PSY 310.81E Psychology of Various Populations
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Scarlett Kooning, M.S.
Office Location: TBD
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday: 10-11am; or by appointment
University Email Address: sdunmire@leomail.tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: Within 24-48 hours, except weekends and holidays
Meeting Location and Time: Dallas Location – Room TBA; MW: 1-2:15pm

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Multicultural Education in a Pluralistic Society, 12th edition
Gollnick, D.M. & Chinn P.C.
ISBN-13: 978-0138167820

Course Description

This course will examine the variables which affect the perceptions, beliefs, and behaviors of the microcultures which comprise our population. This course will include, but will not be limited to, culture as a function of socioeconomic status, religion, gender, language, age, exceptionality, geographical origins and ethnicity. Additionally, this course will include information relating to these issues in a global context.

Student Learning Outcomes
1. Identify psychological and sociocultural factors that influence the experiences of diverse populations in both U.S. and global contexts.
2. Analyze how intersecting identities (e.g., race, gender, class, sexuality, ability) shape individual and group outcomes in psychological and educational settings.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

3. Evaluate systems of privilege and oppression and their impact on mental health, educational access, and social equity.
4. Demonstrate empathy and cultural sensitivity in written reflections and class discussions about diverse lived experiences.
5. Apply multicultural psychological theories and research to real-world case studies and current events.
6. Locate and summarize scholarly research on multicultural issues using academic databases, and correctly format findings using APA style.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Research Participation:

A goal of this class is to help you become familiar with psychological research. One way to obtain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at East Texas A&M, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. All students in this class will be required to participate in the psychology department's participant pool or complete alternative assignments (see me for more information on alternative assignments). Students must complete a total of 6 experiment credits. However, if you complete your first 4 experiment credits without any "no-shows" you will receive 2 free *punctual participant credits*. In other words, if you show up to your experiments on time you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits. When you first sign into the experiment management system (EMS) you will be asked to take a prescreen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the prescreen in the first two weeks of the semester you will receive ½ free experiment credit. This can be combined with later experiments that are worth ½ credit.
If you fail to complete this portion of the class your grade will be lowered by one full grade. In effect, if you have an 'A' in the class but fail to complete your research participation (either through participating in research studies, alternative assignments, or a mixture of both) your final grade in the class will be a 'B.' More information about participating in research, such as how to log in to the EMS, is given at the end of this syllabus.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

All course materials (e.g., PowerPoint lectures, assignments, articles, etc.) will be uploaded to D2L each week, and all assignments will be done through D2L.

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Instructional Methods

This class will be in-person with supplemental learning and assignments delivered to you online, using the MyLeoOnline/D2L instructional system that is available to you through East Texas A&M University.

This is not a self-paced course. There is a very specific and scheduled format that you will follow for the course. All assignments and quizzes are to be completed according to the posted schedule. You are required to complete all assignments, quizzes, and other course requirements. Assignments that are submitted past the deadline dates that are listed in the D2L will be submitted for partial credit, or no credit if they are submitted very late.

You will need to sign online often to check your campus email as well as your PSY397 D2L website to work on this course. New topics will generally open every few days, and the schedule for the topics will be available on D2L the first day of class.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Attend lectures. You will probably hear this from all of your professors, but it is true. Having the ability to ask questions when you think of them is immensely helpful in the learning process.
2. Participate. I will not lie and tell you this is easy, talking in front of others can be intimidating. I hope to foster a classroom of ease where you feel excited to contribute to the topic and ask questions along the way!
3. Read the assigned material. I know you are busy students, and I will try not to assign to much reading. If you feel you do not have the time to dedicate to reading a whole chapter than skim it as that is better than nothing.
4. Communicate your needs. I am here for you to help you succeed in this class. I want you all to learn everything that you can in this course while also taking care of yourselves. If something comes up, please let me know.

GRADING

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades
A = 895 – 1000
B = 795 – 894
C = 695 – 794
D = 595 – 694
F = 0 – 594

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.
Paper   20%

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Quizzes	40%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

Assessments

CULTURAL IDENTITY REFLECTION PAPER (200 points)
As part of this course, you will complete a Cultural Identity Reflection Paper in which you will examine your own identity development and explore any personal biases through the lens of course concepts and relevant research. This assignment is intended to help you critically reflect on how your cultural background, life experiences, and social identities (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability, socioeconomic status) have shaped your perspectives and how these relate to broader themes in the psychology of diverse populations.

The paper should be **3–4 full pages** in length (not including title or reference pages), typed in **APA format** (12 pt. Times New Roman font, double-spaced, 1" margins). You must incorporate **at least 3 peer-reviewed journal articles** to support your reflections or to illustrate a specific issue related to identity development, cultural psychology, or systemic inequality. These sources should go beyond course materials to demonstrate your ability to integrate and apply outside scholarship. Wikipedia and similar non-scholarly sources are not acceptable.

If you are unsure about your paper topic or would like help refining your focus, please reach out to me.

25 points will come from submitting the topic you are interested in writing the paper over in the correct discussion board before or on the due date. Another 25 points will be from the submission of the 3 peer-reviewed journal articles you are planning on using cited as you will cite them on your reference pages in the correct assignment section before or on its due date. The final 150 points will be from the submission of the term paper itself.

EXAMS (Mid-term and Final: 200 points each, 400 points total)
There will be two online exams. The exams will be cumulative, be prepared to see any of the topics that we have covered up to that point on the exam. There will be no make-up exams, if you have to miss an exam contact me **BEFORE** the day of the exam and we will arrange something together.

QUIZZES (50 points each, 400 points total)
There will be eleven online quizzes, the lowest three grades will be dropped and the highest eight will be used for this section. The quizzes will be covering any chapter(s) since the previous quiz. If you have to miss a quiz, please let me know **BEFORE** the day of the quiz and we will arrange something together.

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EXTRA CREDIT (Up to 50 points)
Students will have the opportunity to earn extra credit at various points throughout the semester. Approved options for extra credit may include participation in additional research studies beyond the course requirement and the completion of article summaries. Further details will be provided in class and on the course website.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:
https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements

LMS Browser Support:
https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool
https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a East Texas A&M campus open computer lab, etc.

Technical Support
If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

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COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

As there are no face-to-face office hours, I will be available via email to schedule meetings. I will be available to for any questions through email but if you would like a meeting, we can find a time that works best for both of us. Please allow 24 to 48 hours for a response, except on weekends and holidays where response times may be longer. As I often check my emails multiple times a day, response times will most likely be quicker. If you do not receive an email response after 48 hours your email may not have been received.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance is not mandatory but highly recommended. The best way to learn is utilizing your resources and as you professor I am one of those. If you find yourself having to miss an exam let me know **BEFORE** the day of the exam so that we can make appropriate measures. This communication will be the only way to make-up a missed exam. Late assignments may be turned in up to a week after the due date for partial credit. Please communicate with me if you need assistance in this class! I am here to help and wish to see you all learn something new and receive the grade that you would like/have worked for!

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/.

If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at

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Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:
https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:
https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf

East Texas A&M Attendance
For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage.

Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

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Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors 'guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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 Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5930
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
Website: http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling

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Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit **www.tamuc.edu/counsel**

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M 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.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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