

WorldView Activities- Personality and Gender

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1) Introduction to the course research component- This is an introductory piece about the SCIENCE of Psychology that occurs during the first and second weeks in the course. The basic concepts in rigorous research will be explored. Notably, how research can vary from the lack of imposed control in Naturalistic Observation to the more tightly controlled experimental designs.

Instructional Methodology:

Using Video about a Culture wide “Personality Test” (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzS_k2_fdpk) that was executed on a national scale in Britain, variables about culture, class, personality, early experience and gender will be introduced. Note: At this time, specifics about culture, class, gender, and early experience will not be explored in detail. At this point in the course, in the RESEARCH section, just the concepts of UNIVERSALITY and VARIABILITY, as determined through research is to be introduced.

The students will receive a 50minute, hands on presentation about how to utilize academic search engines to locate relevant articles in all topics within psychology, and then instructing the students to look for culturally specific information relative to China, Japan, Africa and the Middle East.

Emphasis will be placed on three things:

- 1) How perceived (or even assumed) similarities and variables may shape human thinking and behavior.
- 2) What we see in a predominantly Caucasian, Western European Culture can be very similar to, and very different from what we see in other cultures: Notably African, Asian (Japan and China), Southeast Asian, South American, and even the US and Canadian.
- 3) How to use academic search engines to locate quality, peer reviewed research articles.

The Assignment for this section of the course focuses on basic research and Writing. See Research and Writing Assignment ONE.

2) Setting the stage, Expanding Point of View – Looking at Concepts like Gender, Psychological Development, Personality Structure AND Research in a GLOBAL Context.

In the Course Section on Psychological Development, there are several sets of concepts that need to be introduced and placed in GLOBAL context. Developmental theories whether about Gender Roles, Cognitive development, Social/Emotional Development or Personality Development were ALL initially formulated on a White, Eurocentric, male perspective.

Instructional Methodology:

Overview of Psychological Development-

Portions of the documentary, Babies, will be shown. This will give students an idea about how the first year of life can be different than, and similar to what we may experience in the “home” culture. This also creates a terrific opportunity to define what “home culture” is...and how many cultural “homes” there are. I have purchased the documentary but here is a trailer:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vupEpNiCuY>

Lecture overview of psychological development will follow with prompts for the students to “think outside the Western Theory box” about how aspects of development may look, and can be researched in other cultures.

Gender –

Short videos will be presented followed by directed discussion about how gender is viewed in different cultures.

A particularly useful video, Gender & Disney will introduce the material because the examples are so accessible for American college students.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8O8p0Ac1Rg&playnext=1&list=PL8678724C4DBB8660&feature=related> This video also allows us to look at both gender and the ethnocentrism of USA media. This is a very “telling” video in that even characters who are non-western (Mulan, Pocahontas, Jasmine) are shoved through a western “Disney” filter.

Achilles Effect: Boys, Pop Culture and Gender <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kcq0G4jSFSk> (USA)

Gender, Culture and Religion in Asia, Africa and Latin America **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

And Portions of Gender, Caste and Culture <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-W2sGC5vDE>

Emphasis will be placed on the following things:

1) Development of an understanding of what may be universal (all people , all the time, everywhere – the “Nature” piece- about human psychological development, and what may be the product of culture and learning. Gender, aspects of Personality structure that may be more EXPRESSED / VALUED in different cultures; the “Nurture” piece.

2) Developing students’ abilities to observe and articulate differences and develop the basic “compare and contrast” modes of thinking when exposed to material produced in different cultural settings . Specific settings include India, Jordan, Mali, Africa, India and Asia the United

States. Care will be taken to make sure students don’t “lump” cultures together. For Example: a “one size fits all” model of the Middle-East is not workable.

3) Personality Structure and Research in a Global Context- Is the Five Factor/Big Five Theory of Personality Development Culturally Universal?

In this section we will examine The Big Five or Five Factor Model of Personality Structure. This theory has generally been regarded as one where the five traits, Openness, Conscientiousness, Extroversion, Agreeableness, and (Non) Neuroticism (O.C.E.A.N or C.A.N.O.E.), are believed to be valued in all Moreover, that from an evolutionary perspective, we have selected for the presence of these traits on a biological/genetic level. The influence of CULTURE and Gender roles on the EXPRESSION of these traits has not been as well researched across different Global environments, however.

The goal of this module will be for students to examine their own Personality Trait Structure and then to COMPARE and CONTRAST their assessment with at least ONE other Big Five or Five Factor study that has been conducted in Europe, China, Japan, Saharan Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa or Central or South America.

Instructional Methodology:

Present the following Two Videos which focus on “Big Five” theory and a nationwide Personality Testing Research project successfully conducted in the Great Britain (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).

The Big Personality Test BBC Child of Our Time Intro (Part 1 of 6)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzS_k2_fdpk (used as intro to research piece and recap at this point in the course. I will encourage the classes to view ALL SIX PARTS, this study is fascinating and the presentation is quite engaging.)

The next video focuses on what the “Big Five” Theory is and how those traits can be differentially expressed. See minute markers for salient segments.

Psychology – Personality Traits and Assessment -1. Avi <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0l3y-BMZ4TU&feature=related> nice distinction between Shared human traits and individual differences. @23:00 EXCELLENT chart on GENDER DIFFERENCES (very Western European American slant for presentation though) @44:00 MAP OF BRITAIN with Trait Differences BY CITY... And at 46:42 there is a Personality in Everyday Life section.

If Time permits, I may use this short video to demonstrate how even conceptual language changes across cultural boundaries.

Personality Assessment CB5 C.A.N.O.E. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXwJgsNXeMU>

After the students have watched the videos, a directed discussion will take place exploring gender and even regional differences when looking at this well regarded Theory of Personality Structure.

At this point the Research and Writing Assignment Number Two (See attachments) will be reviewed and the students will have one week to complete the tasks in that assignment.

Emphasis will be placed on the following:

- 1) The challenge will be to bring the materials on Research and Cultural Development Forward to compare and contrast these Big Five Traits across cultures and ethnicities.
- 2) To challenge students to think critically about their cultural assumption and about the similarities and differences in broad categories of human experience.
- 3) The assessment of how thoroughly this was accomplished shall be in the evaluation of the Research and Writing Assignment Two- Comparing and Contrasting Personality Expression across Cultures in Asia, Africa, Europe, Central and South America and the student's "home" culture.

Research and Writing Assignments – 100 Level Courses

Brief Assignment ONE- Fifty Points- Research 101

Select a topic from the first section of the course that interests YOU (Chapters or 2 ONLY). Conduct an internet search for THREE “articles” or websites that relate to the topic you have selected. The articles must expand upon what is presented in the text. ONLY ONE website can be a “dot com” type website (try for .org, .gov and .edu sites). The other two references **MUST be scholarly articles** from peer reviewed academic journals (use an academic search engine such as Academic Search Premier). You cannot use Wikipedia OR ANY OTHER user generated, non-scholarly reference for ANY work in this course.

For each of the references you have located do the following:

1. Write a 150 word ABSTRACT (a combination of preview and explanation of the material in an article) about the article IN YOUR OWN WORDS. Your “abstract” needs to describe what is presented in the article.
2. At the end of EACH of your Abstracts, present the FULL REFERENCE for the article in APA format (FYI, this document to this point is 163 words excluding this parenthetical statement).

Submit the ENTIRE set of three ABSTRACTS as one document (Make sure ALL THREE of your Abstracts are in ONE Document – a page a piece should work) through the Assignment Link in Model.

Research and Writing Assignment TWO- 50 points –Who Are You? Who are “They?”

The goal of this module will be to examine your own Personality Trait Structure and then to COMPARE and CONTRAST your assessment results with at least ONE other Big Five or Five Factor Personality study that has been conducted in Europe, China, Japan, Saharan Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa or Central or South America

- 1) Examine a list of Personality/Character Trait Adjectives provided and circle the ones, both DESIREABLE and UNDESIREABLE, that best fit you. Circle no less than FOUR traits and no more than SIX traits.
- 2.) Go on the Internet and locate a website where you can take a FREE version of a Big Five Personality Trait Assessment (Your instructor will review possible options in class). After you have completed your assessment, look at the traits you circled and see which of the Five Factor Traits under which your traits fall. While you are doing this, I would ask you to QUESTION whether your opinions and assessment results are more and expression of “core” personality or what your “home” culture values (based on things like ethnicity, gender, social class, etc.). This is the “introspection” piece where you look at yourself as an expression, perhaps, of what your home culture values.

3.). After you have done your self assessment, locate ONE article in the scholarly press on the Big Five (or Five Factor) Theory of personality and results that have been obtained with this assessment in ONE of the following cultures: Egyptian, Jordanian, Saudi, Iranian (or any of the Arab based cultures in the Middle East) or Pakistani cultures, China, Japan, Southeast Asian, African- Sub-Saharan – cultures, or South American settings, particularly Brazilian or Peruvian Cultures. You can look at either urban or rural cultures in any of these areas and I would encourage you to look for articles highlighting gender, class and education differences. Finally, look at your results and ask this question: Would my “core” personality be valued, or devalued in the culture I’ve researched?

4).When you have completed your introspection and research, write a 300ord essay comparing your results to the results indicated in the culture you researched. Contrast what your “home” culture values compared to the culture you researched; what is similar and what is different?

Your essay should include references from 3 sources: your textbook, your test results and your research article from the culture you selected. You may also reference information from the videos shown in class.

Submit the ENTIRE document through the Assignment Link in Moodle.

Research and Writing Assignment THREE- 50 points- Arguing both sides, EQUALLY!

Pick a controversial topic *in psychology*. That isn’t too hard at all – here is an example: “Attention Deficit Disorder isn’t a real disorder.” Here is another: “Counseling is a waste of money and time”. And a third: “Pot is a harmless weed”. After you’ve found something controversial (and you can’t use the three examples I just gave you.) do the following.

1. Locate **TWO** articles on the subject from TWO DIFFERENT SOURCES. One article needs to present a researched “pro” of the controversy and the second needs to present a researched “con” (or “for” and “against”). Warning: if you go to a “pros and cons” website, you will receive a “0” for the assignment.

2. Present a SUMMARIZATION (about 150 words each) of the two articles and the controversy in the form of two lengthy paragraphs (like your 150 word abstracts). After this write your own summarization and conclusion about what YOU think is perpetuating the controversy. I DO NOT want your unsupported judgments or opinions; use the data your have found and discuss this controversy...

3. Make sure that you LEAVE YOUR BIASES OUT OF THE PICTURE. If by the end of your presentation, I have a sense that you are advocating one “side” or the other, you will fail the paper. The successful paper will present BOTH sides of the issue using a QUALITY references to back the positions. A quality reference is one where legitimately derived DATA is used to

support a conclusion. As in the first assignment, your paper and references need to be in complete APA format.

Submit the completed paper in through Moodle.

CAUTION!!!! Your “controversy” paper needs to be about a controversy in PSYCHOLOGY. I will not accept sociopolitical, culture war nonsense as acceptable controversy. DO NOT submit papers on Abortion, Marriage Equality, Gun Control, or any of the myriad issues that clog up the internet. If you submit on one of these topics YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO for the assignment. If you are UNSURE whether the topic you are considering is a controversy in PSYCHOLOGY, PLEASE ASK and save a disappointment if you have selected imprudently.