IOP 2204 **CROSS CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**Duration of the Course:** The course is 3 Credit Units providing 45 Contact Hours.

**Course Description:**

This will be a web based course offered by University of Minnesota Duluth, USA; Vaxjo University Sweden and Makerere University Uganda. 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.

**Course objectives:**

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

1. Understand the implications of culture for psychological principles.

2. Understand the qualitative and quantitative methodology of cross-cultural psychology.

3. Investigate basic psychological principles using a cultural prism.

4. Describe how formation of self and the group interactions are shaped by culture.

5. Understand how cross-cultural understanding can be applied in the workplace, therapy and health settings.

6. Learn how to work in culturally heterogeneous groups and with individuals from backgrounds that are different from one’s own.

**Course outline:**

**Module 1: Introduction**

Globalization and Diversity; Culture and Identity (Definitions of culture, Cultural values, Acculturation, Function of culture, Ethnocentrism, false uniqueness effect), and 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); and 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; and Human Resource Management (Selection, Motivation, Job evaluation)

**4. Teaching/delivery method**

In teaching the course, the following methods will be used Online files, videos and movies, independent study, group assignments, online discussions, and assignments and coursework.

**5. Learning outcomes**

**Knowledge and understanding** of concepts used in cross cultural psychology:

The students’ should be able to explain the concepts, and theories in cross cultural psychology. Learners will be to explain differences in health, organizational behavior, mental health and managerial behavior from a cross cultural perspective.

**Professional skills** will be imparted including the ability to conduct cross cultural assessments, They will be able to design interventions, to deal with psychosocial problems brought about by cultural contacts e.g., problems of immigrants, acculturation and humanitarian endeavors

**Regarding transferable skills:** The students will attain psychological assessment skills in a cross cultural context

**6. Assessment methods**

The course will be assessed using coursework/assignments. For example students will be a given a take home assignments be then individual or group assignments. Reading materials will be used and posted on the net. Participation will also be used to assess learning. Online projects, group projects and papers will also be used. Assessments will be done by instructors. Module exams will be dome. The Course work will take 30% and the exam will take 70%

**7. Learning resources**

The students will have access to text books, off line and online journals, Internet and departmental manuscripts to aid their learning; , web postings online videos, papers, files, movies, on line reading materials, internet based materials will be used

**8. Technology**

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.

**9. Indicative reading**

1. Bond, Smith & Kagitcibasi (2006). Understanding Social Psychology Across Cultures
2. Hoecklin, L. (1995). Managing Cultural Differences: Strategies for Competitive Advantage
3. Hofstede, G. & Pedersen, P. (2002). Exploring Culture: Exercises, Stories, and Synthetic Cultures
4. Hofstede, G. (2004). Cultures and Organizations: Software of the Mind
5. Matsumoto & Juang (2006) Culture and Psychology
6. Readings from the cross-cultural psychology website:
7. http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~culture/contents\_brief.htm
8. http://www.socialpsychology.org/cultural.htm#crosscultural