

<i>Course title</i> Cross-cultural Psychology	
Name of the lecturer Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. Sonya Karabeliova, Chief Asst. Prof. Ph. D. Milen Milanov	
Type of course <i>Elective</i>	Level of course <i>Master's</i>
Year of study Second	Semester 3rd
ECTS 3	Number of hours 15 hours of lectures and 15 hours of seminars
Type of education Full-time	Language of instruction English
Assessment Written coursework (essay, book review, or research report)	

Prerequisites

Students should have completed the course *Personality and Individual Differences*.

Object

This course is an elective and aims to reveal the similarities and the differences in thinking, emotions, attitudes, value orientations, and motivation in different socio-cultural contexts.

Course content

The main aim of the course is to teach theoretical concepts and skills for understanding culture by focusing on questions related to human behavior. It includes topics on development, personality, emotions, communication, and other aspects of human behavior in different cultural contexts. The course helps students to understand and accept the cultural differences and their influence on human behavior. It teaches important research design skills and underlines the main steps in conducting and reporting results from national and cross-cultural studies.

Lectures and seminars

1. DEFINITIONS OF CULTURE

Why is important to define *culture*? The use of the term *culture* in everyday language. Pan-cultural principles vs. culture-specific differences: ethics and emics.

2. TRANSFORMING CULTURE INTO A MEASURABLE CONSTRUCT

Reducing culture from an abstract and fuzzy construct to specific, finite elements. The search for meaningful dimensions of cultural variability.

3. CROSS-CULTURAL RESEARCH

The nature of the truth in psychology and the importance of empirical research.

4. TYPES OF CROSS-CULTURAL RESEARCH

Special issues in cross-cultural comparisons. Methodological issues: sampling adequacy, non-cultural demographic equivalence. Research environment, setting, and procedures.

5. CULTURE AND GENDER

Cross-cultural research on gender. Culture, gender-role ideology, and self-concept.

6. CROSS-CULTURAL COMPARISON OF VALUE ORIENTATIONS AND CULTURAL PRACTICES IN THE ORGANIZATION—BULGARIA, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, AND TURKEY

Results from representative studies of values and cultural practices in Bulgaria, Portugal, Romania, Czech Republic, and Turkey on the basis of Hofstede's theoretical and empirical model.

7. DOMINANT VALUE ORIENTATIONS AND CULTURAL PRACTICES IN THE ORGANIZATION—BULGARIA, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, AND TURKEY

Results from representative research in Bulgaria, Portugal, Romania, Czech Republic, and Turkey based on the theoretical and empirical model of Trompenaars and Hamden-Turner.

8. FRAME OF THE COMPETITION VALUE ORIENTATION

Characteristics and functions of culture in the organization: dimensions and types.

9. CULTURE AND THE RULES OF THE SOCIAL GAMES

Profiles of the synthetic cultures. Knowledge of the synthetic cultures. The dimensions identity, truth, virtue and gender.

10. CULTURE AND IDENTITY

Cross-cultural differences in group identification Culture and suicide.

11. APPLIED CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY

Culture, behaviour, and health. Business, law, and religion from a cross-cultural perspective.

12. CULTURE, EMOTIONS, AND WELL-BEING

Happiness from a cross-cultural point of view. Well-being across cultures: some issues of measurement and interpretation.

13. CRITICAL THINKING IN CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY

The evaluative bias of language. The availability bias. The assimilation bias. The similarity- uniqueness paradox.

14. CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY IN PERSPECTIVE

Present state and future directions.

References

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Standards of Academic Integrity

Generally, academic fraud and dishonesty include, but are not limited to the following categories: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, multiple submissions, etc.

- **Cheating:** Using unauthorized notes, aids or information on an examination; altering a graded work prior to its return to a faculty member, allowing another person to do one's own work and submitting it for grading.
- **Fabrication:** Inventing or falsifying information, data or citation; presenting data gathered outside of acceptable professorial guidelines; failing to provide an accurate account of how information, data or citations were gathered; altering documents affecting academic records; forging signatures or authorizing false information on an official academic document, grade, letter, form or any other university document.
- **Plagiarism:** Submitting material that in part or whole is not one's own work; submitting one's own work without properly attributing the correct sources of its content.
- **Multiple Submissions:** Submitting identical papers or course work for credit in more than one course without prior permission of the instructor.

A breach of ethics or act of dishonesty can result in:

- failure of an entire course (blatant plagiarism, cheating on a test or quiz)
- academic suspension or expulsion from the university.