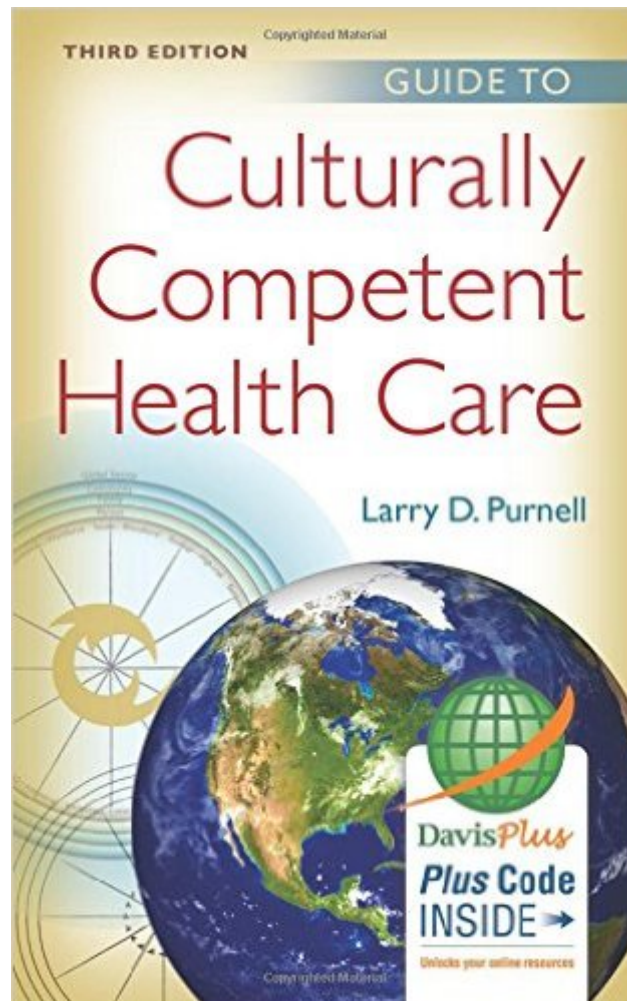


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# Guide To Culturally Competent Health Care



## Synopsis

Be prepared for the culturally rich and diverse world of healthcare! This concise, easy-to-read handbook prepares you to relate to individuals from different cultures. Use it in class and clinical now and as a reference throughout your career. The Purnell Model is your guide as you explore 34 different cultures and the issues that you need to be sensitive to including cultural variations regarding personal space, dietary preferences, communication, symptom management, activities of daily living, and religious and health practices.

## Book Information

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: F.A. Davis Company; 3 edition (May 19, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0803639627

ISBN-13: 978-0803639621

Product Dimensions: 4.5 x 1 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (42 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #29,840 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Doctor-Patient Relations](#) #11 in [Books > Medical Books > Nursing > Patient Education](#) #21 in [Books > Medical Books > Nursing > Issues, Trends & Roles](#)

## Customer Reviews

I felt that this book had a tendency to make very subjective, generalized, unsupported assumptions. I offer an example: in the chapter about Mexicans, it says something to the effect of: being overweight is viewed as a good quality in Mexican culture. Ok, we know that there does tend to be widespread obesity among Mexican populations, but how do you come to the conclusion that being overweight is a desirable state among Mexican people? I am a Mexican American and I have never known a single Mexican person who viewed being overweight as a coveted position. I would not advise taking this book as gospel truth. Exercise caution when referencing this book in the clinical setting.

This book contains numerous archaic and very questionable cultural stereotypes with unacceptable evidence behind the cultural descriptions presented. In many chapters, the only cited resource behind these assertions is a book the author himself previously published. There are no

footnotes assigned to the plethora of bizarre and sweeping statements about various "heritages." I was left wondering how the author knew that the Amish eat cookies of "about 3 inches in diameter" (p.42) or why the author believes the modern African-American community largely respects/values "voodoo doctors" (p.35). Another strange claim made is that people from Appalachia feed their babies grease, sugar, and coffee (p.55). If we're to believe Purnell, Mexicans are generally not punctual (p.294) and see being overweight as positive (p.296). These are but a few of MANY dubious claims with insufficient sources cited to back them up. If you have to use this book in a class, think critically before accepting any unsupported assertions made in this book. Otherwise, you might find yourself delivering culturally incompetent health care in the real world.

It is imperative that health care professionals understand the importance of being culturally competent to provide appropriate holistic care. This book provides a great overview of the major cultures we see in the country and provides a good perspective of how patients feel and see health. To be good advocates for our patients we must know how to approach them and respect their beliefs.

A very, very broad overview. I had to buy it for a class. Would never have bought it on my own. I have a degree in Anthropology, I personally would go with Peter Burke in examining the meaning of culture and Michel Foucault for the nuances of the health care system.

This book is ridiculous... I'm not one to burn literature but this is offensive to me. I am being forced to read this book to gain some "cultural perspective" in nursing school, and I am given a book with BULLET POINT STEREOTYPES summing up diverse cultures into outlandish cliches. There is nothing in this book to teach you valid or useful communication skills with people who are culturally different than you or how to be sensitive to those differences. Instead you're just blasted with stereotypes that will inevitably get in the way of individuals appreciating and respecting individuals. The entire chapter on African Americans utilized only two references, one was another one of Larry D. Purnell's (the Author) book, and the other was a 12 page portion of a nursing journal dealing specifically with end of life directives that was WRITTEN IN 2000. And somehow using that information he comes up with no less than 17 pages of racist bullet points... the only thing I'm learning is that our culture needs to get this s\*\*\* out of our colleges...

I really like this book. Understanding cultural diversity is a natural part of holistic nursing. This book

is small enough to take to work, yet each entry is packed with useful information.

Required book, but was sent super fast! This book narrows down whatever culture you are studying in nursing school.

Its a textbook... I can't say as I am in love with the fact that I have to read it, but it is very informative, well written, concise and the condition of the book was perfect.

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