

**University of Alberta**  
**Psychology 405A4/505A7: Special Topics in Psychology II**  
**Methodological Issues in Cultural Psychology**  
**Fall 2021: September 1 – December 7**

**Class times:** Wednesday 1:00 pm – 3:50 pm @ Online

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

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

**Office:** BSP-355

**Phone:** 492-7861

**Office hours:** Wednesday 4 pm – 5pm

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**T.A.:** Yuto Yasuda, MA

**Office:** BSP-123

**Email:** [yasuda@ualberta.ca](mailto:yasuda@ualberta.ca)

**Office hours:** by appointment

**Course Materials:** Please access the Library Website if for published papers. If papers are not published or inaccessible via PsycINFO, the instructor will distribute materials one week before those classes.

**Suggested Readings:** Heine, S. J. (2008). Cultural Psychology: Third Edition. New York: W. W. Norton and company, Inc. Available at the U of A bookstore.

**Course Description:** This course will deal with issues in experimental methods in cultural psychology. The course is intended for senior undergraduate and graduate students, and 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 lead in-class discussions and to provide discussion material through critical reading of listed articles. We will cover a wide domain of methods in cultural psychology, including ERP brain activations, eye tracking, human development, and self-reports; and key statistics related to these methods. At the end of the semester, we will introduce some criticism related to current theoretical and methodological frameworks in recent cultural psychology.

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

Course Structures: The lecture consists of three parts:

- (1) The instructor's lecture about the background of the day's topic (one hour):
- (2) Students' in-class discussion of assigned articles (20 mins per each presentations)
- (3) Practical activities related to research methods which you learned in class.

**Evaluations:** The final grade will be based on your performance in class activities (20%), two in-class exams (65%), and a term paper (15%). Class performance consists of (1) questions submitted in relation to class discussion (5%), (2) discussion leadership (5%), (3) participation in discussion (5%), and (4) performance in class activities and homework from these activities (5%).

### **In-Class Activities**

***Discussion Questions:*** By the end of the **Monday (8PM)** immediately preceding the Wednesday lecture, one question (*50 words*) must be submitted via e-mail to the TA (TBA). The question should be thoughtful and provide meaningful discussion to the class. Exam questions may be related to readings and in class discussions.

***Discussion Leadership:*** At the beginning of the semester, students will select two articles from the list of readings and be assigned articles to lead. You will have *at least* one opportunity to be a discussion leader in collaboration with other presenters, but your grade will be split between these opportunities if two sessions are required. Students who are not leading discussions will be required to be an active discussant in class. The TA will forward discussion questions to discussion leaders by the Tuesday morning preceding discussions.

***Classroom Participation:*** Meaningful participation is expected in the online class discussion.

***In Class Activities and Homework:*** In most classes, students will engage in class activities. The final products at the end of the class will be targets of your evaluation.

### **Exams**

Two exams will be held during this semester: **October 20th and December 1st**

Exams will be based on assigned articles, lecture materials, and class activities. The midterm will include only the material that has already been covered, and 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, and is worth 35% of your total grade.

The format of the exam is a mix of open-ended questions, multiple-choice questions, and short essay questions.

**Absence from exams:** A student who cannot write the final examination due to incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction or other compelling reasons can apply for a deferred final examination. Such an application must be made to the student's Faculty office within two working days of the missed examination and must be supported by appropriate documentation or a Statutory Declaration

(<https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=7238#Attendance>).

Deferred examinations are a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferred examination will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferred examination is a

serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour. If the final examination is granted, it will be held on **Fri, Jan 7, 2021** via ONLINE (the time will be announced later in the semester).

Students must verify this date on BearTracks when the Final Exam Schedule is posted. Grades are unofficial until approved by the Department and/or Faculty offering the course.

**Missed Assessments Where the Cause is Religious Belief:**

For an excused absence where the cause is religious belief, a student must contact the instructor(s) within two weeks of the start of Fall or Winter classes to request accommodation for the term. Instructors may request adequate documentation to substantiate the student request. Students who failed at the start of term to request exam accommodations for religious beliefs are expected to follow the deferred final examination process outlined above.

**The Term Paper**

You will be asked to write up a single-spaced 3 page research proposal which tests your application of cultural psychology methodologies (relevant to the assigned readings). It should consist of (1) a short introduction/review, (2) clear and meaningful research hypotheses, (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 17th at 4pm**. An electronic copy of your paper should be sent to Taka Masuda (tmasuda@ualberta.ca) by this deadline. Late submission will receive a deduction of 20% per day. For example, if you submit two business days after the due date, you will lose 40% of your grade.

**SSDS Support:** If you have 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, tests, and the final paper. Students are ranked in order these scores and a grade is assigned so that the class average falls approximately within the University-suggested ranges for fourth-year 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%

**Technology for Remote Learning:**

To successfully participate in remote learning in this course, it is recommended that students have access to a computer with an internet connection that can support the tools and technologies the University uses to deliver content, engage with instructors, TAs, and fellow students, and facilitate assessment and examinations. Please refer to [Technology for Remote Learning - For Students](#) for details. If you encounter difficulty meeting the technology recommendations, please email the Dean of Students Office (dosdean@ualberta.ca) directly to explore options and support.

Please contact the instructor by the add/drop deadline (September 15) if you do not have access to the minimum technology recommended. The instructor will make arrangements for accommodating students who contact the instructor before this date. Failure to do so may result in a zero in any assessment that depends on the minimum technology.

**Remote Proctoring Consideration:**

We may use a remote proctoring service for exams. Your computer and environment will be monitored during exams.

- You should arrange for a place to write timed exams without interruption.
- Tablets and mobile devices are incompatible with remote proctoring services.

**Recordings of Synchronous Activities:**

- Please note that class times for this course will be recorded. Recordings of this course will be used for the purposes of documenting conversation, and will be disclosed to other students enrolled in this section of the class.
- Students have the right to not participate in the recording and are advised to turn off their cameras and audio prior to recording; they can still participate through text-based chat. It is recommended that students remove all identifiable and personal belongings from the space in which they will be participating.
- Recordings will be made available until the end of term, Dec. 30, 2020 and accessible by zoom cloud storage. Please direct any questions about this collection to the instructor of this course.

**Student Resources for Remote Learning:**

Online learning may be new to you. Check out tips for success and find out more about online learning on the [Campus Life](#) page, and specifically on the [Student Resources for Remote Learning](#) page.

# Course Outline

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## September 1: Course Guidance

## September 8: Methods for Studying Culture and Psychology (1)

*Suggested Reading:* Chapter 4 in Heine, S. J. (2008/2012). *Cultural Psychology: Second Edition*. New York: W. W. Norton and company, Inc.

## September 15: Methods for Studying Culture and Psychology (2)

1. \*Cohen, D., Nisbett, R. E., Bowdle, B., & Schwarz, N. (1996). Insult, aggression, and the southern culture of honor. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 70, 945-960.

## September 22: Measuring People's Experiences (1)

1. \*Kitayama, S., Markus, H. R., Matsumoto, H., & Norasakkunkit, V. (1997). Individual and collective processes in the construction of the self: Self-enhancement in the United States and Self-Criticism in Japan. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 72, 1245-1267.

## September 29: Measuring People's Experiences (2)

1. \*Masuda, T., & Nisbett, R. E. (2001). Attending holistically vs. analytically: Comparing the context sensitivity of Japanese and Americans. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 81, 922-934.
2. Nisbett, R. E., & Masuda, T. (2003). Culture and point of view. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 100, 11163-11175.

## October 6: Analyzing and Reporting the Relationships among Variables

*No Reading Requirement. The notes will be uploaded on the eclass page.*

## October 13: Measuring Eye-Movements

1. \*Senzaki, S., Masuda, T., & Ishii, K. (2014). When is perception top-down and when is it not? Culture, narrative, and attention. *Cognitive Science*, 38, 1493-1506.
2. Chua, H. F., Boland, J. E., & Nisbett, R. E. (2005). Cultural Variation in eye-movements during scene perception. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 102, 12629-12633.

## October 20: **Exam 1 (80 minutes)** Measuring Eye-Movements (Continue)

### **October 27: Measuring Emotion Perceptions**

1. \*Masuda, T., Wang, H., Ishii, K., & Ito, K. (2012). Do surrounding figures' emotions affect the judgment of target figure's emotion?: Comparing the patterns of eye-movement between European-Canadians, Asian-Canadians, Asian International Students, and Japanese. *Frontiers in Integrative Neuroscience*, 6:72. doi: 10.3389/fnint.2012.00072.
2. Ito, K., Masuda, T. & Li, M. –W. (2013). Agency and facial emotion judgment in context. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 39, 763-774.

### **November 3: Measuring Brain Activations**

1. \*Russell, M. J., Masuda, T., Hioki, K., & Singhal, A. (2018). Culture and neuroscience: How Japanese and European Canadians process social context in close and acquaintance relationships. *Social Neuroscience*. DOI:10.1080/17470919.2018.1511471.
2. Russell, M. J., Masuda, T., Hioki, K., & Singhal, A. (2015). Culture and social judgments: The importance of culture in Japanese and European Canadians' N400 and LPC processing of face lineup emotion judgments. *Culture and Brain*, 3(2), 131-147.

November 8-12: FALL SEMESTER READING WEEK BREAK

### **November 17: Collecting Data from Children/Teenagers**

1. Senzaki, S., Masuda, T., Takada, A., & Okada, H. (2016). The communication of culturally dominant modes of attention from parents to children: A comparison of Canadian and Japanese parent-child conversations during a joint scene description task. *PLoSOne* 11(1): e0147199.
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 24: 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 1: Exam 2 (2 hours)**

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

\*Targets of discussion topics; † Not available online

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

### **Academic Integrity:**

"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 Behaviour (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca)) and avoid any behaviour 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."

All forms of dishonesty are unacceptable at the University. Any offence will be reported to the Associate Dean of Science who will determine the disciplinary action to be taken. Cheating, plagiarism and misrepresentation of facts are serious offences. Anyone who engages in these practices will receive at minimum a grade of zero for the exam or paper in question and no opportunity will be given to replace the grade or redistribute the weights. As well, in the Faculty of Science, the sanction for **cheating** on any examination will include **a disciplinary failing grade (NO EXCEPTIONS)** and senior students should expect a period of suspension or expulsion from the University of Alberta.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the [Academic Integrity](#) resources (covering the topics of cheating, collaboration, plagiarism, and substantial assistance) on the website of the Office of the Dean of Students.

### **Exam Conduct:**

- Your student photo I.D. is required at exams to verify your identity.
- (Students will not be allowed to begin an examination after it has been in progress for 30 minutes. Students must remain in the exam room until at least 30 minutes has elapsed).
- (All cell phones must be turned off and stored in your bags)

### **Cell Phones:**

Cell phones are to be turned off during lectures, labs and seminars.

### **Students Eligible for Accessibility-Related Accommodations:**

Eligible students have both rights and responsibilities with regard to accessibility-related accommodations. Consequently, scheduling exam accommodations in accordance with [Accessibility Resources](#) deadlines and procedures is essential. Please note adherence to procedures and deadlines is required for U of A to provide accommodations. Contact [Accessibility Resources](#) for further information.

### **Recording and/or Distribution of Course Materials:**

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

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Policy about course outlines can be found in [Course Requirements, Evaluations Procedures and Grading](#) of the University Calendar.

### **Disclaimer:**

Any typographical errors in this Course Outline are subject to change and will be announced in class. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

### **Copyright:**

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