



Dr. R. G. Tonks

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**Office hours:**

Tues/Thurs 1:00-14:00 or by appointment

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What is culture? How does it affect the psychology of individuals? These are the basic questions we will explore in surveying several ways in which culture and psychology intertwine. Starting with a brief history of various perspectives through which culture has been defined and understood, this course will review the theories and methods of specific "psychologies of culture". In doing so, this course will examine the fundamental nature of what it means to be a person, a self, or to have a personality. We will examine how cultural worldviews shape the very nature of who we are, as influenced through the beliefs, practices, values and mythologies to which we are exposed. Following the development of a foundation to the study of culture and psychology, this course will address various applied social issues, including: immigration and acculturation, health psychology, counselling and psychological disorders, as well as prejudice and other issues that have been examined by psychologists in Canada and abroad.

### Course Description

This course examines various relationships between psychology and culture. Topics covered range from research methods and foundations to the cultural construction of self and identity, through various applied areas of cultural psychology including: language, thought and emotion in cultural context, development, mythology, health, clinical disorders, inter-group relations and social policy.

### Learning outcomes

1. Identify and describe the difference between cultural psychology and cross-cultural psychology
2. Design a research study for understanding the influence of culture on psychology
3. Describe the role that cultural myths play in the psychological lives of people.

- Describe and demonstrate their understanding of the role that culture plays in the development and expression of language, thought, emotion and one's sense of self & identity.

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<i>Class Participation</i>	25 %	weekly	
Mini Presentations	15 %	Weeks 4 - 14	
Culture Log	15 %	Week 13	Nov 30
<i>Field Assignment</i>	15 %	Week 10	Nov 9th
<b>Essay Options</b>			
A- Report 1	15%	Week 7	Oct 26
A -Report 2	15%	Week 14	Dec 7
B -Paper	30%	Week 12	Nov 23

### **Class Seminar Activities:**

We will regularly be doing activities in class during 'seminar time' where we will be discussing the study questions that accompany the lectures along with other activities. Some of these activities will have take-home component and often make use of the d2l discussion board.

In addition, a **class project on music** will be carried out where **students will contribute pieces of music (on tape, record or CD, .mp3 youtube, ...)** along with a **brief description of the cultural significance or importance of that piece**. The instructor will compile the various selections to play during our final class where we will also examine social ritual and gatherings as part of our cultural identity formation.

### **Culture Log:**

The Culture Log is a notebook that records your observations about culture and everyday life. Here you will be asked to record specific types of cultural phenomena as well as those that you find interesting over the course of the semester.

*A field assignment* will be given where the students will be asked to make observations about culture in their everyday lives. Here students will focus on the role of mythology in everyday cultural life.

**Mini Presentations:** Each student will take a turn to search for, and present to the class a brief review of one article on an applied area of Cultural Psychology. These article reviews will be presented in class as they coordinate with course topics commencing with Self and culture. Students will be given a opportunity to select articles of their choice, following the allocation of topics in the second or third week of classes. It is expected that each student will produce a *short summary handout* for their article review that they will share with class members.

## Essay Options

### Option A: Reports

There will be two take-home essays for option A. The essay questions will be assigned a week in advance of the due date and they will be based upon study questions covered in class. Students will be provided with the essay questions in advance, and some time will be given during tutorial to address these questions. The emphasis will be on the lecture material but the supplemental readings textbooks will be useful in answering the questions.

### Option B: Term Paper:

The term paper option will involve providing a review of some theoretical or research issue that pertains to the study of culture and psychology. There are a wide variety of potential topics, and students are encouraged to choose topics that are of interest to them. With the goal of gaining insight into (and appreciation for) the role that culture plays in our psychological lives, *students are also given the option of providing observations on culture as part of their term papers*. Here, along with a brief theoretical or empirical background to their observations, students can provide descriptions of the influence of culture on their own psychological lives.

In choosing the first alternative, students can write about one or another theoretical or methodological issue that pertains to the study of psychology and culture. For example it is possible to compare and contrast two major perspectives for the study of psychology and culture, such as cultural psychology and cross-cultural psychology. It is also possible to write about the history of the study of an issue or sub-field in the study of psychology and culture. For example one may write on the topic of the "emic-etic" issue or about the role of learning in the appropriation of a cultural world-view. Alternatively, one may wish to examine an "indigenous" psychology from somewhere around the world, for example Aboriginal perspectives on the healing circle, or Asian conceptions of self and nature.

It is also possible to review a collection of empirical research studies on some topic of study in the psychology of culture. Here one may examine topics such as visual perceptions across cultures, child-rearing practices across cultures, social relations across culture, acculturation, ethnic relations, prejudice, or some other topic of interest.

The third possible choice is to carry out a field study on a topic of interest to you in culture and psychology. All class members will be carrying out a small field study on the role of mythology in their lives. The term paper may offer some students the chance to expand on those projects or on another topic. It is recommended that students who choose this option have some background in

research methods, and they are expected to consult with their Teaching Assistant and course instructor prior to the commencement of such projects.

The papers are to be written 8 pages typed double space (12 point font only) in the standard APA style. If you are not familiar with this style of referencing and paper writing please take a look at the APA publication manual (5th edition) in the library. In taking a cultural perspective on psychology there are several alternatives that you may wish to pursue through any of the options outlined below

### **Good Papers:**

Most people want to get good marks even if they don't expect an "A+" on their papers. It is a good idea, however, to point out a few things regarding the creation a good paper. Typically, good papers are those that take a *critical perspective* on the topic that they are presenting. To be critical does not mean that you simply have to be negative and try to put down some theory or perspective. Being critical involves the careful examination and explanation of issues pertaining to the creation and development of theories or ideologies of psychology. In providing a critical examination of some ideas, try to go to the original sources and consider providing your reader with an understanding or explanation of the central issue(s) of the perspective(s) that you are examining. Make use of your own thoughts and concerns when choosing a topic, and also don't be afraid to rely on your own reasoning and judgment. It is a good idea to talk to classmates and your teachers about any ideas you might have as you think them through and get better at expressing such thoughts. Additionally, the papers that generally receive good marks are those which are well thought out, well organized, and clearly presented. If you have the greatest ideas in the world they are not worth much if you cannot express them clearly. Take the time to think about the topic you choose and start thinking about it soon.

To facilitate clear communication between the Instructor and the students with respect to understanding of the grading expectations of the Instructor (who will be marking the papers), you will be asked to *hand in a one page outline of your paper topic by week 5 of the semester*. The papers will be due in 13th week of classes and it is expected that you will staple your outline (that your Instructor returned to you with comments on it) to the back of your term paper.

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### **Grading Scheme: (Camosun Standards)**

A+ 90- 100

B 73-76

D 50 - 59

A 85 - 89

B- 70 - 72

F 0 - 49

A- 80-84

C+ 65 - 69

I = Incomplete\*

\*(If the missing work is not completed within 6 weeks from the semester end, the grade will become F).

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**LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS** - There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

**ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY** - There is an Academic Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

[www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html](http://www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html)

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## **Psychology 288 Course Syllabus**

**Camosun College**

**Dr. R.G. Tonks**

**Fall 2015**

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**Week 1 - No Class - Labour Day** - Are you Registered to [VOTE?](#)

**Week 2 - Sept 14 - Overview & Introduction & History of Psychology and Culture**

- Course Outline & Syllabus
  - **(1) Berry, Poortinga, Brugelmans, Chasiotis & Sam (2011) - Chapter 1 Introduction to Cross-Cultural psychology . In J.W.Berry, Y.H. Poortinga, S. Brugelmans, A. Chasiotis & D.Sam Cross-cultural psychology: Research and applications (3rd edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.**
  - **(2) Jahoda, G. & Krewer, B. (1997). History of cross-cultural and cultural psychology. In J. Berry, et al. (Eds.) Handbook of cross-cultural psychology. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Vol. 1. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.**

**Week 3 - Sept 21 - Perspectives, Theories and Methods Across Psychology & Culture**

- (3) Shweder, R.A. (1991). *Cultural Psychology: What is it?* In R.A. Shweder's *Thinking through cultures: expeditions in Cultural Psychology*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- (4) Kim, U. Yang & Hwang (2006). Ch1 Contributions to Indigenous and cultural psychology: Understanding people in contexts. In Kim, Yang & Hwang (eds.) *Indigenous and Cultural psychology: Understanding people in Context*. New York: Springer.
- (5) Tonks, R.G. (2014). *Cross-Cultural psychology: Overview*. In T. Teo (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology*. Springer Reference.

#### Week 4 - Sept 28 - Self and Identity across Culture

- (6) Paranjpe, A.C. (1998). *The self and identity in Indian and western thought*. New York: Plenum. Chapter 2 Person, Self and Identity.

#### Week 5 - Oct 5 - Self, Identity & Personality

- (7) Triandis, H. (1995). The self and social behaviour in Differing Cultural Contexts. In N.R. Goldberger & J.B. Veroff (Eds.) *The culture and psychology Reader*. NY: NYU Press

#### Week 6 - Oct 12 - Thanksgiving - no class

#### Week 7 - Oct 19 - Mythology - Remember to [VOTE](#)

- (8) Campbell, J. (1972). Ch 3 The Importance of Rites. *Myths to live by: How we re-create legends in our daily lives to release human potential*. New York: Penguin.
- (9) Hedva, B. (2001). Chapter 1 Journey from Betrayal to trust: A universal rite of passage. In *Betrayal, trust, and Forgiveness: A guide to emotional healing and self-renewal*. Celestial Arts: Berkeley.

#### Week 8 - Oct 26 - Introduction to Acculturation

- (10) Sam, D. (2006) Acculturation: Conceptual background and core components. Chapter 2 In J.W. Berry & D.L. Sam (Eds.) *The Cambridge Handbook of Acculturation Psychology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

#### Week 9 - Nov 2 - Acculturation Continued

- (11) Phinney, J.S., Berry, J.W., Vedder, P. & Leibkind, P.(2006). Ch 4 The acculturative experience: Attitudes, identities and behaviours of Immigrant Youth. In J.W. Berry, J.S. Phinney, D.L. Sam & P.Vedder (Eds.) *Immigrant Youth in Cultural Transition: Acculturation, identity and Adaptation across national contexts*. New York: Lawrence Earlbaum & Associates.

**Week 10 - Nov 9 - Acculturation and Health**

- (12) Aboud, F.E. (1998). *Introduction to Health psychology in global perspective*. Thousand Oaks, Sage.

**Week 11 - Nov 16 - Health Psychology Across Cultures**

- (13) Karazian, S. & Evans, D. (2001) Ch 1 Health Psychology from a cultural perspective: Theoretical Considerations. In Kazarian, S. & Evans, D. (Eds.) *Handbook of Cultural Health Psychology*. New York: Academic Press.
- (14) Zhu, H. Z. (2001) CH 1 - A tree with ancient roots: defining traditional Chinese Medicine. Building a Jade Screen: Better Health with Traditional Chinese Medicine.

**Week 12 Nov 23 - Culture and Psychological Disorders**  
*TBA reading (15)*

**Week 13 Nov 30 - Multicultural Counselling & Intergroup Relations**

- (16) Draguns, J. (2002) Ch 2 Universal and Cultural Aspects of Counselling and Therapy. *Counselling Across Cultures*. New York: Sage.
- (17) Amir, Y. (1998) The contact hypothesis in intergroup relations. Chapt 33 in W.Loner & R.Malpass (Eds.) *Psychology and Culture*. Allyn & Bacon.
- (18) Paranjpe, A.C. (1986). The identity Theory of Prejudice: A perspective from the intellectual tradition of India. In A.C. Paranjpe (Ed.) *Ethnic Identities and Prejudices: Perspectives from the Third World*. New York: Brill.

**Week 14 Dec 7 - Music, Culture, & Expression**

Music Project View [past music projects](#), but be ready to submit your music for this year's version along with a paragraph or two regarding the cultural significance of that piece of music. Before March 28. Also see [psychology 275 - Music Psychology](#).

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