



FLOR PSYC 3320 Cross Cultural Psychology

CAPA FLORENCE PROGRAM

Please note: This syllabus is for the in-country version of this course. It will be modified as appropriate for online learning, including the addition of co-curricular activities including virtual My Global City events. The updated syllabus will be available by June 15. Please contact CAPA with any questions about choosing your courses at 800.793.0334.

Course Description

This course will introduce and explore the field of cross-cultural psychology through a focus on a specific country and its inhabitants: Italy. Aspects of cross-cultural analysis from the field of cross-cultural psychology (as well as interdisciplinary elements from sociology, anthropology, biology and ecology) will be discussed, including: cultural influence on human behavior, attitudes, values, communication and societal organization. Special topics of ethnocentrism, individual vs. collective societies, plural societies, cultural views on mental health, and intercultural communication are highlighted. Methodological issues of cross-cultural research will be reviewed.

Course Aims

On completion of this course, students should be able:

1. **To examine different fields of psychology (e.g., clinical, developmental, personality, and social psychology) from a cross-cultural perspective,**
2. **To learn about cultural differences and similarities and gain appreciation of the influence of culture on everyday experiences,**
3. **To increase knowledge and awareness of the effects and importance of cross-cultural factors on human behavior, cognition, and affect.**
4. **To gain a wider appreciation of the influence on culture on everyday experiences, while simultaneously understanding that culture is not a static or homogenous entity, by integrating research from various disciplines (e.g., anthropology and sociology).**

Requirements and Prerequisites

No special prerequisites are needed. The midterm and final exams will be based on the material presented in class and in the readings. Individual study of readings (indicated in the Syllabus) is required on a weekly basis, and topics presented in the readings will be discussed at the beginning of each class. Students are requested to respect the deadlines indicated in the Syllabus. Students are recommended to take notes on the material presented in class; part of the information provided by the professor is complementary to that in the readings. Information deriving from field work and other extra-material discussed in class is integral part of the course and should be appropriately assimilated by students.

Learning Outcomes

1. To understand and embrace the participant-observer approach in ethnographic research in regards to the study of another country and its inhabitants; in this case, Italy and the Italians.
2. To describe, interpret, and respect the differences within their student community and between their home country (USA) and their host country (Italy). In particular, students will be able to recognize the cultural influence on human behavior, parental ethnotheories, socialization, communication, attitudes and values in both Italy and the United States.
3. To define ethnocentrism, to understand its roots, and to be able to identify examples of it.
4. To explain the difference between the values of individualism and collectivism, to be able to discuss identifying features, limits and advantages to both values as well as to recognize Italian and American psychological tendencies towards one or the other of these values as points on a continuum, rather than as mutually exclusive concepts.
5. To understand concepts of, and implications of, the realities of power, privilege, and inequality in urban environments. In particular, students will be able to recognize various types of societies regarding their approach of inclusion of people of various nationalities/ethnic groups and understand the advantages/disadvantages of each.
6. To understand various mental health issues which can occur in the process of acculturation and different approaches to conceptualizing and treating mental disorders.

Class methodology

The course will take a participant/observer approach to all aspects of the course. This approach will be introduced by the professor at the beginning of the course and students will be encouraged to view all course topics from this perspective. Students will be asked at the beginning of each lesson about their observations of the people/life in Italy and about their own experiences while studying/living in the country. Students will further apply this approach to their discussion of weekly readings in each class. Classes combine lectures given by the professor with interactive activities and field observations within

Mid-Term & Final Exams

Grading

The mid-term exam, which includes material from in-class lectures and readings, will consist of:

- short questions with open answers, and/or
- multiple choice questions, and/or
- short essay writing on important topics covered in the course
- Your mid-term exam grade will count for 35% of your grade.

The final exam, which includes material from in-class lectures and readings, will consist of:

- short questions with open answers, and/or
- multiple choice questions, and/or
- short essay writing on important topics covered in the course
- It will count for 40% of your grade.

Assessment/Grading Policy

Final grade breakdown:

Assessment task	Grade %	Due Date
Class participation/Small group discussion	25%	Each class
Mid-term exam	35%	TBD
Final Exam	40%	TBD
Overall grade		100%

Final Grade Breakdown

TASK	PERCENTAGE	STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)
Class participation/Small group discussion	25%	All
Mid-term Exam	35%	1, 2, 4, & 5
Final Exam	40%	1, 2, 3, 5, & 6

DESCRIPTOR	ALPHA	NUMERIC	GPA	REQUIREMENT/EXPECTATION
Outstanding (High Distinction)	A	93+	4.0	Maximum grade: In addition to description for grade "A-", the student shows detailed understanding of materials about which he or she can show independent analytical ability. This means the ability to question an issue from different perspectives and evaluate responses in an objective manner.
Excellent (Distinction)	A-	90 - 92	3.7	Student shows understanding of literature beyond the textbook/class hand-outs/class notes, and the work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for evaluation.
Very good (High Credit)	B+	87 - 89	3.3	Shows evidence of a capacity to generalise from the taught content, or the material in literature, or from class lectures in an informed manner. Also, the work demonstrates a capacity to integrate personal reflection into the discussion and an appreciation of a range of different perspectives.

Good (Credit)	B	83 - 86	3.0	The work is well organised and contains coherent or logical argumentation and presentation.
Good (Credit)	B-	80 - 82	2.7	Student shows understanding of literature beyond the textbook and/or notes, and, there is evidence of additional reading.
Average (Good Pass)	C+	77-79	2.3	The work demonstrates a capacity to integrate research into the discussion and a critical appreciation of a range of theoretical perspectives. Also, the work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question and its theoretical implications and demonstrates evidence of additional reading.
Adequate (Pass)	C	73 - 76	2.0	Shows clear understanding and some insight into the material in the textbook and notes, but not beyond. A deficiency in understanding the material may be compensated by evidence of independent thought and effort related to the subject matter.
Below Average (Borderline Pass)	C-	70-72	1.7	Shows some understanding of the material in the textbook and notes. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought related to the subject matter.
Inadequate (Borderline Fail)	D+	67 - 69	1.3	Fails to show a clear understanding or much insight into the material in the textbook and notes
Poor (Fail)	D	60 - 66	0.7 - 1.0	Besides the above for D+, student has not shown interest or engagement in the class work or study.
Poor (Fail)	F	<60	0	Shows little or no understanding of any of the material
Incomplete	I			Please see CAPA policy in the Faculty Handbook.

Dress Code

No requirements.

Course Materials

Required Readings:

Readings about the Italian socio-cultural environment will be available on CANVAS. *The readings for each module are attached to each module.*

Contents of the reader or e-reader:

Please see listed readings in the week-by-week breakdown of the academic calendar. The readings are mandatory and can be downloaded from the *Modules* section in CANVAS.

Recommended Reading(s):

Barzini, Luigi. (1996). *The Italians*. New York, NY: Touchstone.

Cornelison, Ann.(1990) *Where it all began: Italy 1954*. New York, NY: Penguin.

Dickie, John. (2008) *Delizia! The epic history of the Italians and their food*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Parati, Graziella (ed.) (2012). *Italian cultural studies. Volume 1: Definitions, theory, and accented practices*. Teaneck, New Jersey: Farleigh Dickinson University Press.

Severgnini, Beppe (2006) *La Bella Figura: A Field Guide to the Italian Mind*. New York, N.Y: Broadway Books.

Attendance, Participation & Student Responsibilities

Refer to the *Academic Handbook* for a complete outline of all academic policies. This page contains a summary only.

Attendance

CAPA has a mandatory attendance policy. Students are also expected to participate actively and critically in class discussions, and the participation portion of the class will be graded accordingly. Students must read assignments BEFORE the class, and come in on time. Attendance is mandatory and is taken at the beginning of every class. Unauthorized absence from class will result in a reduction of the final grade and ultimately in a F for the course.

Unexcused absences

The instructor for the course may lower the student's participation grade based on the number of absences. For custom programs, some will follow our absence policy (like when CAPA sponsors visa) and some will not; see academic director for details.

Excused absences

Any student seeking to be excused from class on the ground of a verifiable illness (i.e. doctor's note) or a family emergency, must email the DAA (greverdito@capa.org) in advance of their class. The CAPA staff will then email the relevant Faculty member. Note that calling the CAPA Center (055-2466439) is acceptable only if you do not temporarily have access to the internet. An e-mail is still required as quickly as you can get access to the internet again. If a doctor's note is written to excuse a student from class, the student cannot use that time for personal travel. Please note: excused absences will NOT be granted to accommodate visiting friends or family. Students absent due to extenuating circumstances that have been approved by the Director of Academic Affairs in advance of the missed class, including family emergency or verifiable health-related incapacity, remain responsible for meeting all class requirements. Faculty shall offer such students reasonable assistance in making up missed work (e.g. share handouts).

Class Participation

Participation is a vital part of your grade: students are expected to participate orally in seminars and in online forums and discussions in a critical and evaluative manner; to interact with the faculty and fellow students with respect and tolerance; and to actively engage in discussion. Derogatory or inflammatory comments about the cultures, perspectives or attitudes of others in the class will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from you, the student, a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic course depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work and class behavior. Plagiarism and cheating will result in dismissal from the program. See the Handbook of CAPA Academic Policies for more information and resources on plagiarism.

Technology

All students are expected to use a laptop or other appropriate electronic device with a reliable internet connection and a camera for participation in all classes, group activities, and co-curricular events. All courses use Zoom and Canvas (LMS) technology. If you require an accommodation regarding your use of electronic equipment, please speak with the faculty member or Academic Affairs.

Late Submission

Late submission of papers due, projects, journal entries, pieces of homework and portfolios is only permitted with prior approval. A request must be made to the relevant Faculty member no later than two days prior to the due date. Late submission without prior approval will result in a full alpha grade penalty. In either case, work cannot be submitted after feedback has been provided to the rest of the class on the relevant assessment or one week after the due date whichever comes first, after which point a grade of F will be given for the assessment.

Behavior during Examinations

During examinations, you must do your own work. Unless specifically instructed by the lecturer or instructor, talking during an exam is not permitted, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any failure to abide by examination rules will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and disciplinary action