



Health Psychology: A Cultural Approach (PSY 255 Health Psychology)

By Regan A.R. Gurung

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With a conversational style that conveys the excitement, research base, and real-world applications of the field, Regan A. R. Gurung introduces students to health psychology with an integrated cultural perspective. Starting with a description of the biological, psychological, and sociological factors that determine who we are, the text examines cultural differences in major health behaviors and health, achieving the commendable goal of being comprehensive yet extremely accessible. Gurung focuses on key determinants of behavior, such as family, ethnicity, and religion, which are not always highlighted in health psychology books. Packed with the most up-to-date citations available, this book combines issues "ripped from the headlines" with the classic issues of the field. A range of vivid examples from different cultural groups provides students with a comprehensive description of the basic theories in health psychology as well as an overview of cutting-edge research in the field. Special sections highlighting clinical applications of basic theories, strong doses of personality and social psychological theories, and chapters exclusively devoted to variations in cultural beliefs, human development, and different diseases, combine to give readers the best of many worlds.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Students will find a user-friendly textbook that addresses areas of critical importance in both the field of health psychology and in the life of the typical U.S. college student...This will be more accessible to my students than my current text. It will also help students to gain a more global perspective on critical issues in health and health psychology."

"...Instructors now have a textbook to reach into the cultural factors impacting health while remaining true to the roots of psychological theory and practice."

"This is a book that encourages a new level of cultural literacy in students of health psychology. ...The author takes readers on a ...journey of questions and answers about the myriad ways in which culture and health interrelate."

About the Author

Regan A. R. Gurung is the chair of the psychology department at the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay. His research interests include stress and coping, changing health behaviors, and the media and health. He currently teaches courses in health psychology and culture, development, and health and has published widely in journals such as Psychological Review. Gurung has won several teaching awards, most recently the University of Wisconsin Green Bay's 2004 Founders Association Award for Excellence.

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