PSYCHOLOGY 394
Research with Diverse Populations:
Human Diversity in a Socio-cultural Context
Fall, 2007  Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Instructor: Olga Reyes, Ph.D.

Olga Reyes (olga@uic.edu), 1050D, 3-2627  TA: Ashmeet Oberoi (aobero3@uic.edu)
Office hours: By appt  Office hours: TBA

READINGS: Posted on Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on the multiple roles of the social and cultural context that affect the expression of human diversity. Diversity is considered broadly to include experiences of a variety of ethnic, cultural and racial groups, as well as others whose lifestyle or traditions differ from those of the “mainstream majority”. In addition, we will also consider the ways that the cultural and socio-political circumstances of “majority” groups shape such groups’ experience.

FORMAT: The course is designed to expose students to “book knowledge” as well as “practical knowledge.” “Practical knowledge” will be gained through presenters who work with some of the groups on which we will focus. The purpose of combining book and practical knowledge is to help students gain an appreciation for the needs and circumstances of different groups and the specific considerations that researchers must make in working with different groups. The course format is also designed to provide guidance and help students think about and prepare for the class assignment (paper, see below).

GRADING:

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<tr>
<th>% Grade</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>25%</td>
<td>1. Participation (NOTE: This course requirement counts for more than the paper/presentation and final exam requirements!): Participation means self-motivated, regular, and thoughtful in-class contributions that demonstrate your mastery of the readings (scientific observations and thoughts, not just unfounded opinions). Participation reflects in-class comments and questions, not simply class attendance or coming to class on time, which are assumed. One important index of your participation will be how involved you are with site visits, in the form of relevant questions and comments to your site. These questions and comments must derive from what you’ve read in that week’s readings. Also, your comments and questions should be designed to obtain information to help you in developing your project idea. The importance of expressing ideas orally is often overlooked, but it is essential for success. You will receive a weekly grade for participation.</td>
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Tips for forming good comments/questions based on the readings:

(a) Know the main points of the article. If the article describes an empirical study, be sure to summarize the most important predictions, methodology, main findings, and conclusions.
(b) If the article is a theoretical piece, know the main premise and basic argument, as well as evidence used to support the thesis. For any article, critically analyze the work—that is, add your own thoughts about the work and how you think it is relevant to the class.
(c) If you don't understand something about a reading, ASK!
(d) To do any of the above, you must must must have taken notes on the readings. This will come in handy when you are assigned questions to answer in class and also for the final exam.

25% 2. **Paper:** By the 3rd week of class, students must identify their paper topic from the following list:

1. Latinos
2. African Americans
3. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender individuals
4. Religious minorities
5. Elderly
6. Disability
7. Gender

For your paper, you will develop a research proposal focusing on your group of interest. This could be a basic research study or an intervention study. The point of this exercise is much much much less about designing an original landmark study and much much much more about a design that takes into account the unique needs and issues relevant to your target group. That is, for example, if your target group is African American men, your research proposal should reflect your understanding of their unique needs and how you would need to approach and work with them. Do you use white women to recruit them? Why? Why not? If you do, is there any special kind of training your recruiters should have? This project should result in a paper and a presentation to the class. The assignment itself is to

**Paper (Due TUESDAY 11-27-07)** Your paper is written up in the format of a research proposal and contains the following sections:

(a) **Introduction** (3-4 pages): State the target problem, which should be directly relevant to the group you selected to focus on. Conclude your introduction with the research questions you would hope to answer with your study. Hypotheses are not required, but you are welcome to offer some.

(b) **Method** (5-8 pages): This section is a very important part of your paper and will be the part that reflects what you’ve learned about research with diverse groups and how you are applying this knowledge with your specific group. Here, you outline how you would conduct your research in the ideal world. How would you recruit participants from your particular group? Where would you find them? How would you compensate them for participating in your research? What measures would you use? Are they valid and appropriate for use with your group? Is your overall approach to your proposed research project sensitive to the unique needs of your group?

50% 3. **Exams**

25% a. **Open-Book First Exam**

25% b. **Open-Book Second Exam**
There will be two open-book exams worth 25% of your grade each. These will be composed mainly of essay questions covering information from readings, class discussion, and class reports. ‘Open book’ is not a cue for you not to study—in fact, open book exams are often regarded as more difficult than closed-book exams. My purpose in telling you this is to prompt you NOT to busy yourself with details for memorizing, but for you to appreciate broader picture issues. So when you read, take larger-picture notes rather than getting caught up in definitions or memorizing statistics.
Course Schedule

Week

1  8-28-07 TUESDAY
   Course Overview & Introduction

   8-30-07 THURSDAY
   TBA

2  9-4-07 TUESDAY
   TBA

   9-6-07 THURSDAY Discussion

3  9-11-07 TUESDAY Multicultural Research
   APA Guidelines for Multicultural Research:
   http://www.apa.org/pi/multiculturalguidelines/preface.html

   9-13-07 THURSDAY Approaches to the Study of Diversity
   1. Chapter 1, Human Diversity. Trickett, Watts, & Birman, Toward an overarching
      framework for diversity.
   2. Chapter 2, Human Diversity. Jones. (1990). Our similarities are different:
      Toward a psychology of affirmative diversity.

4  9-18-07 TUESDAY Approaches to the Study of Diversity
   1. Chapter 1, Human Diversity. Trickett, Watts, & Birman, Toward an overarching
      framework for diversity.
   2. Chapter 2, Human Diversity. Jones. (1990). Our similarities are different:
      Toward a psychology of affirmative diversity.

9-20-07 THURSDAY Gender
      methodology in feminist psychology: Critique, Proposal, empirical example.
      Psychology of Women Quarterly, 16, 145-163.

5  9-25-07 TUESDAY Gender
      and findings. Annals New York Academy of Sciences, 1087, 178-205.

**9-27-07 THURSDAY Presenter:** Apna Ghar, Domestic Violence Shelter

**6 10-2-07 TUESDAY Latinos**

**10-4-07 THURSDAY Latinos**

**7 10-9-07 TUESDAY: PRESENTER ON IMMIGRATION**

**10-11-07 Mid-Term Exam**

**8 10-16-07 TUESDAY African-Americans in America**

**10-18-07 THURSDAY**

**9 10-23-07 TUESDAY Religion & Politics**

10-25-07 THURSDAY Presenters: Interfaith Youth Core, Cassie Meyer

10 10-30-07 TUESDAY Sexual Orientation

11-1-07 THURSDAY Sexual Orientation:
Presenter: Howard Brown Memorial Clinica, Blasé Masini

11 11-6-07 TUESDAY: Sexual Orientation:

11-8-07 THURSDAY The Elderly in America

12 11-13-07 TUESDAY The Elderly in America

11-15-07 THURSDAY: Presenter: Tom Proschaska, Ph.D.
Professor, Division of Community Health Sciences, School of Public Health
Co-Director of the Center for Research on Health and Aging at the Institute for Health Research and Policy at the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC).

13 11-20-07 TUESDAY Disability

11-22-07 NO CLASS

14 11-27-07 TUESDAY DISABILITY Paper is Due Today

11-29-07 THURSDAY BEING MAJORITY IN A MINORITY WORLD

15 12-4-07 TUESDAY WRAP-UP

12-6-07 THURSDAY 2ND EXAM