

PSYCHOLOGY

PSYCH 431: Special Topics in Psychology: Cross-Cultural Psychology

Credits: 3

Instructor: Sarah L. Barker, D. Psych.

Schedule: TBA

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

Within America, Italy, and indeed across the world, cultural diversity and the need for effective cross-cultural communication, cross-cultural understanding and harmonious intercultural relations are becoming increasingly important. The ease of international travel, access to the World Wide Web, the globalization of business, immigration, as well as the maintenance of ethnic and culture(s)-of-origin identity of those living in America, Italy and many other countries all mean that contact between members of various cultures is inevitable in the rich tapestry of cultures that we live amongst in our world today. It is therefore vital that we understand culture, cultural differences, and the ways that culture influences the thinking and social behavior of people. The course will expose you to the psychology of people in other cultures (with a particular focus on those in Italy), and you shall develop an appreciation of cultural similarities and differences. It will assist you to challenge your own experiences and (possibly Western) ideas about what it is to be a person. It will also encourage you to think critically about universal principles in psychology. You will learn about cross-cultural psychology theoretical models and practical ways of applying these in your life so you can develop intercultural skills as a 'global citizen' that will assist you to understand cross-cultural interactions better, be more effective in them, and get the most out of them.

Course descriptions may be subject to occasional minor modifications at the discretion of the instructor.

Textbooks: TBA

During orientation at the Institute, students will receive a list of textbooks they are required to purchase. Students should not purchase any texts before orientation.