

**Psyc 399: Cross-Cultural Well-being Directed Research Project
Fall 2013**

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Overview:

This directed research course offers an opportunity for hands on research in psychology. The best way to learn about psychology and research is to do it. You will gain first-hand experience doing research, working through the process of developing and carrying out a research study. Over the course of the semester, we will develop your project, gain a greater understanding of positive psychology and cross-cultural psychology concepts, learn various research methods, work with relevant statistical techniques, and discuss related research questions.

Structure:

The course will involve three main components:

- 1) A weekly lab meeting, in which we will all meet together, share progress and problems with the projects, and discuss various research topics. I will assign readings to supplement our discussions (see schedule below, plus some topic-based readings may be added).
- 2) Individual meetings, in which I will work with you directly on your projects.
- 3) Individual work on your project. This is the main component of the course. By the end of the semester, you will write a research paper on your project.

Expectations and Grades:

I expect you to be conscientious in your work, arrive on time when meetings are scheduled, and stay in communication with me. This is considered a full course, so you should give sufficient time to the project, as you would a regular course. By the end of the semester, you will be required to write a research paper, and present your findings at the final meeting. The paper will develop from the work you are involved in over the course of the semester; essentially you will be writing the paper throughout the semester.

The main point of the course is to learn about the research process, not obtain a particular grade. If you work hard on your project, you will receive a good grade. You will get as much out of this experience as you put into it – you will have a lot of resources and opportunities, and it is up to you to take advantage of things. I'm really excited about your projects and look forward to an exciting semester ahead.

Tentative Course Schedule

Note: At each meeting, we will check in and share with each other progress on your respective projects. Below are a series of readings that we will discuss when we meet. We can be flexible with this. Feel free to suggest other topics, readings, ideas to discuss, etc.

September 5: Introduction and Overview

- **To discuss:** Introductions, course overview

September 12: What is research?

- **Reading:** Gravetter, F. J., & Forzano, L.-A. (2006). Introduction, acquiring knowledge, and the scientific method (Chapter 1). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences* (2nd edition). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

September 19: No meeting

- **Reading:** Gravetter, F. J., & Forzano, L.-A. (2006). Research ideas (Chapter 2). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences* (2nd edition). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

September 26: Concepts of happiness

- **Readings:**
 - Oishi, S., Graham, J., Kesebir, S., & Galinha, I. C. (2013). Concepts of happiness across time and culture. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 39, 559-577.
 - Coyne, J. (2013, August 21). Positive psychology is mainly for rich white people [blog]. Retrieved from: <http://blogs.plos.org/mindthebrain/2013/08/21/positive-psychology-is-mainly-for-rich-white-people/>

October 3: Studying culture in psychology

- **Readings:** Betancourt, H., & López, S. R. (1993). The study of culture, ethnicity, and race in American psychology. *American Psychologist*, 48, 629-637.

October 10: Comparing cultures

- **Readings:** Fiske, A. P. (2002). Using individualism and collectivism to compare cultures – a critique of the validity and measurement of the constructs: Comment on Oyserman et al. (2002). *Psychological Bulletin*, 128, 78-88.

October 17: Cross-cultural measure development

- **Reading:** Van Ommeren, M., Sharma, B., Thapa, S., Makaju, R., Prasain, D., Bhattarai, R., & de Jong, J. (1999). Preparing instruments for transcultural research: Use of the translation monitoring form with Nepali-speaking Bhutanese refugees. *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 36 285-301.

October 24: Cross-cultural measure development

- **Reading:** Leone, L., Van der Zee, K. I., van Oudenhoven, J. P., Perugini, M., & Ercolani, A. P. (2005). The cross-cultural generalizability and validity of the multicultural personality questionnaire. *Personality and Individual Differences, 38*, 1449-1462.

October 31: Within culture differences

- **Reading:** Kashima, Y., Kokubo, T., Kashima, E. S., Boxall, D., Yamaguchi, S., & Macrae, K. (2004). Culture and the self: Are there within-culture differences in self between metropolitan areas and regional cities? *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 30*, 816-823.

November 7: The writing process

- **Readings:**
 - Baron, J. (1991). *How to write a research report in psychology*. Retrieved from <http://www.psych.upenn.edu/~baron/labrep.html>
 - Duckworth, A. L. (2012). *Checklist for writing a good paper*. Unpublished manuscript.

November 14: The writing process

- **Readings:**
 - 12 tips for authors
 - An approach to style

November 21: TBD

- **Readings:** Dan will provide an article (before meeting) to read & discuss

November 28: No meeting (Thanksgiving)**December 5: TBD**

- **Readings:** Stephanie will provide an article (before meeting) to read & discuss

December 12: Final presentation and celebration

- Short presentations of work and findings

December XX: Final paper due to department