



PSY 310.81E
Psychology of Various Populations
Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Isabella Ortiz
Office Location: N/a
Office Hours: In-person/Zoom meetings by appointment
Email Address: Isabella.ortiz@etamu.edu
Phone Number: 903-246-2664
Preferred Form of Communication: Text or email
Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours excluding holidays

Note. Emails and texts without proper salutations or not sent from LEOMAIL will NOT be responded to. Be sure to include your name and course number so I know who you are.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:

Multicultural Education in a Pluralistic Society (12th ed.) by Gollnick & Chinn

eText/ebook ISBN-13: 9780138173739

ISBN-13: 978-0138167820

Author(s): Donna M. Gollnick; Philip C. Chinn

Publisher: Pearson

Copyright year: © 2025

Additional materials will be distributed in class or made available on the course website.

*Keep in mind the following: If you are considering purchasing an eTextbook (electronic version of the textbook) only, you need to remember that our online D2L course quizzes are 'open book' quizzes, and you may not be able to access your eTextbook while taking a quiz.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

VERY IMPORTANT: You are expected to have the textbook on the first day of class and you will be using it immediately. You **MUST** have it no later than the end of the first week. Recommended: Purchase a spiral notebook with pockets or a 3-ring binder with pockets in which you write the notes that you take throughout the semester, and in which you can store documents/materials that you print from our course website.

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 multicultural education context.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student is expected to be able to:

- 1) identify and explore educational issues relating to various populations;
- 2) apply information related to psychological and sociological research on decision- making and best practices in educational settings;
- 3) extend concepts learned in this course to multicultural educational settings;
- 4) practice research methods using available electronic databases to seek and access research-based information relating to multicultural awareness; and,
- 5) develop writing skills using APA Writing Style, including the correct usage and formatting of APA Style citations and references.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

- Using the learning management system Using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint
- Using general Internet search engines to locate research related to topics
- Accessing and using the East Texas A&M University- Library electronic databases

Instructional Methods

This course will primarily be conducted face-to face via lectures, supplemented by online engagement via D2L.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES OR TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE

- **Show up to class.** A lot of information about due dates, goals of the assignments, and grading will be discussed in class- as well as information you will need for quizzes.
- **Email or text me:** If something goes wrong, if you think something is wrong, or whatever the circumstance might be, please reach out to me. I'd rather get an email during the

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semester, than a freaking out student at the end.

- Start with the end in mind. Soak in all the course work. That way, you won't be making unnecessary work for yourself or for me.
- Don't overwork yourself. Make sure you set boundaries to meet your goals for this class. Have a plan!
- Use the resources that are provided for you via D2L. If using all resources provided, there is no reason why you shouldn't be able to achieve an "A" in this course. Your instructor is also included in the umbrella of "resources" for this course. We give you resources to help you so use them!
- Don't plagiarize ANYTHING. I have not had an instance of plagiarism so far but have a zero-tolerance policy for anything that is plagiarized. Please refer to the links below for this university's rules on academic dishonesty.

Turn something in whether you like it or not: If you skip an assignment, you will automatically get a zero. Don't make me give you a zero, I promise I want you to get a good grade as much as you want to receive a good grade. A low grade is better in the long run. Please submit something.

- Read the textbook!
- Complete all assignments thoroughly and on time. I am lenient about late work/assignments, but this depends on the circumstance and the student.
- Actively participate in class discussions. Contribute regularly. There are no wrong answers during class discussions, I just want to hear back from you.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions, ask for clarification, or ask for help. When in doubt, ask!
- 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 will need to sign online daily to check your campus email. You will need to sign onto your course LMS website every day to work on your course.
- Utilize D2L: All instructions, due dates, and submission of graded material are to be completed in D2L. Email submission will not be accepted on a case by case basis ONLY. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the system and contact me or IT with questions in advance.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on a points system, with the following percentage scale determining your final semester grade:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Attendance/Class Participation

200 pts

Discussions

500 pts

Quizzes (3 x 200 pts each)

600 pts

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Final Paper
Total:

200 pts
1500 points

Attendance

Attendance is required for this course. You will sign in on a printed sign-in sheet upon entering class. This helps me to record how often you are coming to class/who is attending lab and so forth. While I will take attendance daily, I will record attendance randomly throughout the semester. Attendance is worth 200pts of your final grade. If you cannot attend class due to an unforeseen circumstance/emergency, please let me know and I can work with you. Example of emergency "I am in the hospital after a car accident." Not an emergency "I was unable to find childcare" "I have been sick for a week but didn't communicate."

Assessments

Quizzes will contain objective questions over material that is presented in the textbook. Multiple choice format will be used. You will take your exams online, on our course website, and they will be timed exams. You will have a certain period of time in which you are able to take the exams, and you will have to complete the exam in the designated period. **You will be able to use your textbooks when you take the exam; however, because the exams are timed, you will find that you MUST read and learn the material thoroughly prior to taking the exams, just as you would do for a closed-book exam in a face-to-face class.**

If you try to take the exam without having read and studied the material, you will run out of time as you try to look up each answer. You will find that you will fail the exams if you try to do that (trust me, and those who have gone before you on this!). The requirement to read and study the material is the same for both web-based courses and face-to-face classes. Even though the quizzes are "open book", they will be challenging, and you will not have much time to answer each question. Don't make the mistake of ignoring this requirement (to complete the readings prior to each quiz), or you will find that you start the semester with a low grade, and that will impact your overall semester average.

Recording

Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor are prohibited. On request, the instructor will usually grant permission for students to audio tape lectures, on the condition that these audio tapes are only used by the individual making the recording. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures and review sessions may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

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>

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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@etamu.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, an 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>

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

Interaction with Instructor Statement

You can contact me via the phone number or email address listed at the beginning of the syllabus, I do not have a specific preference. Note that I most likely will answer a text message faster. You may schedule a Zoom appointment with me any time by emailing or texting me. I am also willing to meet before or after class time, with the exception of meeting on campus at scheduled times as needed. I am more than willing to work with you to the best of my abilities and accommodate your needs as a student. My goal is to help you succeed! You just have to reach out. My average response time during the week is within the hour and 24 hours at maximum. This excludes holidays.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

COMMUNICATION POLICY

If you would like to schedule an appointment, the best way is to email. We can then set up a time to chat when it is convenient for both of us. If you email or text me and do not receive an email response within 48 hours during the weekday, most likely, your email was not received.

COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

In an attempt to provide a framework for professional communication, please include your first name and class number/name with your text message. Refrain from using abbreviations or slang. Emails must contain the following:

- **Subject Line: Course and section # (e.g. PSY 310-01W);** additional information if desired.
- Address the Reader: Open with “Ms. Ortiz...”
- Use good grammar and avoid acronyms (i.e., do not write like you text)
- Ask good questions; a good question is specific and show me the effort you’ve made.
- If asking for assistance with an issue, please list how you have attempted to remediate the issue prior to contacting me (these should probably include looking at the syllabus/ course rubrics/ D2L, contacting a colleague, and checking your textbook, etc.)
- Close with your name and CWID.
- Please send emails from your University Leomail account.

If you are reading this, text me or email me a photo of your pet (or favorite animal) based on the above email guidelines for 2 extra credit points (available up till the end of the first week (Sunday midnight ☺).

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

Plagiarism: East Texas A&M University 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. Acts of plagiarism will be reported to the department head.

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. Duplication may result in a zero on an assignment.

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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 <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/>

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 University 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@etamu.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 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

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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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Week	Date	Topic	Discussions
1	08/24-08/30 Due 08/30 at 11:59 pm	Syllabus	
2	08/31-09/06 Due 09/06 at 11:59 pm	Chapter 1: Foundations of Multicultural Education	Discussion c1 (50pts)
3	09/07-09/13	Chapter 9: Geography	Discussion c9 (100pts)
4	09/14-09/20 Due 09/20 at 11:59 pm	Chapter 2: Race and Ethnicity	Discussion c2 (100pts)
5	09/21-09/27 Due 09/27 at 11:59 pm	Chapter 3: Class and Socioeconomic Status	Discussion c3 (100pts)
6	09/28-10/04 Due 10/04 at 11:59 pm	Quiz #1 (1, 2, 3, 9)	
7	10/05-10/11 Due 10/11at 11:59 pm	Chapter 7: Language	Discussion c7 (100pts)
8	10/12-10/18	Happy Fall Break	
9	10/19-10/25 Due 10/25 at 11:59 pm	Chapter 4/5 Sex & Orientation	Discussion c4/5(100pts)
10	10/26-11/01 Due 11/01at 11:59 pm	Quiz #2 (4, 5, 7)	
11	11/02-11/08 Due 11/08 at 11:59 pm	Chapter 8: Religion	Discussion c8 (100pts)
12	11/09-11/15 Due 11-15 at 11:59 pm	Chapter 11: Education That is Multicultural	Discussion c11 (100pts)
13	11/16-11/22 Due 11-22 at 11:59 pm	Chapter 10: Youth Culture	Discussion c10 (100pts)

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Week	Date	Topic	Discussions
14	11/23-12/04 Due 11/30 at 11:59 pm	Final Paper (Due Monday, November 30 th) *All final course work due no later than 12/04)	
15	11/23-12/04 Due 12/04 at 11:59 pm	Quiz #3 (8, 10, 11)	

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