

**PSY 211 - Diversity**  
Spring 2016 – Online Course

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**Course Description**

This course will examine diversity in psychological functioning and the relationship between diversity and the self. This course will include, but is not limited to, topics relating to culture, intergroup relations, and the influence of one's own and others' cultural diversity for understanding others, one's self, and the world.

**Required Textbook**

Kottak, C. P., & Kozaitis, K. A. (2012). On Being Different: Diversity and Multiculturalism in the North American Mainstream. 4th Ed. ISBN-13 9780078117015.

**Student Learning Objectives**

1. Students will be able to recognize their own position as being subjective, follow objectively the arguments of others, and interpret data. (Critical Thinking)
2. Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message. (Communication)
3. Students will be able to interpret, test and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data. (Empirical and Quantitative Skills)
4. Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues. (Social Responsibility)

**Course Format:**

This is an online course through eCollege and will require a lot of reading and writing. Each week you will be assigned a chapter to read, and the instructor will provide an overview of some of the major issues related to the chapter. Some weeks you will also be required to write discussion posts and response to posts of your classmates. These posts will allow you to check your knowledge of course materials and also to express your views and opinions.

**Assessments**

- Content exam (Mid Term and Final) – two content exams, each consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions, will be administered.
- **Global Issues Paper:**
  - Write a 2-page paper (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, left/right margins 1", top/bottom margins 0.8", saved as .docx .doc or .rtf).
  - The purpose of the paper is to identify and analyze a social or ethical challenge in the world, offer 2-3 resolutions to the challenge, and examine the challenge from two cultural perspectives. There are three parts to this assignment.

- First, decide on a current event that you find interesting (e.g. from politics, international events) and you consider to be a social and ethical challenge.
- Second, offer 2-3 possible resolutions to the challenge.
- Then find two media sources from two different cultural worlds that describe, comment, etc. on the event that you have chosen. I would recommend that you find sources from two different countries. One of the sources can be a U.S. source. You can use the Internet to find articles, but it will be useful if you use reputable sources (e.g. USA Today, CNN, Fox News, etc.). Many foreign countries have their news websites in English as well, so you will not be required to learn a foreign language.
- The third part of the assignment is to compare and contrast the two sources such as examining the language used, projected attitudes towards the event, perceptions of the event, etc. Thus, your paper should describe the social/ethical challenging event, describe how the two news sources cover the event, and include 2-3 possible resolutions to the challenge.
- Please use APA format and be sure to cite any outside sources (e.g., newspapers, websites, and journal articles). Include a Reference page with all of your resources per APA requirements. The paper is worth 35 points. The paper is due (to the dropbox on eCollege) by **February 22nd at 11:59 p.m.**
- **Addressing Stereotypes Paper:**
  - This is a two-page paper addressing a diversity-related stereotype. Students will introduce the stereotype, followed by a refutation of that stereotype through the inclusion of empirical research studies that counter the selected stereotype.
  - The paper student should include principles addressed in the empirical data, the ways that these principles were tested, and how the results contradict the stereotype.
  - The paper should also discuss the relevance of this knowledge to general society and how such knowledge might be used for bettering the human condition.
  - Students will be expected to follow proper principals of grammar and syntactic structure to demonstrate appropriate communication skills. The paper will be worth 100 points. (*This assignment addresses each of the student learning objectives.*)
- Discussion Posts: Students will participate in online discussions via the Discussion Forum on eCollege. Because this is an online course, discussion posts are the best way for us all to connect, share ideas, and relate to each other's experiences. Specific instructions for each week's Discussion Forum will be posted for each week. *All discussion postings should be professionally written (i.e., proofread, grammatically correct, and formal tone) and provide textual evidence to back up claims.*
- Journal Entries: On weeks when there are no discussion posts, students will complete the Journal activity for that chapter. You'll find journal directions on a tab under the week it's due, and will then go to the Journal Tab at the top of the page to post.

**Grade Distribution:**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Below 60

### **Course Policies**

University Codes of Conduct: A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained. “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment” (Code of Student Conduct’ from online Student Guide Handbook)

### **Plagiarism**

Texas A & M University-Commerce views plagiarism as a serious offense. Plagiarism occurs when individuals take ideas and/or words from another source and claim these ideas as their own without giving credit to the original author(s). This can include copying words from an Internet website, reading an article and taking the authors ideas without giving them credit, or writing work that is remarkably similar to other written work (e.g., Changing words to synonyms is still plagiarism). If any written work contains ideas that are not your own, you need to give credit to the author(s) by including citations. Instructors are obligated to report instances of plagiarism to university officials. Please refer to the American Psychology Association (APA) manual for instructions on citing materials. When in doubt, ask me. Ignorance will not be tolerated as an excuse for plagiarism. Acts of plagiarism on any written assignment, including discussion postings, will result in severe consequences, including the possibility of receiving a zero in the course.

### **Scholarly Expectations**

All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor.

### **Late Work**

There is a very strict late work policy in this class and the penalty imposed depends on the course assignment. Discussion postings must be completed on time. If the assignment is turned in between 24-48 hours of the due date, a 20-point penalty will be imposed. If the assignment is submitted more than 48 hours late, it will automatically be scored as a zero (i.e., no credit granted).

### **Netiquette**

Discussion postings in this class may cover some sensitive topics; therefore, offensive language and aggressive correspondence online will not be tolerated. Students are expected to be respectful of others' opinions when communicating. See University Codes of Conduct section above.

### **Technical Support**

This course is supported by Texas A&M University–Commerce through the eCollege course management system. There is a Student Orientation Tutorial in eCollege if you are unfamiliar with it. If you have technology questions please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by clicking the HelpDesk link in the Help pages in eCollege or by sending an email directly to [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org). You may also reach the HelpDesk by calling (toll-free) 1-866-656-5511.

### **Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 132, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835; Fax (903) 468-8148; [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu).

## **Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)**

<b>TOPIC SCHEDULE Week</b>	<b>Content</b>
Week 1	Syllabus & Chapter 1. Introduction
Week 2	Chapter 2. Culture
Week 3	Chapter 3. Globalization and Identity
Week 4	Chapter 4. The Multicultural Society
Week 5	Chapter 5. Ethnicity
Week 6	Chapter 6. Religion/ <b>Global Issues Paper due February 22nd at 11:59 p.m.</b>
Week 7	Chapter 7. Its Biological Dimensions & 8. Race: Its Social Construction
Week 8	Midterm Exam <b>(Due March 14<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 p.m.)</b>
Week 9	Chapter 9. Gender & Chapter 10. Sexual Orientation
Week 10	Chapter 11. Age and Cohort
Week 11	Chapter 12. Bodies, Fitness, and Health/ <b>Stereotypes Paper due by April 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m.</b>
Week 12	Chapter 13. Class
Week 13	Chapter 14. Places and Spaces
Week 14	Chapter 15. Linguistic Diversity

Week 15  
Week 16

Chapter 16. Families  
Exam