and post on Blackboard more specifics about each of these assignments.

Grading will be by points representing whatever percentage is indicated above. At the end of the semester, I make a frequency distribution of the total points each student has earned in order to assign final grades. I do not grade on the curve. Students who earn As in all assignments can expect to earn a final A grade. Evidence of cheating or plagiarism is cause for an automatic F in this course.

It is necessary to complete all assignments in order to earn a grade in this course. Since I only offer this course occasionally, you are advised to complete the work this semester.

Students with disabilities should contact me at the beginning of the semester and contact the Office of Disabilities for arrangements that they need for completing assignments and exams.

Tentative: Course Outline and Reading Assignments

Week of 8-28 Begin reading Reid (See separate handout for details of Reid assignment)

Class meeting: Saturday Sept 2nd 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Class Meeting Natural Sciences 218 (Any student unable to be at this meeting should contact the instructor: bbunker@buffalo.edu)

Week of 9-4 read Reid
9-11 finish Reid and write paper

Reid Personal Reaction paper due Wed 9-13: (Email as an attachment to B3 or by hand to Mrs. Lewis in 358 Park

Class Meeting: Saturday September 16th 9 am – 5 pm Natural Sciences 218

Week: 9-18 Reading: text assignment
9-25 Reading: “
10-2 Reading: “
10-9 Reading: “

Class Meeting: Sat October 7th 9-5pm 218 Natural Sciences

Exam I Saturday October 14th 10-12 am 218 Natural Sciences

Week: 10-16 Reading: text assignment
10-23 “
10-30 “
11-6 “

Class Meeting: November 11th 9-5

Exam 2 Sun November 12th 10-12 am 218 Natural Sciences

November 13-17 International Week at UB – Class participation

Cultural Partners Report Due Saturday Nov 19th in class

Class Meeting: and event (place to be announced) Sat Nov. 19 9 AM - 2 PM

11-18 International Week
Week 11-27 Read Fadiman
12-4 Read Fadiman
12-1 Read Fadiman

Tentative class meeting: Sat Dec 2 9 am - Noon

Fadiman Paper Due December Wed Dec 13th

