

**Course Title:** Exploring Psychology in Western and Chinese Cultures

**Course Code:** BEH203/ GEC302

Recommended Study Year\*: First year / GE

No. of Credits/Term: 3

Mode of Tuition: Tutorial approach

Class Contact Hours: 3 hours per week

**Instructor:** Dr. Kevin H C CHENG (office: SO318; tel: 2616 7412; email: [chenghck@LN.edu.hk](mailto:chenghck@LN.edu.hk)) **URL:** [www.ln.edu.hk/socsp/staff/chenghck/](http://www.ln.edu.hk/socsp/staff/chenghck/)

**Brief Course Description:** Psychology provides a broad discipline studying behavior of humans and groups of human behavior in complex situations. This course provides liberal arts students with an avenue for increased self-understanding and behaviors of others. It introduces students to the scientific study of behavioral and mental processes, *with particular emphasis on the cross-cultural perspective of human behavior.*

**Teaching Method:** There are one 2-hour lecture and one 1-hour tutorial per week. In tutorials, students are asked to give presentations and comment on each other's presentations. Students are required to attend all tutorial classes. Grades will be deducted if fail to do so.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- ⇒ To understand basic psychological concepts in the context of culture difference between the East and the West.
- ⇒ To apply the concepts by reflecting on everyday experiences in an empirical and research oriented approach.
- ⇒ To identify and seek cultural difference between Western and Chinese Cultures
- ⇒ To discuss and express how cultural influences affect the way we think, feel, and behave

## Indicative Content:

Schedule	Preparations
Topic 1 – Introduction & Administrations	Berry, Ch. 1; Schaller & Crandall, Ch. 1
Topic 2 – The Developing Person	Myers, Ch. 3 & 4; Schaller & Crandall, Ch. 13
Topic 3 – Sensation and Perception	Myers, Ch. 5; Berry, Ch. 8
Topic 4 – Principles of Learning	Myers, Ch. 7
Topic 6 – Memory	Myers, Ch. 8
Topic 7 – Cognition	Myers, Ch. 9; Berry, Ch. 5; Lehman, Chiu, & Schaller, 2004
Topic 8 – Language	Myers, Ch. 9; Berry, Ch. 6
Topic 9 – Motivation	Myers, Ch. 10; Lehman, Chiu, & Schaller, 2004
Topic 10 – Emotion	Myers, Ch. 11; Berry, Ch. 7
Topic 11 – Personality	Myers, Ch. 12; Berry, Ch. 4
Topic 12 – Psychopathology	Myers, Ch. 13
Topic 13 – Psychotherapy, Health behavior & Revision	Myers, Ch. 14; Berry, Ch. 16; Diener et al., 2003

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### **Assessment of learning outcomes:**

⇒ Students' assessments are broken down into the following course works and final examination: Tutorial Participations (50%); Mid-term quiz (10%); Final Exam (40%)

- Tutorial Participations
  - Students will explore collective aspects of the syllabus in detail. This may include: self development, emotion, & memory. More will explain in the first tutorial (*in week 3*).
- Mid-term examination
  - The quiz will evenly examine all materials up to 16th October. The examination consists of 30 multiple-choice questions. The duration of the quiz is 90 minutes and it is held in the lecture hall on 23th October during normal lecture hour.
- End of term examination
  - The examination will cover mainly materials related to cross-cultural psychology. Students are required to provide answers in short-essay format. There will also be multiple choice questions.

⇒ Students' comprehension and synthesis of cross cultural psychology ideas are assessed in term papers, quiz and examination (refer to 1<sup>st</sup> bullet pt from the above)

⇒ Students' communication skills can be assessed by exploring collective aspects of the syllabus in detail. This may include: self development, emotion, cognition, personality, psychopathology and psychotherapy within the bounds of cultural meanings

⇒ Students' ability to think independently can be assessed by applying and discussing of psychology theories. Multi-media sources and supports are deployed

### ***Good practices:***

⇒ Students engage in independent work and cooperative activities with fellow students

⇒ Students have the awareness of choice in individual and group-level activities

⇒ Students have the awareness of individual differences across cultural boundaries

⇒ Students will become a participant in psychological experiments for topics such as: self-concept, social norms, emotions and the developing self.

**Required/Essential Readings:** Myers, D. G. (2005). Exploring Psychology (6th Edition) Worth Publishers.

**Recommended/Supplementary Readings:**

Berry, J. W., Poortinga, Y. H., Segall, M. H., & Dasen, P. R. (2002). Cross-Cultural Psychology: Research and Applications. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Diener, E., Oishi, S., & Lucas, R. E. (2003). Personality, Culture, and Subjective Well-Being: Emotional and Cognitive Evaluations of Life. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 54, 403-425.

Smith, P. B., & Bond, M. H. (2006). Understanding social psychological across cultures: living and working in a changing world. London: Sage.

Lehman, D. R., Chiu, C. Y., & Schaller, M. (2004). Psychology and Culture. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 55, 689-714.

Nisbett, R. (2003). The geography of thought: how Asians and Westerners think differently and why. London: Nicholas Brealey.

Schaller, M. & Crandall, C. S. (2004). The Psychological Foundations of Culture. New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum.

**Multimedia**

The Experiment by Oliver Hirschbiegel  
Gung Ho by Ron Howard  
Insomnia by Christopher Nolan  
Lost in Translation by Sofia Coppola  
Memento by Christopher Nolan  
Spider by David Cronenberg  
Crash by Paul Haggis  
Babel by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu