

**University of Alberta**  
**Psychology 405/505 A1/B3:**  
**Special Topics in Psychology II**  
**Culture and Cognition**  
**Fall 2013: September 4 – December 4**

**Class times:** Wednesday 1:00 pm – 3:50 pm @ T1-83

**Course Website:** <https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/portal/>

**Instructor:** Takahiko Masuda, Ph. D.

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**Office hours:** by appointment

**Course Materials:** Please access the Library Website if the paper is published. If the paper is unpublished/unaccessible via PsycINFO, the instructor will distribute the materials one week before the class.

**Course Description:** This course will deal with issues in experimental methods in cultural psychology. The course is intended for senior undergraduate students and graduate students, and hence involves a good deal of article readings and practical activities. We will read empirical research articles that show contributions to the field. Students are also expected to take initiative to present the assigned readings and lead in-class discussions. We will cover a wide domain of methods in cultural psychology. They include measurement of brain activation, eye-movement, self-reports, cultural products, and gene polymorphisms. At the end of the semester, we will cover some criticism towards the current theoretical and methodological frameworks in recent cultural psychology.

**Prerequisites:** Please see the Course Description on the U of A Website.

**Course Structure:** The class consists of three parts:

- (1) The instructor's lecture about the background of the day's topic (30 min to one hour);
- (2) Students' in-class presentation/discussion of assigned articles (20 minutes per each presentation);
- (3) Practical activities for carrying out research (one hour to two hours).

**Evaluations:** The final grade will be based on your performance in class (20%), midterm (30%), final (35%), and term paper (15%). The class performance consists of (1) at least one presentation followed by discussion (5%), (2) participation in discussion (5%), and (3) performances in class activities (10%).

**Exams.** Exams will be based on assigned articles, lecture materials, and class activities. The midterm will include only the readings, the lecture material, and class activities covered immediately preceding that exam, which is worth 30% of the total grade. The final exam *will be cumulative for all lecture materials from the beginning of the course*. You will have 2 hours to

complete the final, which is worth 35% of your total grade. The format of the exam is open-ended questions, multiple-choice questions, and short essay questions. If an examination is missed due to a serious medical condition verified by University Health Services or a personal physician, a make-up exam will be offered. In order to exercise this option, however, the instructor must be contacted within 48 hours of the scheduled examination time and date. If the final examination is missed, the deferred examination will be held on **Monday, Jan 8th, 2014** (the location and time will be announced).

**Presentation (5%) & Discussion (5%):** At the beginning of the semester, students will select two articles from the list of readings. You have two opportunities to be a presenter as well as a discussion leader in collaboration with other presenters. Students who are not presenting will be required to be an active discussant in class.

**In Class Activities (10%):** In most classes, students will be assigned to engage in class activities. The final products at the end of the class will be targets of your evaluation.

**The Term Paper (15%):** You will write up a single-spaced 4 page research proposal which tests your application of cultural psychology methodology (relevant to the assigned readings). It should consist of (1) a short introduction/review, (2) clear and meaningful research hypotheses, and (3) experimental designs that test the hypotheses, and (4) possible implications. The topic will be selected through discussion with the instructor during the semester. The deadline of the final paper is **Friday, December 13th at 4pm**. A hardcopy of your paper should be submitted to the Psychology Main Office by this deadline. 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%.

**SSDS Support:** If you are hampered by visual or auditory limitations, or if you have a learning disability, please contact Services for Students with Disabilities in SUB. It is possible to get help with note taking in class.

**Academic Offences:** The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behavior and avoid any behavior which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. (online at [www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm](http://www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm))

**Final Grades:** Final grades are reported using letter grades. Final grades are determined after combining students' class performance (two presentations & leading discussion; active participation in discussion) , quizzes, and the final paper. Students are ranked in order of total scores and a grade is assigned so that the class average falls approximately within the University-suggested ranges for the forth-year level students (shown below):

Letter Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
Distribution	8%	12%	17%	16%	16%	12%	7%	5%	3%	2%	1%	1%



**October 23: Midterm (70 minutes), Measuring Eye-Movements**

**October 30: Measuring Cultural Products**

1. \*Masuda, T., Gonzalez, R. Kwan, L., & Nisbett, R. E. (2008). Culture and aesthetic preference: Comparing the attention to context of East Asians and European Americans. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 34, 1260-1275.
2. \*Wang, H., Masuda, T., Ito, K., & Rashid, M. (2012). How much information? East Asian and North American cultural products and information search performance. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 38, 1539-1551.

**November 6: Measuring Genetic Polymorphism**

1. \*Chao, J. Y., & Blizinski, C. D. (2010). Culture-gene coevolution of individualism-collectivism and the serotonin transporter gene.
2. \*Kim, H. S., Sherman, D. K., Sasaki, J. Y., Xu, J., Chu, T. Q., Ryu, C., Suh, E. M., Graham, K., & Taylor, S. E. (2010). Culture, distress, and oxytocin receptor polymorphism (OXTR) interact to influence emotional support seeking. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 107, 15717-15721.

**November 13: Analyzing the Relationships among Variables (Instructor: Man Wai Li)**

1. \*Ito, K., & Masuda, T., Li, M. -W., Komiya, A., & Hioki, K. (in progress). *Seeking Help from Close, Same-Sex Friends: Relational Costs for Japanese and Personal Costs for European Canadians*. Unpublished Manuscript, Nanyang Technological University.
2. \*Schug, J., Yuki, M., & Maddux, W. (2010). Relational mobility explains between- and within-culture differences in self-disclosure to close friend. *Psychological Science*, 21, 1471-1478.

**November 20: Collecting Data from Children/Teenagers**

1. \*Senzaki, S., & Masuda, T. (under review). *Culture and development of landscape drawing/collage skills: Comparing context sensitivity between Japanese and European Canadian children*. Unpublished Manuscript, University of Alberta.
2. \*Imada, T., Carlson, S. M., & Itakura, S. (2013). East-West cultural differences in context-sensitivity are evident in early childhood. *Developmental Science*, 16, 198-208.

**November 27: Wrap up: Methodological Issues in Cultural Psychology**

1. \*Miller, J. G. (1999). Cultural Psychology: Implications for basic psychological theory. *Psychological Science*, 10, 85-91.

**December 4: Final Exam (2 hours)**

**NOTE: Policy about course outlines can be found in 23.4(2) of the University Calendar**

\*Targets of student's presentation.