



Psychology and Sociology of Diverse Populations: SPRING 2015 (3 credits)
PSY 310.01E MWF 3:00p-3:50p Location: Henderson Hall - H206

Instructor: George Swindell, Graduate Assistant Teaching
Office Location: Binnion 225
Office Hours: MWF 4:00-4:50p.m., and/or by appointment.
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Catalog Course Description: This course will examine the variables which affect the educational 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.

Student Learning Outcome: One overall goal of this course is to prepare students for an interconnected world. In this class students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of interconnectedness of global dynamics (e.g., issues, processes, trends, and systems). To demonstrate knowledge of interconnectedness of global dynamics students will be asked to write a final paper that connects concepts presented in class to global issues.

Technology Requirements:

You will need access to a computer with internet to access eCollege.

Required Textbook:

Gollnick, D. M. & Chinn, P. C. (2013). *Multicultural Education in a Pluralistic Society* (9th Edition).

Students with Disabilities:

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 Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Administrative Policies and Requirements:

Attendance. Attendance in this course is mandatory. There will be class demonstrations, discussions, and films designed to enrich your learning experience. And further, the text for this course is thick with information: coming to class will help clarify concepts and focus your studying. Each student will be allowed up to 3 unexcused absences; if you have **more than 3 unexcused absences** your grade will be reduced by one full letter grade. For every 3 additional unexcused absences your grade will be reduced by one full additional letter grade. All absences will be considered unexcused except as mandated by University policy for University excused absences, religious holidays and major illnesses. In addition, students that are **15 or more minutes late** for class will be considered absent.

Email. All Students should activate and regularly check their Leo Mail (e-mail account) and eCollege accounts associated with this class. All class communication will be done through Leo Mail/eCollge. I **WILL NOT** send communication about the class to personal email accounts. If you email me and do not receive an email response within 48 hours, most likely, your email was not received. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours on weekdays.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted unless you have provided adequate documentation allowing your absence to be excused. Also, students will **NOT** be allowed to make up exams unless the absence is considered excused. In the event your absence is excused, the missing assignment or exam must be completed **within 1 week** of the original due date.

Drop Policy. Students are responsible for officially dropping/withdrawing themselves from the course; failure to do so will result in a performance grade of "F". Please refer to the academic calendar in order to be aware of drop dates.

Grading:

1) **Exams:** There will be a Midterm and a Final. Each exam will be comprised of multiple choice questions and possibly short answer/essay type questions. Each test is 100 points (200 points total)

2) **Reaction Papers:** Over the course of the semester all students are required to turn in Thirteen (13) 1 to 2 page (double spaced) reaction papers.

- The paper must be turned in on Monday morning following the week's previous discussion. For example, if we discuss religion on the week of January 26th, the reaction paper will be due the following week on Monday, February 2nd.
- The purpose of the reaction paper is to apply the concepts from the week's topic to your own life (e.g., past experience, expectations, ideas of how the concepts can be applied in other areas of life, research ideas). There is no specific requirement for these papers except to show that you have thought about the concepts presented during class discussions and from class readings.
- Some weeks student's will be given a topic or a prompt to use in their reaction papers.
- Each paper will be worth 10 points (Maximum of 100 points)

3) **Final Paper:** The final paper will consist of a 2-page paper (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, left/right margins 1", top/bottom margins 1", saved as .docx .doc or .rtf). In this paper you will (1) define a concept or multiple concepts that you learned in this class, (2) describe the concept(s), (3) describe an issue that affects people in multiple countries (e.g., social injustice, environmental issue, political issue), (4) describe how the concept(s) you learned in

this class apply to understanding the global issue (or how to mitigate possible negative outcomes of the issue). For this paper to be included in your ePortfolio you must earn 70% or higher on this paper. Please use APA format and be sure to cite any outside sources (e.g., newspapers, websites, journal articles). The paper is worth 100 points. The final paper is due (to the dropbox on eCollege) by Friday April 24th by 11:59PM.

4) **Attendance/Participation/In-class Activities:** With the nature of this course and the subject, we will have in class discussions frequently. It is vital that everyone contributes in order to get a better understanding of different views on the topics at hand. Thus participation in class will be worth 100 points.

5) **EXTRA CREDIT:** You may participate in research studies associated with this university. For each (1) credit you receive (see handout) you will receive 5 bonus points. Up to a maximum of 3 credits (15 bonus points). (see handout at end of syllabus for full explanation.)

- Other extra credit assignments may be assigned to the class as a whole throughout semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Grade Assignments

A = 450-500 points

B = 400-449 points

C = 350-399 points

D = 300-349 points

F = < 300 points

Student Conduct:

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” Students are expected to follow the code of conduct in class described in the Student Handbook (Policies and Procedures, Code of Student Conduct). Violation of the code will lead to an initiation of the disciplinary processes described in the Handbook. Proper student conduct also includes maintaining a standard of academic honesty. This means that neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated and students who engage in either will be subject to the disciplinary processes described in the Code of Student Conduct). Plagiarism essentially means that you cannot use the words and ideas of another person without giving them credit. Therefore, “quotation marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author you will need to credit the source in the text” (APA, 2001, p. 249). If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism please see me. Students who plagiarize any material or engage in cheating will earn a grade of F for the course.

Students will be assigned seating by the instructor. If students are not in their assigned seat during a given class period they will be marked absent. The instructor reserves the right to change the seating arrangement at any time during the semester. Students who are tardy to class are required to sit in the designated area so their attendance may be verified at the end of class. Anyone more than 15 minutes late to class is considered absent for the day.

Cell Phones/Laptops/Other forms of Technology. Cell phones must be turned off or placed on silent during class. If you have an emergency and may need to take a call during class, please see me prior to the beginning of class and leave your cell phone on top of the desk. Otherwise, I should see no cell phones during the course of the class. Students using cell phones during class

without permission may be asked to leave and will be counted absent. Other forms of technology are treated as above.

Changes to the syllabus

Minor changes may be made to the syllabus. If changes are made, announcements will be made in class, will be emailed out, and will be posted on ecollege.

Finally, I cannot stress enough the importance of contacting me immediately if you find that you are having trouble with the course material. Come to my office hours, use my email, and ask me questions before, during, and after class. If we catch a problem early, it can be cured. I can do nothing for you when approached after the semester has been completed.

This is a VERY tentative schedule of this course and the text book readings.				
WEEK	DATES	TOPIC	Chapter	Assignments
1	1/19-1/23	Intro to Multicultural Education	Ch 1	RP 1
2	1/26-1/30	Ethnicity and Race	Ch 2	RP 2
3	2/2-2/6	Class and Socioeconomic Status	Ch 3	RP 3
4	2/9-2/13	Gender	Ch 4	RP 4
5	2/16-2/20	Sexual Orientation	Ch 5	RP 5
6	2/23-2/27	Exceptionality	Ch 6	RP 6
7	3/2-3/6	Catch up		RP 7
8	3/9-3/13	MIDTERM EXAM		
9	3/16-3/20	SPRING BREAK		
10	3/23-3/27	Language	Ch 7	RP 8
11	3/30-4/3	Religion	Ch 8	RP 9
12	4/6-4/10	Geography	Ch 9	RP 10
13	4/20-4/24	The Youth Culture	Ch 10	RP 11 / Final Paper
14	4/27-5/1	Education That is Multicultural	Ch 11	RP 12
15	5/4-5/8	Catch up		RP 13
16	5/15	FINAL EXAM Friday May 15 th 1:15-3:15 p.m.		