

## COURSE DESCRIPTION (GENERAL DESCRIPTION)

**Course title: Mastering the Foundations of Psychology through Focused Topics**

**Course code: PSYM21-104**

**Specific course title: Culture and Psychology**

**Specific course code: PSYM21-104:7**

### Aim of the course

#### Aim of the course:

The course aims at deepening and integrating knowledge ~~about~~of the different subfields of psychology (affective, developmental, cognitive, personality, social) through focusing on one specific topic and discussing it in a complex way. It will cover all the different subfields – but not equal proportion – and the applied aspects of the topic. It aims at reviving the previously studied ideas ~~on~~at a master level giving the opportunity for amendment, reevaluation, and integration that can be relevant for students studying ~~at~~in any specialization.

The course titled Culture and Psychology investigates the cultural foundations of human behaviour, thinking, and affects as well as the interdependence between human psyche and culture. The course studies these relations in the different disciplines of psychology while building on the research work of several decades in the field of cultural and cross-cultural psychology and reflecting on the questions often emerging in the work of practising psychologists on cultural diversity and characteristics.

#### Learning outcome, competences

knowledge:

- Knowledge of the main theoretical models and the methods and finding of the main research work on the relationship between psychological processes and culture in different disciplines of psychology, especially in their special field of interest.
- Knowledge of the main findings of the modern cultural and cross-cultural psychology.
- Knowledge and understanding of the interrelations between human behavior, emotions, cognition, human development, and culture.

attitude:

- Openness to understanding and accepting other cultures and values
- Recognizing the legitimacy of cultural differences.
- Seeing cultural diversity an opportunity with valuable assets that can be used for the purpose of the development of society.

skills:

- Taking into account during their work the basic human rights, the characteristics of different cultures' values and worldviews.
- Ability to competently perceive, accept, and treat the relationships between socio-cultural-economic background and psychological mechanisms.
- Reflecting on the hidden assumptions of one's own culture, ability to identify and be critical of one's own prejudices and ethnocentrism, and ability to promote this self-reflection in others.
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autonomy/ responsibility:

- Students will be critical towards the professional questions of their field of expertise.
- Students will reflect on their own historical and cultural embeddedness.
- Students will take ethical and professional responsibility for their work and will be aware of its possible consequences, especially with regard to the impact on people with different group memberships/identities (e.g. cultural and socioeconomic background, religious affiliation, age groups, etc.).

### Content of the course

#### Topics of the course

Introduction to the studies of the relation between culture and psychology

Perception and cognition

Emotion and motivation

Child development and socialization

Social behavior

Personality

Cultural neuroscience

The application of the research on the interrelations between psychology and culture: examples from clinical psychology.

### **Learning activities, learning methods**

interactive lectures, discussions, group work in class

Preparation at home based on readings (assisted with questions)

### **Evaluation of outcomes**

### **Learning requirements, mode of evaluation, and criteria of evaluation:**

- active participation in the class
- following materials of the course, reading literature

mode of evaluation: exam

criteria of evaluation:

- understanding the topics and connections between different topics, concepts discussed in the course, the capacity to place them in a broader background.
- capacity to apply the knowledge acquired in the course

### **Reading list**

#### **Compulsory reading list**

- Berry, J. W., Poortinga, Y.H., Breugelmans, S.M., Chasiotis, A. (2012). *Cross-cultural psychology: Research and applications*. Third Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Heine, S.J. (2019). *Cultural Psychology*. Fourth Edition: New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

#### **Recommended reading list**

- Church, A. T. (2016). Personality traits across cultures. *Current Opinion in Psychology, 8*, 22-30.
- Ji, L. J., & Yap, S. (2016). Culture and cognition. *Current Opinion in Psychology, 8*, 105-111.
- Mesquita, B., Boiger, M., & De Leersnyder, J. (2016). The cultural construction of emotions. *Current Opinion in Psychology, 8*, 31-36.