



# Linnéuniversitetet

Kalmar Växjö

## Kursplan

Fakultetsnämnden för hälsa, socialt arbete och beteendevetenskap  
Institutionen för pedagogik, psykologi och idrottsvetenskap

1PS153 Cross-cultural psychology, 7,5 högskolepoäng  
Cross-cultural psychology, 7.5 credits

### Ämnesgrupp

Psykologi

### Nivå

Grundnivå

### Fördjupning

GIF

### Fastställande

Fastställd av Organisationskommittén 2009-07-17

Kursplanen gäller från och med vårterminen 2010

### Förkunskaper

Psykologi 30 hp eller motsvarande

### Förväntade studieresultat

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the implications of culture for psychological principles
- Understand the qualitative and quantitative methodology of cross-cultural psychology
- Investigate basic psychological principles using a cultural prisma
- Describe how formation of self and the group interactions are shaped by culture
- Understand how cross-cultural understanding can be applied in the workplace, therapy and health settings
- Learn how to work in culturally heterogeneous groups and with individuals from backgrounds that are different from one's own.

### Innehåll

In this course entitled "Cross Cultural Psychology", we will address the links between culture and behavior by creating an international virtual classroom with regular classwork, discussions and personal connections that will be accessible to a wide range of students. Such an international online course will have several advantages: It will enable the students to learn from each other as well as the instructor as they complete the studies and the course content, thus getting an in-depth, serious, thoughtful exposure to another culture. The students will learn about and will actually have a chance to conduct cross-cultural research. At a theoretical level, this course will enable the collaborating psychologists to start exploring universal versus culture-specific patterns in psychology. Finally, as this collaboration continues, we plan to move beyond classroom interactions and create a systematic research program exploring certain topics.

Module 1: Introduction

- Globalization and Diversity
- Culture and Identity (Definitions of culture, Cultural values, Acculturation, Function of culture, Ethnocentrism, false uniqueness effect)
- Methodology (Quantitative and Qualitative)

#### Module 2: Psychological processes

- Self and others
- Gender and Family (Partner selection, Beauty, Relationships, Child development with child rearing practices)
- Group Dynamics (Inter group conflict)
- Cognition and Communication (Perception, Thinking, Intelligence, Brain and Culture , Decision making, Nonverbal communication, Languages)
- Culture, Personality and Emotion (Attitudes, Emotions, Beliefs, Personality)

#### Module 3: Applications

- Health and Culture (Happiness, Quality of Life, Views on mental health, Stress and coping, Sports and Culture)
- Cultural diversity at the work place
- Leadership
- Human Resource Management (Selection, Motivation, Job evaluation)

### Undervisningsformer

This course will be delivered completely online, using the WebCT platform. The course site will be housed at the University of Minnesota Duluth, and the international faculty and students will have guest access. Videoclips, pictures, audioclips will be shared and threaded discussions, chatrooms will be used to establish a dialogue across the three universities' students. Input from instructors will include power point slides with audio and web-based discussions. The reading materials will include articles available online through the library resources.

### Examinationsformer

Kursen bedöms med betygen Underkänd, Godkänd eller Väl godkänd.

- Objectives 1-5 will be assessed through online exams given after each module
- Objectives 1-6 will be assessed by group projects and papers
- Objectives 1-6 will be assessed by online discussions
- Objective 6 will be assessed by the course evaluation study conducted by the instructors

### Kursvärdering

INGET VÄRDE ANGIVET

### Övrigt

This distance education course is offered jointly as a collaboration between Växjö University, Makerere University and Minnesota University, Duluth.

The course will be cross-listed at all three universities, hence the students will register for a course at their home institution, which will be the same course taught across the three universities. The goal is to enroll 12 students from each university for a total cohort of 36. The course has several unique features:

1. This course will be delivered completely online. Since international travel is becoming quite expensive, this course will enable the students to "visit" Uganda, Sweden and the USA in virtual space.
2. The course will not only teach about cross-cultural psychology, but actually practice it. The faculty across three universities will team teach the course, thus providing a cross-cultural panel of instructors for the students.
3. From the first day, the students will be assigned to a 6-person group, consisting of 2 students each from each country. This group will conduct small experiments, complete self reflection papers and interact with each other throughout the term, thus providing an opportunity for the students to learn to work in cross-cultural groups.
4. We will conduct a pre-post study on the students who have completed the course to analyze not only if they learned about cross-cultural psychology, but also if the students'

perspectives have shifted (e.g., become less ethnocentric)

5. Students will conduct a small-scale studies, using the same tasks, materials and comparing the cross-cultural patterns across the data. (Taking ethical issues into consideration, we will require these studies to be low-risk observations and commonly accepted educational, social practices, thus conducting the kinds of studies that are usually exempt from IRB review). Since the students are living in their own culture, their studies will provide snapshots of their existing cultural contexts and these data will be discussed within the whole group to note similarities and differences.

6. After establishing this curricular base, we plan to build on this common scientific foundation by conducting cross-cultural studies and thus continue the teaching and research collaboration across the years.

## Kurslitteratur och övriga läromedel

### **Obligatorisk litteratur**

Various:

Online Readings in Psychology and Culture

Center for Cross-Cultural Research

Western Washington University

Bellingham, Washington U.S.A.

[www.ac.wwu.edu/~culture/contents\\_brief.htm](http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~culture/contents_brief.htm)

[www.socialpsychology.org/cultural.htm#crosscultural](http://www.socialpsychology.org/cultural.htm#crosscultural)

Hofstede, G.: Cultures and Organizations: Software of the Mind, Expanded 2nd edition, McGraw-Hill, 2005371

Articles 200