

**THE PSYCHOLOGY OF STEREOTYPING AND PREJUDICE**  
**TUESDAYS 10.40-12.35, THURSDAYS 11.45-12.35, PSYCH 151**

**Instructor:** Dr. Kate A. Ratliff      **Office:** Psych 222      **Contact:** ratliff@ufl.edu

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses on the social psychology of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. In other words, we will examine beliefs about members of social groups (stereotypes), evaluations of group members (prejudice), and behaviors toward members of social groups based on their group membership (discrimination). Also, we will study how these issues shape the experiences of social group members, especially when they are members of low-status and/or minority groups. Rather than relying on anecdotal evidence or cultural or lay beliefs to address these issues, we will examine theories of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination through empirical research findings.

### **COURSE GOALS**

1. Students will develop an in-depth and integrative understanding of how approaching stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination from a social-psychological perspective improves our understanding of intergroup relations and human behavior.
2. The course will highlight the value of thinking about politically sensitive issues from a scientific perspective. The purpose of this class is to engage thinking about stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination, not to proselytize others to a particular worldview.
3. This course will help students identify and understand how psychological processes affect human behavior between members of different groups in the real world. In other words, the application of findings and theories should help students “make sense” of why people do the things they do. These insights should help students better understand the events they see in the news, with their friends, in their families, and within their communities.

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

- Whitley & Kite (2010). The psychology of prejudice and discrimination, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.
- McClure & Harris (2015). Getting real about race, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition.

### **LET'S TALK**

I am happy to answer your questions. You can come to my office hours (Thursdays, 12-1pm). You can send me an email. If you email me a question that requires an elaborate answer, don't be surprised if I ask you to come to my office hours. Please allow at least 24 hours for a response to your email. Include “SOP 4704” in the subject line. You can contact me to schedule a different appointment time, but I ask that you only do so if you absolutely cannot attend office hours. Please check the syllabus before emailing with questions about course policy.

## **COURSE ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Because much of the work for the class will take place during in-class discussions, you are strongly encouraged to attend class. The material that we cover in class will not be redundant with what is in the course readings, and will be on the exams. If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes and other information that you missed from a classmate – I will not provide them to you. To encourage regular attendance, I will add one point to your final grade if you miss two or fewer class meetings.

Meaningful, in-depth discussion is critical to this seminar and students are expected to be engaged and to participate fully. Please keep in mind that sensitivity is important. Science tolerates and critically evaluates all points of view when they are advanced with sensitivity for those who do not share them. Do not assume that your classmates share your religion, political beliefs, cultural backgrounds, economic, ethnic, or sexual orientations. If you don't want to be exposed to discussions that challenge your values and beliefs, this is not the class for you.

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

### *Midterm (20% of final grade) and Final (25% of final grade) Exams*

There will be two exams. The mid-term exam will be held in class on February 24<sup>th</sup> and the cumulative final will be held during the scheduled final exam time for this course (see registrar homepage). Each exam will be comprised of multiple-choice and short-answer questions based on assigned readings, and class lectures, films, and discussions.

Makeup exams will be offered only in case of extenuating circumstances (e.g., medical emergency, death in the family) at the instructor's discretion. If you have an unexpected emergency and miss an exam, you must contact me within 24 hours of the original exam time and provide written documentation that explains your absence.

### *Thought Papers (each 15% of your final grade)*

You will write three papers during the semester (due February 5<sup>th</sup>, March 24<sup>th</sup>, and April 24<sup>th</sup>). Your papers should be three to four pages in length and will require you to analyze real-world situations involving prejudice and stereotyping. More specific information will be provided in advance of the paper due dates. You should be prepared to share your (written) thoughts in class with your peers on the day that papers are due.

Papers are due at the beginning of class. Papers submitted late will be penalized by 25% on the first day and 10% each day thereafter. I will not accept electronic copies of papers sent via email, only hard copies. Plan accordingly by working on your papers ahead of time.

### *Brief Assignments (10% of your final grade)*

I will sometimes announce low-effort assignments in class (e.g., complete a survey, find a news article). These cannot be made up if you miss class on the day that they are due or if you do not know about them because you missed class on the day they were announced.

## COURSE GRADES

Your final course grade will reflect how many total points (out of 200) you accumulate on the Midterm (40 points), Final (50 points), Paper 1 (30 points), Paper 2 (30 points), Paper 3 (30 points), and the brief assignments (20 points).

A	186 or above	C	146-153
A-	180-185	C-	140-145
B+	174-179	D+	134-139
B	166-173	D	126-133
B-	160-165	D-	120-125
C+	154-159	F	119 or below

Note that these cutoffs are real and non-negotiable. If you want an A, get enough points for an A; I will not give you extra points simply because you want them. I do not round grades. Also, I do not give extra credit so please do not ask. Do keep in mind, however, that you can earn one point by attending class regularly.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

## CHEATING AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: *I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.*

## COMPUTER POLICY

Empirical evidence suggests that laptops in the classroom are a detriment to student success (Fried, 2008). I encourage you to put your devices aside during class and to take notes by hand. If you choose to ignore this advice, know that taking notes is the only allowed use for your laptop during class. Checking email and browsing the Internet are not acceptable.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

The course schedule and any external readings are available on the course Canvas website.