

University of Michigan
Psychology 493 Section 001- Socio-Cultural Psychology:
Psychological Perspectives on Culture and Ethnicity
Fall 2012: September 4-December 11

Class times: Tuesday 5pm – 8pm @ B247 EH **Office hours:** Wednesday, 10am-noon.
Instructor: Takahiko Masuda, Ph. D. **Office:** 3030 EH
Course Website: CTOOLS PSYCH 493 001 F12 **Phone:** 734-763-4363
Email: tmasuda@umich.edu (Please *always* put PSYCO 493 under the subject heading.)

Textbook: Heine, S. J. (2008). Cultural Psychology: Second Edition. New York: W. W. Norton and company, Inc. Available @ Bookstore

Course Description:

Do people in different cultures think, feel, and act differently? How can we begin to understand the cultural variation in psychological processes, and what are the origins of this variation? In the last decade a number of psychologists have used time-honored empirical methods of psychology to address these questions. This course reviews and critically examines this literature. A main focus will be on some Asian countries and cultures, but we will cover different ethnic groups within the United States. We also discuss various issues of multi-cultural societies.

Course Structure: In my lectures I will be introducing, clarifying, and elaborating on material related to the course, some of it in the text and some not. Lecture time is limited. *You will be responsible for a great deal of the information in the text on your own.* Just because I haven't lectured on it doesn't mean you aren't responsible for it.

Evaluations:

Class Participation & Discussion: To better understand materials, the class attendance is mandatory. We will sometimes have around 20-min group discussion sessions in some of the class. Their active participation in discussion (speak up in class, and mini-homework response) will be also counted as bonus points.

Exams. Exams will be based on the textbook, assigned articles, and lecture materials. Each exam will include only the readings and the lecture material covered immediately preceding that exam, which is worth 35% of the total grade. You will have 120 mins to complete the exam. The format of the exam is a mixture of open-ended questions, multiple-choice questions, and short essay questions.

Final paper: You will write up a single-spaced 4 page research proposal which plans to test your research interests relevant to the course materials. It should consist of (1) reasonable amount of review in introduction, (2) clear and meaningful research hypotheses, and (3) experimental designs that test the hypotheses, and (4) possible implications. The topic will be selected by discussing with the instructor during the semester. The deadline of the final paper is Friday, **December 21st at 4pm.** An electronic copy of your paper should be submitted to me (tmasuda@umich.edu) via CTOOLS webpage. Late submission will receive a deduction of 20% per day. For example, if you submitted two business days after the due, you will lose 40%.

