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Are Individuals the Same in the East and West? Cultural Differences in Social Psychological Processes

PROF. CLAUDIA MANZI

Area of study:	Sociology, Psychology and Law
Area Code:	PS/SO300
Method of Instruction:	In-person

Description

We live in a world defined by cultural diversity, and, thus, multicultural experiences and identities have become a regular component of many individuals' lives. Cultural psychology has uncovered that culture plays crucial roles in psychological processes: patterns of individual behaviour and underlying psychological processes are shaped within specific cultural contexts. The course aims to examine how topics fundamental to psychology—identity and social relations, the self, cognition, emotion and motivation, and development—are influenced by cultural meanings and practices. The goal is to explain the ways in which human cultural constructions organize and direct human acting, feeling, and thinking in different social contexts.

Prerequisites

A background in Social Psychology and Research Methods may prove helpful, but it is not compulsory.

Method of instruction

Lecture and Seminar

Course requirements

Students have to comply with the following requirements:

- Students are expected to regularly attend class sessions and actively contribute to in-class debate.
- Students are expected to study in advance the assigned course readings.
- Students will have to take two written exams: a mid-term test and a final test, at the end of the teaching period.
- Students are required to do a short presentation on a course-related topic.

The use of the mobile phone is not allowed during the class.

Credits

6 ECTS

Grading

Attendance and class participation	20% of final grade
Group assignments + class presentation	20% of final grade
Midterm test	30% of final grade



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Final written exam

30% of the final grade

Course readings and materials

All the readings will be available in a course pack and the lecturer's slides will be available on Blackboard.

Instructor bio

Prof. Claudia Manzi is Full Professor of Social Psychology at the Catholic University of Milan. Her research focuses on how people develop their identity in different cultural context. She is part of several international research teams on psychosocial cross-cultural studies.

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