

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY

PSY 219 - CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY (3 CR.)

Course Description

Investigates psychological principles from a cross cultural perspective. Examines cultural basics for views of reality. Describes topics such as time, space, values, sex roles, and human development in relation to culture. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to help the student gain an understanding of human behavior in different cultural contexts, and to develop the knowledge and attitude to increase the student's effectiveness in a pluralistic society.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Prerequisite: English 111 is suggested

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Analyze the major cultural influences on human behavior
- Explain the differences and similarities of human behavior in various cultures
- Describe quantitative and qualitative methods for cross-cultural research
- Summarize how culture influences thinking and mental processes
- Describe the role of culture in the development process
- Explain the differences between collectivistic and individualistic cultures
- Identify the major models of racial/ethnic identity and acculturation
- Explain the role of ethnocentrism as it relates to prejudice and stereotypes
- Explain the relevance of knowledge of diverse cultures to cross-cultural interactions
- Apply knowledge of cross-cultural psychology to personal and professional experiences
- Recommend multiple strategies for improving intergroup relations during discussions of real life conflict situations
- Evaluate communication techniques that enhance or impair intercultural communications
- Point out how cultures differ in gender roles, sex roles, ideas of marriage, and how that impacts particular cultural practices
- Analyze how various cultural practices lead to the diagnosis or misdiagnosis of health and mental health problems

Major Topics to be Included

- Cross cultural research methods
- Relative importance of values
- Ethnocentrism, prejudice, and stereotypes
- Acculturation and racial/ethnic identity models
- Culture, thinking, and Intelligence
- Culture and developmental processes
- Culture and social behavior
- Culture and mental health
- Culture and gender
- Intergroup relations
- Intercultural interaction

Optional Topics

- Culture and Language
- Culture and Motivation
- Culture and Personality