HP 329 Psychology in the Asian Context

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Objectives:

It is now commonly understood that human behavior is intimately embedded within the context of culture of the geographic and historical time of the individual. The present module aims at (1) introducing theoretical and empirical studies of human behaviors in Asia, of people with Asian cultural heritage and in the context of Asian culture. Students are to learn to appreciate (2) the culture-human behavior relationships, major theories of culture, and the different approaches employed to investigate the culture-human behavior relationship. These theories and approaches will be used to (3) understand and to explore psychological processes and human behaviors in the context of modern Asian cultural communities.

Readings:
There will be no major textbook for this module. There will be a collection of readings consisting of important key articles and book chapters that provide the background for the topics listed in the syllabus.

Syllabus:

II. Major approaches to culture behavior relationships: cross-cultural, cultural and indigenous psychology approaches.
III. Ways of approaching culture: the dimensional approach, the holistic approach; the anthropological approach and the cultural psychology approach.
IV. Cultures of Modern Asia: multilingual, multicultural and dynamic.
V. Where it all begins: the Developmental Niche
VI. The culture behavior connection: human development, enculturation and acculturation.
VII. Parents and parenting as culture conduits.
VIII. The construction and development of the self
IX. Achievement and Achievement motivation, and goals.
X. Autonomy and control in different cultural contexts.
XI. Positive emotions, life satisfaction, resilience and subjective wellbeing
XII. Negative emotions: depression, anxiety, and fear.
XIII. Relationships, family and collectives.
Module Requirements:

I. Continuing Assessment: 50% of Marks
   Students are to conduct a series of five small projects designed to appreciate the cultural psychology approach and with which to explore such psychological processes/constructs: (1) Self, (2) Developmental Niche, (3) Parenting philosophies and parental goals, (3) Socially Oriented and Individually Oriented Achievement Motivations and Goals, (4) What makes you happy and satisfied with life, and (5) What is true “love” to you? Each project will cover two tutorials. The students are briefed on what to do for each project at the first of the two tutorials and go home to collect data. Results will be presented and discussed on the second tutorial. A two-page report is required for each student for each project with 10 Marks for each project.

Final Examination: 50% of Marks
   There will be a final examination. Two hours closed book examination with mainly essay questions.