
CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY in Fall 2018 (PY2046)

Course Code	PY2046	Professor(s)	Jens Brockmeier
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	PV-203
Class Schedule	W: 15:20-18:15 in PL-3	Office Hours	by appointment
Credits	4	Email	jbrockmeier@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

Human beings are cultural beings. We cannot understand human nature without understanding its cultural fabric. We cannot understand ourselves and our being in the world without understanding this world as a cultural world, in fact, as consisting of multiple cultural worlds in which we live at the same time. Psychology is centrally concerned with the interplay of culture and nature. Therefore, it has been argued that all psychology is in one way or another cultural psychology. But cultural psychology is not only an orientation and a perspective, it also is a specific approach and a field of research within psychology. It even reaches beyond psychology into cultural anthropology, linguistics, history, cultural studies, philosophy, and more.

In this course, we inquire why the cultural dimension is crucial for human psychology. To this purpose, we explore a number of cultural worlds, Western and non-Western. We also investigate various psychological functions such as thinking and consciousness, remembering and memory, and issues like self-construction and identity. And we look at different cultural sign and symbol systems such as language, art, literature, and film that reflect and contribute to people's forms of life. In this way, the course also offers the opportunity to think about our own multicultural existence and the way we view ourselves and others.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students are invited to critically think through different notions and models of culture and its relevance for human self-understanding

Students are invited to get a sense of the multiple ways culture and human agency can be studied in psychology and related disciplines.

They are encouraged to develop an understanding of the complexities of their own and others' cultural being in the world.

General Education

The course qualifies as General Education Course **GE110**

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

The course would fulfill the requirements of *Modeling the World* and *Mapping the World*.

Course Outline

Schedule of Topics and Readings

(The Schedule is flexible and subject to change)

Week 1

Sep 12: Introduction

Week 2

Sep 19: What is cultural psychology, and why does it matter? (I)

- Cole, M., *Cultural psychology: A once and future discipline* (Introduction and Chap.1; pp 1-29).
- Film (1): *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner* (Z. Kunuk, Dir.)

Week 3

Sep 26: What is cultural psychology, and why does it matter? (II)

- Shweder, R., *Why do men barbecue? Recipes for cultural psychology* (Introduction)
- Film (2): *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner* (Z. Kunuk, Dir.)

Week 4

Oct 5, 18 pm (!): What is behind a mask?: The cultural psychology of identity and masks

- Visit to *Musée du Quai Branly / Museum of Cultural Anthropology*
- Worksheet

Week 5

Oct 10: Indigenous realities

- Medved, M. & Brockmeier, J., *On the margins: Aboriginal realities and "White man's research."* **P [1/2]**.
- Film: *Before Tomorrow* (Marie-Helene Cousineau and Madeline Ivalu, Dir.)

Week 6

Oct 17: Culture and consciousness

- Lutz, C. (1992). *Culture and consciousness: A problem in the anthropology of knowledge.* **P [1/2]**
- Bathia, S. (2014). *Orientalism*

Week 7

Oct 24: Identity, agency, and romance

- Holland, D. Lachicotte, Jr., W., Skinner, D. & Cain, C., *Identity and agency in cultural worlds* (Chap. 5: Worlds of Romance). **P [1/2]**.
- Group work

Week 8

Oct 31: Fall break

Week 9

Nov 7: The cultural psychology and cultural history of remembering and forgetting

- Brockmeier, J., *Beyond the archive: Memory, narrative, and the autobiographical process I* (Chap. 1, 1-5 // 12-21). **P [1/2]**.
- Brockmeier, J., *Beyond the archive: Memory, narrative, and the autobiographical process II* (Chap. 3: pp. 63-78). **P [1/2]**.
- Brockmeier, J., *Beyond the archive: Memory, narrative, and the autobiographical process III* (Chap. 3: pp. 78-96). **P [1/2]**.
- Group work

Week 10

Nov 14: Understanding the other

- Methods of cultural research: The (narrative) interview and its interpretation

Week 11

Nov 21: Everyday life and cultural practices

- Shweder, R., *Who sleeps by whom? (Chap. 1, Why do men barbecue? Recipes for cultural psychology (pp. 46-73). P [1/2]*
- *Film: Preschool in three cultures*

Week 12

Nov 28: Individual memory and cultural narrative

- Nelson, K. (2003). *Self and social functions: Individual autobiographical memory and collective narrative. P [1/2]*
- Brockmeier, J., *Remembering Confucius* (Chap. 7, *Inhabiting a culture of memory*) in: *Beyond the archive: Memory, narrative, and the autobiographical process* [pp. 229-234]

Week 13

Dec 05: Inhabiting a culture of memory

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- Hong Kingston, M. (1989). *The woman warrior: Memoirs of a girlhood among ghosts [No Name Woman, White Tigers]*. **P [1/2]**
 - Brockmeier, J., *Beyond the archive: Memory, narrative, and the autobiographical process* (Chap. 7: 219-229 [selection]) **P [1/2]**
 - Brockmeier, J., *Remembering Confucius* (Chap. 7, *Inhabiting a culture of memory*) in: *Beyond the archive: Memory, narrative, and the autobiographical process* [pp. 234-242]).

Week 14

Dec 12: Final discussion

Week 15

Dec 19: Exam

Due date final paper

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
Beyond the Archive: Memory, Narrative, and the Autobiographical Process	Brockmeier, Jens	OUP	9780199861569	Yes
The woman warrior: Memoirs of a girlhood among ghosts	Kingston Hong M.	Vintage	9780679721888	Yes

Attendance Policy

AUP General Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Class specific Attendance and Participation Policy

- AUP expects students to attend every class.
- Students who miss a class for medical reasons are expected to provide formal documentation.
- Students who miss a number of classes, regardless of the reason, are expected to provide make-up material.
- Students who miss more than three classes have to expect a lower final grade.
- Students who miss more than four classes will fail the course (F).
- If students have agreed to give a presentation in class and do not show up at the agreed date without informing me at least a day in advance, a full letter grade will be deducted (even if they provide make-up material), unless they present a formal doctor's note.
- If students are habitually late to class, late arrivals will count as absences.
- Assignments must be completed by the date indicated on the syllabus. Electronic submissions of papers are not acceptable.
- Participation means active participation, that is, students are expected to make relevant and thoughtful contributions to class discussion and activities, which contributes, as noted, to 15 % of the final grade.
- During classes, students are expected to respectfully turn off cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices.

Academic Dishonesty

Please take the time to learn about academic dishonesty and plagiarism. Plagiarism includes handing in work that is not your own and cutting and pasting passages (from the internet, journals, books, etc.) without citing the original source. These are very serious academic offenses and could lead to an “F” in the course, suspension, or expulsion from the university. If plagiarism is detected (among others, by appropriate technologies), the least serious consequence is failing the course. Helpful advice on avoiding plagiarism and related AUP policy can be found at <http://www.ac.aup.edu/~writelab/>.

Grading Policy

GRADING

Course requirements will contribute the following portions to your grade:

Attendance and participation	15%
Thought papers	15%
Presentation	30%
Paper	40%

Other

Thought paper

- Students are required to write and submit five thought (or reflection or response) papers. Thought papers are on self-chosen issues or problems addressed in (1) the readings,

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- (2) films, (3) museum visit, or (4) in class discussions.
 - The last of these thought papers (5) presents an outline of the final class paper and is to be handed in at least two weeks before the end of class.
 - These thought papers are between one paragraph and one max. 1 page, have a title or subject line, and are meant to give me a sense of how the readings and class discussions speak to you and what you think about them.
 - Thought papers (only hard copies!) must be handed in at the beginning of the class after the reading (or film or any related issue) was discussed. Thought papers submitted later than two weeks will not be accepted.
 - Each thought paper contributes to about 3 % of the final mark.

Group Work paper

- Students are required to submit a summary of the results and discussions group work project that is carried out within the class. This paper (of 2-3 pp.) is to be written together and signed by all members of the project group. It has to be handed in within one week after the field work.

Presentation

- Students will give one class presentation of 15-20 minutes on a theme based on the assigned readings according to the class schedule. The presentation is meant to initiate a discussion.

Final Essay

- The final paper (of 8 pages) deals with self-chosen issues or problems that are addressed in the readings, films, visits of special locations, or class discussions. It can, but does not have to, be based on the presentations. It demonstrates that its author is able to represent an issue, a position, or a problem, and to discuss it.
- Due date for papers is December 19, 2018, 15:30 (at the "Final exam"). Only hard copies of the final essays are accepted.
- They can be handed in earlier, but if they are submitted later the grade for the paper will be lowered, the extent dependent on how late it is (which can go as far as "No Credit").
- In case of emergency with your presentation or paper, please contact me at the first moment possible. If you have questions or problems with your paper or an assignment, please talk to me about it early enough so that we can find a solution.