

## Culture and Cognition (Psychology 442, 2012 F)

**Instructor: Li-Jun Ji, 306 Craine, 533-2888**

**Class email: [psyc442A@gmail.com](mailto:psyc442A@gmail.com)**

Class time: Tuesday 11:30am - 2:10pm

Classroom: 206 Ontario

This course will examine a wide range of social cognitive topics (e.g., self, choice, motivation, emotion, reasoning, education and socialization) from a cultural perspective by drawing on a wide range of cross-cultural and sometimes within-cultural studies.

### **Thought Questions**

You are required to turn in 2-3 thought questions (**half page only, single spaced**) after reading for each topic. The thought questions should include ideas of yours that **GO BEYOND** the material presented in the readings. You can discuss future directions for research, how the material relates to other material that you know, criticism of the readings, life experiences that may be explained by the reading, underlying big questions and assumptions, any questions or concerns you may have about the major points in the readings, etc. Do **NOT** summarize the readings in your reaction papers.

In your thought questions, you need to cover all the readings for the topic. E.g., you can write one question for each paper you read, or you can comment on two/three papers at the same time.

Thought questions should be emailed to both the discussion leaders and [Psyc442A@gmail.com](mailto:Psyc442A@gmail.com) before the deadline (see details in the timetable) so that the discussion leaders can have time to incorporate your questions/comments into the discussions.

name:

This is not about merely a history of yourself. Focus on the forces in your life that made you the way you are *now*. Explain briefly how those forces shaped you: what would have been different without them. Try to emphasize cultural influences, rather than merely individual influences.

Put the pictures in a power point file. You may use 6-8 slides (each slide may contain one or multiple pictures) in total to present how social practice and the culture you grew up may have shaped you. Next to each picture (or in the note section), you may use a couple of sentences to explain why you choose the picture. On each slide, indicate your name (e.g., J. Davis) and number the pictures.

### **Final Paper**

You are required to submit a research paper (8-10 page long, double spaced) on a cross-cultural comparison of some aspect of psychological functioning. You may choose a topic from a list (to be given in a few weeks). The paper must focus on a comparison between at least two cultures with respect to the psychological phenomenon being addressed. You are strongly encouraged to discuss your topic with me. Be sure to get the ORIGINAL source (papers), whenever possible, and base your paper on them. You are required to have at least 6 reference papers.

The paper should include the following section (not necessarily in the same order though):

- a) Explain to the reader why this topic is important and interesting, theoretically or practically. Discuss implications for real world applications.
- b) Literature review: how the topic or phenomenon has been investigated (briefly describe the methodology) and what has been found. The literature review should be based on most relevant literature.
- c) Summarize the current research, and point out possible future research directions.

The paper will be graded on the following criteria

Good and comprehensive literature review; Coherence and clarity in presentation; Mechanics (e.g., citing your sources appropriately and in APA style, including a References section; having a paper that is free of typographical and grammatical errors); Overall quality

The paper is due on Dec 4th by 4:30pm. You are required to submit both a hard copy (to my mailbox or my office) and a word document by email to [psyc442A@gmail.com](mailto:psyc442A@gmail.com)

### **Evaluation**

The breakdown for your grade will be as follows:

Thought questions	25 %
Topic Presentation	20 %
Picture project	7 %
Final Paper	30 %
Class Participation (regular attendance, keeping up with the readings, participating in class discussions)	18 %

### **Late policies:**

No late assignment is accepted for thought questions. For the final paper, you will get a 2% deduction, out of the total 30%, for each day that your paper is late. (Special considerations may be given for medical emergency.)









## **Letter grades**