Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2018-2019

Cross-Cultural Psychology (H001993)

Course size

(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 4.0  Study time 120 h  Contact hrs 30.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 2)  English  lecture  30.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Fontaine, Johnny  PP09  lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

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Contact hrs 30.0 h

Study time 120 h

Credits 4.0

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

culture, behaviour

Position of the course

This course gives an introduction in the cultural variability of human behaviour. First, cultural differences and similarities in basic psychological processes are being presented, like in cognition, emotion and perception. Then various theoretical frameworks about culture-behaviour relationships are discussed. Finally, it is shown how insights from cross-cultural psychology can be applied in practice (e.g., in the multicultural society and diverse work contexts). This course contributes to insight into the role of psychological processes in our contemporary super-diverse society.

Contents

This educational component starts with a description of the domain of cross-cultural psychology. More specifically, the definitions of and the central theme's of debate in the research domain are presented. Next, we plumb the depths of the cross-cultural perspective for seven basic domains of psychological functioning, to wit: development, social behaviour, personality, cognition, language, emotion, and perception. For each of these domains, there is an initial brush-up of what has already been discussed in other components, in order to go deeper into the specific cross-cultural perspective. Each time, we present the current debate in these domains. The substantive overview of

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cross-cultural research findings and debates leads up to a higher level of abstraction that focuses on several models for the relations between behaviour and culture. Consecutively, we discuss the cultural-anthropological perspective, the evolutionary biological perspective, and the methodological bottlenecks of cross-cultural research. These discussions end up in an overarching theoretical frame of relations between culture and behaviour. To conclude, we apply the acquired knowledge to one domain of cultural diversity here in Belgium, that is, the acculturation of immigrants.

Initial competences
Final competences of the relevant Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

Final competences
1. Developing insight in similarities and differences between cultural groups in basic psychological processes (perception, cognition, emotion, language).
2. Developing insight in similarities and differences between cultural groups in development, social functioning, and personality.
3. Knowing and being able to critically reflect on the three main approaches in cross-cultural psychology (the cultural comparative, the cultural and the indigenous approach).
4. Being able to identify and deal with the methodological pitfalls of cross-cultural research.
5. Understand both the social and cultural anthropological as well as the evolutionary biological basis of cross-cultural psychology.
6. Knowing the basic principles of acculturation of immigrants as well as the multicultural orientations of receiving communities.

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in ‘Starting Competences’

Conditions for exam contract
Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods
Lecture

Learning materials and price
Estimated cost: 65 EUR

References

Course content-related study coaching
Support via Minerva. By appointment.

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
not applicable

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Extra information on the examination methods
   Written closed-book exam consisting of four open questions.
Calculation of the examination mark
   Periodic assessment (100 %)