



PSYC 300 - Experiencing Multicultural Psychology “My Story!” Course Syllabus Spring Semester 2023

Instructor: John Lawrence Dennis, PhD

Credits: 1

Contact Hours: 15

Prerequisites: None

Class Meeting Days & Time:

Jan 26 at 1930	(Meet at the Fountain)
Feb 6 at 1745	(Umbra Kitchen)
Feb 20 at 1730	(Umbra Kitchen)
Mar 20 at 1730	(Umbra Kitchen)
Mar 24-25	(MPP Capstone)
Apr 3 at 1730	(Umbra Library)
Apr 18 at 1930	(Meet at the Fountain)

Office Hours: By appointment, use the link: (<https://calendly.com/drjohndennis/10min-meeting>) or before/after class.

Course Type: MPP program core course

Course Fee: included in MPP program fee

Course Description

In this mandatory one-credit course, students in the Multicultural Psychology Program (MPP) engage in a series of experiential learning activities designed to complement their coursework. Activities and related assignments are designed to give students hands-on experiences through which they can witness ideas being put into practice. This semester we're going to have 4 workshops by researchers who will discuss what their story - i.e., The combination of on-the-ground activities (i.e., MPP Volunteer) combined with critical reflection on their experiences gives students in the MPP opportunities to participate in co-curricular activities (with University of Perugia students) through which key topics and concepts are related to practical and applied situations and to engage in community-based learning (i.e., MPP Volunteer) and similar field experiences (i.e., MPP Capstone) that connect classroom learning to real world problem-solving.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

Below are the course's learning outcomes, followed by the methods that will be used to assess students' achievement for each learning outcome. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- *identify and describe* multicultural psychology (MPP Workshops, MPP Volunteer);
- *experience* multicultural psychology (MPP Workshops, MPP Volunteer);
- *analyze* multicultural psychology (PhotoVoice, Podcast, MPP Volunteer);
- *integrate* multicultural psychology (PhotoVoice, Podcast)

Course Materials

Readings

A course reader, including all the indicated readings, will be available. The course's Moodle site is the primary location for readings and assignments.

Assessments

Attendance & Active Participation	30%
MPP Volunteer	30%
PhotoVoice	20%
Podcast	20%

Grading

Students are reminded that it is their responsibility to note the dates of exams and other assignments. No alternative exam dates will be offered and professors are not required to give partial credit for any late work (they do so at their discretion: the Institute's default policy is no extensions and a zero for any work turned in late). Students who book travel when they have an exam or other assessment will have to change their plans or accept a zero. Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

Letter Range	Grade	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A		93% - 100%	Exceptional
A-		90% - 92%	Excellent
B+		87% - 89%	Superior
B		83% - 86%	
B-		80% - 82%	
C+		77% - 79%	Satisfactory
C		73% - 76%	
C-		70% - 72%	
D+		67% - 69%	Low Pass
D		63% - 66%	
D-		60% - 62%	
F		59% or less	Fail (no credit)

Please note: decimal numerals between 1-4 are rounded down while 5-9 are rounded up: e.g., expect 89.4 to be 89.0 while 89.5 to round up to 90.

Course Requirements

Grades are based on the following criteria.

Attendance and Active Participation (30%)

Attendance is mandatory. There are four workshops, volunteering, an overnight field trip, and an opening and closing meeting. Students are expected to come to meetings, punctually, and prepared to contribute to these discussions.

Volunteering (30%)

Students will be paired with Umbra volunteering efforts, where students will apply what they are learning in the classes to these real-life Perugia contexts. During the course of the semester, students are responsible for completing 3 hours of volunteer activities. You will meet with Manuel Barbato at the beginning of the semester to plan your volunteering schedule.

PhotoVoice (20%)

Students will construct a PhotoVoice journal throughout the semester based on Workshops, Volunteering and all other activities.

Podcast (20%)

Students will be formed into groups and will create a single podcast based on workshops and activities that will be due at the end of the semester.

Extension & Submitting Late Work

Work submitted after the deadline will receive a grade of zero, not partial credit. Each student is allowed one extension of 24 hours over the entire semester. This can be used for any assignment but the final project. Students need to email the instructor before the deadline and inform the instructor of their use of the extension. Any work submitted after the 24-hour extension will be marked zero.

As for all policies, exceptions can be made by the Director for students with special accommodations or in case of medical emergencies, etc.

Attendance & Lateness Policy

Class attendance (in person) is mandatory. Because this is a one-credit course with limited class meetings, students are allowed one “free” absence, which does not need to be justified. However, it is considered common courtesy to inform the instructor of your absence when possible. It is the students’ responsibility to keep them in case of real necessity (sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class).

More than 1 absence will affect your final grade by 10% per absence. Excessive unexcused absences (4 or more) may result in a failing grade or disciplinary action. Three late arrivals to or early departures from class will count as an unexcused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the number of absences or late arrivals for each course, and to ask the instructor when in doubt.

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. Any work missed in class because of an excused absence may be made up within one week of the return to the class. Any work missed that was a quiz or other test must be made up outside of class time and will, in the interest of intellectual honesty, be a slightly different test than the one given in class.

Presence during the capstone field trip is especially important. Missing this field trip, unless for a very serious reason that is communicated to Umbra staff in a timely manner, will be considered the equivalent of two unexcused absences. As such, absence from the co-curricular field trip will lower students’ final grade in that course by 20% (the equivalent of two unexcused absences).

Additional absences relating to illness may be approved by the Director but only if a medical certification is provided. Except in the case of medical emergencies, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason. Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

Academic Integrity

All forms of cheating (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and plagiarism (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

Classroom Policy

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate respect for the historical premises that the school occupies. Please note that cell phones must be set on silent mode before the beginning of each class. Computers and other electronic devices cannot be used during class lectures and discussions for anything other than note-taking, unless there has been a specific academic accommodation.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

WEEK 1

Welcome Orientation Meeting and Aperitivo

with John L. Dennis

Jan 26 at 1730 at the Fountain to walk together to Indigo Art Gallery & Café

PhotoVoice #1

WEEK 3

Workshop: My story!

with Giovanni Fumagli

Feb 6 at 1730

PhotoVoice #2

WEEK 5

Workshop: My story!

with Michele Capurso

Feb 20 at 1730

PhotoVoice #3

Semester Break

WEEK 8

Workshop: My story!

with Filippo Sposini

Mar 20 at 1730

PhotoVoice #4

Overnight MPP Capstone to Reggio Emilia and Florence

With John L. Dennis

Mar 24-25

Important Note: You will receive the itinerary at the beginning of the week

PhotoVoice #5

WEEK 10

Workshop: My story!

With John L. Dennis

Apr 3 at 1730

PhotoVoice #6

WEEK 12

End-of-Semester Reflective Workshop & Farewell Dinner

With John L. Dennis

Apr 18 at 7:00pm at the Fountain to walk together to Numero 0 Restaurant

PhotoVoice #7

Last week—hand in podcast